



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on December 21, 2022

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. 2023 work plan

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Environmental Resources Expo – July 27, 2023

7. DISCUSSION

- A. Work Session Recap
- B. Staff updates
 - RCWD Climate Resiliency Workshops
 - Oak Knoll Pond Spent Lime public meeting
- C. Commission member updates
- D. Do-outs
- E. February agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: January 18, 2023
Subject: Action Items for December 21, 2022 EAC Meeting

Agenda item 5A. 2023 Work Plan

Link to the 2023 goals spreadsheet: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iU-tklBjAveacZzdM1M-aJwiPDMkkEQGxEn6njzrnMM/edit?usp=sharing>

Link to GreenStep Cities best practices: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>

Action: Review and revise the 2023 goals spreadsheet and assign a GreenStep Best Practice action item number to each goal. Consider finalizing the 2023 Work Plan.

Agenda item 6A. Environmental Resources Expo

The 2023 Environmental Resources Expo is scheduled for July 27, 2023 on the last night of Marketfest.

Action: Review 2022 list of exhibitors in the packet and begin creating the 2023 list.



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022
6:30 P.M. VIRTUAL MEETING**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Frye, Bonnie Greenleaf, Chris Greene, Rick Johnston, Jeff Luxford, Gary Schroeher (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sheryl Bolstad

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

VISITORS PRESENT: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Johnson** seconded by member **Greene or Frye?**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 6:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on November 16, 2022

The commission members reviewed the October 19, 2022 meeting minutes and had the following change: on page 2, second paragraph, first sentence, change the word 'Gosse' to Goose'

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Luxford**, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2022 meeting as amended.

Motion carried, 5:0. Member Johnston abstained.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Joint work session presentation

The commission members reviewed and finalized the joint work session PowerPoint presentation. Commissioner Johnston suggested adding the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill to the presentation. He also asked if he could attend the

meeting virtually. Taillon stated that she will check on the option to attend virtually and get back to him.

B. 2023 Work Plan

Chair Schroeder stated that he prefers to table this discussion until after the work session with Council, and asked Taillon to include the 2023 work plan on the January agenda. Member Frye noted that he will send his top 5 work plan priorities to Taillon prior to the January meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

A. Spotlight on Sustainability newsletter article

Taillon mentioned that staff hopes to include a Spotlight on Sustainability article in the spring newsletter. She recently partnered with Ramsey County and Waste Wise to market the BizRecycling program to businesses and multi units in White Bear Lake, and asked the commission members' thoughts on spotlighting a business that received a BizRecycling grant. She mentioned the businesses that received a BizRecycling grant. Members discussed the White Bear Lake United Methodist Church and the White Bear Lake Area Food Shelf as two of their preferred options. Member Frye suggested spotlighting a business that composts food waste. After further discussion, the members directed Taillon to spotlight the food shelf in the spring newsletter.

B. Staff updates

- BizRecycling promotion

Taillon noted again that she recently partnered with Ramsey County and Waste Wise to market the BizRecycling program to businesses and multi units in White Bear Lake. A letter was recently mailed to businesses and multi-units from the City promoting the BizRecycling program. Completion of this activity qualifies the City for an incentive grant from Ramsey County.

- Rotary nature preserve seeding

Taillon reported that she and Sadie from the Parks Department completed a winter seeding of the phase 1 prairie at Rotary Nature Preserve on December 16th.

- Public space recycling container grant

Taillon reported that Ramsey County was unsuccessful in obtaining grant money for the purchase of public space recycling containers in 2022. The County will continue to research funding options in 2023. Member Johnston hopes that the commission members have an opportunity for input on the style of containers.

C. Commission member updates

Chair Schroeder announced that Conservation MN is looking for steering committee members for the annual Environmental Commission meeting. He will forward the date of the 2023 meeting once it is set.

Chair Schroeher reported that he and Taillon were asked to be interviewed by White Bear Magazine for a story on the pollinator pathways map that will be published this spring.

Chair Schroeher also mentioned that the fluorescent bulbs at the Petro Wash station on County Road E and Bellaire have not yet been removed. Taillon noted that the Building Departments previously contacted the owner and asked them to either remove the bulbs or cover them. Chair Schroeher stated that they did add a chain across the Bellaire entrance. Taillon will follow-up with the Building Department.

Member Johnston reported that he has reviewed the MPCA web site for information on the property at the southwest corner of Bellaire Avenue and County Road E. It appears that as part of a real estate transaction an environmental consultant was retained to conduct Phase I and Phase II Environment Site Assessments (ESA) of the property. Based on that work a petroleum leak was reported to MPCA on April 22, 2019 (assigned leak site no. LS 00020942). The web site also reports that a previous consultant had been retained for the site in 1992, but does not indicate the nature of the work or results.

The site was entered into the MPCA Petroleum Brownfields Program (PBP) and Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup (VIC) Program on April 15, 2019 (assigned site file no. BF0001123). The Phase I and Phase II ESAs were reviewed and that site file was closed January 2, 2020. The Leak Site file no. 00020942 was closed February 26, 2021. There was no report of submittal or review of a Response Action Plan (RAP) and the web site indicates there are no Institutional Controls (IC) on the property; based on that it is inferred that the site was deemed suitable for its intended commercial/industrial use without cleanup.

Member Johnson stated that closure of the files does not necessarily mean the site is clean, only that under current use or commercial/industrial use proposed at the time, the site conditions do not present a risk to human health or the environment. The fact that a Leak Site was opened indicates that there were petroleum contaminants present and entry into the VIC Program indicates presence of non-petroleum contaminants. The MPCA has different standards for commercial/industrial use of property and higher risk uses such as residential, schools, daycare, etc. It is theoretically possible that there might be contaminant vapors present in the soil on the site and surrounding property that meet commercial/industrial standards but not higher risk uses, and could present a risk to adjacent residences. Off-site issues would not be the responsibility of the subject site current owner, having received liability releases through VIC and PBP. Off-site issues would be responsibility of previous site owner/operators or MPCA, if previous owners were unavailable or unwilling to perform investigation/cleanup. It is Member Johnston's understanding that the MPCA had previously attempted to gain access to one or more off-site properties without success.

Member Johnston will follow up with MPCA to ascertain current status and availability

of files for review.

Member Greenleaf stated that she approached the volunteer group at her church about opportunities to promote the Adopt-a-Drain program in the Goose Lake subwatershed, but they don't know if it is a good fit for them. She will meet with the associate pastor and provide an update.

D. Do-outs

New do-out items for December 21, 2022 include:

- Members to attend the January 17, 2022 joint Council workshop
- Member Frye to email top 5 priorities for 2023 to Taillon
- Member Johnston to follow up with MPCA regarding County Road E and Bellaire
- Member Greenleaf to discuss volunteer Adopt-a-Drain promotion opportunities with the church associate pastor.
- Taillon to showcase WBL Food Shelf in spring Spotlight on Sustainability article
- Taillon to follow-up on the exposed florescent bulbs at Petro Wash
- Taillon to send reminder to bring treats in January

E. January agenda

Commission members discussed the January agenda items and asked Taillon to add a recap of the joint work session and the 2023 work plan to the agenda, and to send a reminder to bring holiday treats to the January meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Johnston** seconded by member **Frye** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Motion carried, 6:0

2022 Proposed Goals	Bonnie	Chris G	Rick	Sheryl	Gary	Chris F	Jeff	TOTAL
Plastic bag ordinance	x					x		2
Zero waste events		x	x					2
Pollinator plantings	x	x			x		x	4
Downtown recycling			x	x		x		3
Reduce recycling contamination education	x		x	x	x		x	5
No Mow May		x						1
Electric lawn equipment		x	x		x			3
Solar on buildings	x		x	x		x		4
City plastic recycling with Merrick			x					1
Rebates for water efficient appliances	x		x	x				3
Water conservation promotion					x	x		2
Buckthorn removal event with RWMWD		x			x		x	3
Increase green space tree plantings				x		x	x	3
Smart Salting community education							x	1

What would we like to see as an outcome?

What steps could we take to reach the outcome?

Problem statement: why is this worthy of our effort?

NOTE: for other ideas, review the GreenStep Cities 'best practices' list at

<https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>

Environmental Advisory Commission 2022 Work Plan - DRAFT

Month	Recurrent Agenda Items	Activities/Events /Speakers
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • Priority goal(s) planning 	Vadnais Heights Park, Recreation, and Trails Commission
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring newsletter articles - adopt a drain & spotlight on sustainability • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals • National Mayor's Water Challenge • Discuss upcoming annual SWPPP meeting 	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Prairie City USA
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Environmental Resource Expo, July 28
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall newsletter articles • 2023 Work Plan 	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan • Volunteer Recognition Dinner slide show ideas • Prepare for joint meeting with Parks Commission 	R&E Center Tour (when?)
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan • Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve 2023 Work Plan 	Holiday Treats

High Priority Goals for 2022

- Presentation to City Council (introductions, past accomplishments, upcoming initiatives)

High Priority Goals from 2021

- Plastic bag ordinance
- Zero waste events
- Pollinator plantings
- DT area recycling
- Reducing contamination in recycling (scrap metal, batteries, plastic bags) – staff request

Other Goals

- No Mow May
- Solar on buildings
- IDDE lawn clippings and trash
- Partnering with Xcel Energy on special projects
- Salt management education
- Expo exhibit upgrades: tent weights, banner, battery powered lawn equipment display
- Promote high quality of drinking water (reduce bottled water use)
- Enforcement of water ordinance and illicit discharge ordinance (grass clippings)– door hangers, etc
- EAC duties/goals
- Restaurant composting
- Pollinator garden tours/promotion/map of gardens
- Shoreview water smart app
- Microplastics
- Drinking water quality
- Enforcement of water ordinance and illicit discharge ordinance (grass clippings)– door hangers, etc

Review GreenStep Cities website: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>

Climate Smart Municipalities topics

- Community solar and solar panels on City buildings
- Charge for plastic bags
- Single use plastics
- Climate change resolution
- Partner with Xcel Energy for Projects
- Air quality-lawn equipment (City and private).
- Energy focus, specifically renewables

Ramsey County Solid Waste Master Plan topics

- Curbside collection of bulky items for recycling
- Inclusion of small businesses in City recycling service
- Textile recycling (curbside, special collection, or drop-off) – required by 2019

MS4 Permit topics

- Salt management education
- Dog waste

Current initiatives

LED lighting in City Hall, Public Safety, and Public Works

EV chargers in DT parking lots

Fleet vehicle analysis

Climate Action Steering Committee

Sports Center Upgrades and solar

City facility energy Audit - Trane

Environmental Resources Expo: July 28, 2022 5:00pm to 9:30pm

Organization	Need table & canopy?	2019 attendance	2021 status	2022 status	Contact Name/Organization
Tesla owner/Electric Vehicle Group Contact	no		yes - 3 vehicles	yes - 3 cars	
Electric Lawn Equipment Demo	yes	NA		yes	Gary and Sheryl to bring electric lawn
Scouts - Troup 494	no - volunteer group		sign up available	yes - 3 scouts, 2 adults	
Ramsey County Master Gardeners	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Tamarack Nature Center	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Ramsey County Recycling Ambassador	yes			yes - prize wheel	
RWMWD	no -tent yes-table		new invite for 2021	yes	
Pollinator Friendly Alliance	yes	yes	yes	yes	
WBLCD	yes	yes	did noy contact	yes	
NE Metro Climate Action	yes	yes	yes - has a tent. Email map to katewinsor@com	yes	
Zero Waste Task Force - Sierra Club	yes	yes	yes	yes	
VLAWMO	yes	yes	yes - has a tent	yes	
Ramsey County - Otter Lake Road Project	yes: 2 tables & 2 tents			yes - next to VLAWMO	
WBL City, EAC, Ramsey County Envir Health	yes	yes	yes - need 2 spaces, 2 tables, 1 tent	yes	
AV vehicle	no		table and 2 chairs, no tent	yes	
Xcel - sponsor of Expo	no - tent and table			yes	

Total tents needed	12
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Current Do-Outs

Commission Members

- Attend January 17, 2023 Council joint workshop
- ~~- Gary to finalize the joint workshop presentation for review at the December EAC meeting.~~
- Consider helping Nick Voss deliver signs and door hangers in the Goose Lake subwatershed.
- Bonnie to talk with ~~a volunteer group~~ associate pastor at her church about helping with Goose Lake subwatershed activities. Contact Nick Voss at VLAWMO to coordinate any volunteer activities.
- ~~- Sheryl to put together a couple of slides regarding downtown tree project~~
- Chris F. to add top 5 work plan priorities to list and email to members.
- Enter work plan information into Google work plan document (problem statement, list possible results, and define steps to achieve the results for each goal assigned to each member in the work plan list).
- Review GreenStep Cities best practices and tailor 2022/2023 work plan items with this program
- Add GSC numbers to Google doc.
- Gary offered to lead the 'reduce recycling contamination' work plan item.
- Gary to organize a potential buckthorn removal event with RWMWD and YMCA at the YMCA and Lakewood Hills Park.
- Gary to contact Jake from Specialized Technologies to speak at a future EAC meeting.
- ~~- Rick to provide Cty E and Bellaire summary~~
- Rick to follow-up with the MPCA re: Cty E and Bellaire

Staff

- ~~- Email revised presentation to Chair Schroeder~~
- Follow-up on the exposed florescent bulbs at Petro Wash
- Send a reminder to bring treats to the January meeting
- Showcase WBL Food Shelf in spring Spotlight on Sustainability article
- ~~- Taillon to ask Mayor about adding student members~~
- ~~- Taillon to email name of business that installed the level 3 charger to members~~
- ~~- Taillon to forward fluorescent light concern to appropriate staff~~
- Look into recycling cart stickers
- Ask about starting a fall Trash to Treasure day
- Order XL EAC tee shirts
- Invite Parks Foreman to future meeting
- Update from the MPCA on the status of testing at County E and Bellaire

- Email air quality sensor info to Public Works
- Schedule tour of R&E facility at a date TBD – add to 2022 work plan
- Add water use tracking app to CSM action items
- Show the WBAHS winning video at a future meeting
- Add AIS ID information to the website and update adopt a drain page
- Watershed district map (large scale with aerial photo)