



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 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 January 18, 2023

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. 2023 work plan
- B. Environmental Resources Expo – July 27, 2023

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Spring Newsletter articles

7. DISCUSSION

- A. Staff updates
 - Northeast Metro Climate Action February Program
 - RCWD Climate Resiliency Workshops
 - Rotary Park field trips
- B. Commission member updates
- C. Do-outs
- D. March agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: February 10, 2023
Subject: **Action Items for February 15, 2023 EAC Meeting**

Agenda item 5A. 2023 Work Plan

The final 2023 work plan is attached.

Action: Begin working on priority projects.

Agenda item 5B. 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.

Agenda item 6A. Spring newsletter articles

Articles for the spring newsletter are due in mid-March. The newsletter is planned to be in homes by the third week in April.

Action: Brainstorm environmental topics to include in the spring newsletter.



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE 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

Chair Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

VISITORS PRESENT: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had the following change: move item 7A. work session to item 5A, and the 2023 work plan to item 5B.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Luxford**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried 7:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

In response to Taillon's question on the draft meeting minutes if Member Greene or Member Frye seconded the agenda approval in item 2, Member Greene stated that he seconded approval of the agenda as presented. Taillon will change the December 21, 2022 minutes accordingly.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Frye**, to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2022 meeting as amended.

Motion carried, 7:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Work session recap

Member Greenleaf congratulated Chair Schroeher for a great job presenting at the joint

work session. Member Frye mentioned that he was pleased that the Mayor wants to hold a joint workshop again next year, but was hoping for a higher attendance at this workshop.

Chair Schroeher summarized the feedback from the Mayor and Council for member Johnston who was not able to attend the joint workshop. He said that the Mayor directed the commission to contact the City Manager for any requests in support of environmental legislation. The Mayor is not interested in proposing a charge for single use bags at the City level, but is very supportive of water conservation efforts. Chair Schroeher stated that Councilmember Walsh mentioned Dillon's ditch as a possible location for pollinator plantings. There was also discussion at the workshop about adding pollinator plantings on the sloped areas in Bossard Park. The Mayor responded favorably when Taillon offered to draft a natural resources plan in partnership with the Parks Commission, which would assist City Council in prioritizing and budgeting restoration projects.

Chair Schroeher reported that he stayed for the entire workshop and that the Parks Commission and Planning Commission sessions did not have formal presentations and instead were more conversational. He mentioned that the Parks Commission had a booth at Marketfest and used QR codes for all of the parks. He thought this was a good idea and that the Environmental Advisory Commission should consider creating QR codes for recycling information for use at the Environmental Resources Expo. Member Bolstad suggested that the Environmental Advisory Commission consider planning for more informal conversation at the joint workshop in 2024, and to keep the formal presentation for the volunteer dinner.

The members brainstormed topics for the next joint work session. Member Frye suggested bringing a project idea and asking for feedback on the project and funding options, and also asking for feedback on what environmental topics the Mayor and Council think the community is interested in.

Member Bolstad suggested that Chair Schroeher write a thank you letter to the Mayor and Council. Chair Schroeher will draft a letter and email it to the commission members for review and comment.

B. 2023 Work Plan

The commission members reviewed the work plan priority ratings. Member Luxford suggested that they choose two or three priorities to work on in 2023. Member Frye suggested taking the top three priorities from the priority ratings spreadsheet and work on those until they reach a point where they are able to start another project. The top three priorities from the priority ratings spreadsheet are: reduce recycling contamination education, pollinator plantings, and solar on buildings. The commission members also agreed to include buckthorn removal on the list of priorities in 2023. The downtown recycling project will remain on the priority list for staff to complete in 2023

if funding becomes available. The downtown tree priority will also be considered during downtown revitalization project planning.

Member Bolstad asked Taillon if City Council would be supportive of the No Mow May initiative this year. Taillon stated that they do not plan to support the initiative again this year because it is in conflict with City code. Taillon mentioned that this initiative mainly encourages the growth and spread of dandelions. Because dandelions can be considered a nuisance, their spread to other properties could result in additional pesticide use. In addition, based on email correspondence with Zero Waste Advocates, dandelions support the non-native honeybee but lack the proper nutrients to support our native bees.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Environmental Resources Expo – July 27, 2023

Taillon stated that the Marketfest coordinator scheduled the Environmental Resources Expo on the last night of Marketfest again, which falls on July 27th. The commission members discussed planning for the event and asked Taillon to include the Expo on the February agenda.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

- RCWD Climate Resiliency Workshops

Taillon stated that Rice Creek Watershed District received a grant from the MPCA to understand how to reduce the risk of climate impacts due to changes in precipitation patterns. One part of the process is a series of workshops to identify community vulnerabilities and strengths, actions to improve resilience, priorities, and an implementation timeline. Workshops have now been scheduled and will take place on February 28th and March 22nd from 3pm to 7pm at the Shoreview Community Center. Taillon asked who she should invite. Chair Schroeher asked Taillon to send the invitation to all commission members and they will choose one or two members to attend.

- Oak Knoll Pond Spent Lime public meeting

Taillon mentioned that a public meeting is scheduled on February 1st from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in the City Hall Council Chambers to go over the results of the Spent Lime Feasibility Study and to gather feedback from landowners around the pond regarding their interest in the project. The meeting will be posted in the White Bear Press, and invite postcards will be sent to resident who live around the pond.

B. Commission member updates

Chair Schroeher announced that the Metro Environmental Commissions meeting is coming up in May.

Chair Schroeher mentioned that he will be attending a “meet your local Legislators” event on Saturday from 10:15am to noon at the White Bear Lake Library. He plans to ask

their thoughts on a 'bring your own bag' ordinance.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for January 18, 2023 include:

- Chair Schroeder to draft a thank you letter to the Mayor and City Council and email to commission members for review.
- Taillon to send the RCWD Climate Resiliency Workshop invite to all commission members. Commission members will choose one to two members to attend.

D. February agenda

Commission members discussed the February agenda items and asked Taillon to include the 2023 work plan and Environmental Resources Expo on the agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Frye** to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Motion carried, 7:0

DRAFT

Environmental Advisory Commission 2023 Work Plan

| Month | Recurrent Agenda Items | Activities/Events /Speakers |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • Priority goal(s) planning | |
| February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring newsletter articles • 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 | |
| July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals | Environmental Resource Expo, July 27 |
| August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall newsletter articles • 2024 Work Plan | |
| September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Work Plan • Volunteer Recognition Dinner slide show ideas | |
| October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Work Plan • Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair • Joint workshop planning | |
| November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Work Plan • Joint workshop planning | |
| December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve 2024 Work Plan • Joint workshop planning | Holiday Treats |

High Priority Goals for 2023

- ‘Reduce recycling contamination’ education grant availability
- Pollinator plantings
- Solar on buildings
- Buckthorn removal

Ongoing initiatives

- Recycling containers: waiting for County
- Downtown Revitalization Project
 - EV chargers
 - Boulevard trees
- Zero Waste Events
- Promote electric lawn equipment

Joint work session notes – Jan 2023

Mayor comments:

- Water conservation a priority
- Not interested in a local single use bag ban/charge
- Helpful to create a plan assigning priorities and costs to pollinator/native plantings in collaboration with Parks Commission

Councilmember Walsh comments:

- He was at a National Night out near Dillion Ditch and was wondering if we could look into pollinator plantings at that location.
- What about pollinator plantings at Bossard Park on the sloped areas.

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

Climate Smart Municipalities topics for Steering Committee

- 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
- Other stormwater topics

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 | |

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|---------------------------|----|
| Total tents needed | 12 |
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Current Do-Outs

Commission Members

- Gary to draft a thank you letter to the Mayor and Council and email to commission members for review.
- All to review thank you letter from Gary and provide comments back to him.
- Choose one to two members to attend the RCWD Climate Resiliency Workshop after receiving the formal invite.
- Consider helping Nick Voss deliver signs and door hangers in the Goose Lake subwatershed.
- Bonnie to talk with associate pastor at her church about helping with Goose Lake subwatershed activities. Contact Nick Voss at VLAWMO to coordinate any volunteer activities.
- 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 follow-up with the MPCA re: Cty E and Bellaire

Staff

- Taillon to send the RCWD Climate Resiliency Workshop invite to all commission members.
- Follow-up on the exposed florescent bulbs at Petro Wash
- Showcase WBL Food Shelf in spring Spotlight on Sustainability article
- 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)