



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 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 March 15, 2023

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. 2023 work plan
 - Parks Commission meeting, April 20, 2023: pollinator habitat and invasive species removal
- B. Environmental Resources Expo

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Valley Branch Watershed District questionnaire
- B. Downtown Mobility and Parking Study steering committee representative

7. DISCUSSION

- A. Staff updates
 - RCWD Climate Resiliency Workshop
- B. Commission member updates
 - MN Environment Commissions Conference
- C. Do-outs
- D. May agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: April 14, 2023
Subject: Action Items for April 19, 2023 EAC Meeting

Agenda item 5A. 2023 Work Plan

The final 2023 work plan is attached.

Action: Discuss talking points for the joint Parks Commission meeting and begin brainstorming locations for pollinator plantings and invasive species removal. Staff will bring a map of each park to the joint meeting that can be used to identify possible locations for future pollinator habitat and invasive species removal.

Agenda item 5B. Environmental Resources Expo

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

Action: Discuss email invite template, deadline for sending invitations, electric vehicles, banner for electric lawn equipment, seed packets, games, and other miscellaneous items.

Agenda item 6A. Valley Branch Watershed District questionnaire

The Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) seeks perspectives from city/township staff and elected/appointed officials on water resources in their community and the role of the VBWD.

Action: Review the attached questionnaire prior to your meeting and discuss how you want to respond as a group. Responses are due May 2, 2023.

Agenda item 6B. Downtown Mobility and Parking Study Steering Committee Representative

The Mayor is requesting that a member of each commission be selected to serve on a Steering Committee for the Downtown Mobility and Parking Study. Committee members will provide input, review concepts, and help shape the future of our downtown area. The committee will remain active between May 2023 to January 2024, and will convene monthly in the evenings.

Action: Choose a representative from the EAC to serve on the committee.



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 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 6:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Frye, Bonnie Greenleaf, Chris Greene, Rick Johnston, 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 no changes. Taillon added item 7E: email from resident regarding volunteer opportunities.

It was moved by member **Bolstad** seconded by member **Greene**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried 7:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on February 16, 2023.

The commission members reviewed the draft February 16, 2023 meeting minutes and had the following changes: remove Member Johnston from the 'members present' list; under 7B, commission member updates, second and fourth sentence, replace the word 'representative' with 'State Senator' and third sentence replace the word 'ban' with 'use restrictions'.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Luxford**, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2023 meeting as amended.

Motion carried, 6:0. Member Johnston abstained

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2023 work plan

The commission members will discuss the pollinator planting and invasive species removal work plan priorities in agenda item 6A and will postpone discussion of the other priority items until the April meeting.

B. Environmental Resources Expo

The commission members reviewed the expo exhibitor spreadsheet. Member Greene will reach out to dealers and individuals for the electric car display. Member Bolstad suggested having 3 different brands of cars on display. The commission members agreed to invite the autonomous bus again this year. There was discussion on how to draw more people to the electric lawn equipment display by creating a large banner with a portion of the commission's \$500 budget. Member Bolstad suggested spending the budget on the sign, and purchasing seed packets as giveaways. Member Greenleaf suggested a game or survey. Member Luxford suggested creating flip cards of recyclable and non-recyclable items with a 'yes' or a 'no' on the back. Chair Schroeher mentioned that the Parks Commission used a QR code to direct expo participants to the parks page on the City's website. He is wondering if the EAC could do something similar to direct people to the pollinator page. Member Bolstad suggested a volunteer buckthorn removal sign-up sheet. Taillon will update the Expo spreadsheet and include in the April agenda packet.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Joint Parks Commission workshop

Chair Schroeher reported that he emailed the Parks Commission to request a joint meeting at one of their regularly scheduled Parks Commission meetings sometime this spring. The discussion topic will focus on invasive species removal and creating pollinator in City Parks. Taillon will email the EAC a draft agenda for the joint meeting.

The commission members discussed buckthorn removal and if the City could commit to invasive species removal as part of their normal duties. Member Greene mentioned that clearing buckthorn would be a good Eagle Scouts project. Member Greenleaf suggested making a buckthorn puller available for use by staff and residents.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

- Rotary Nature Preserve Vegetation Management Plan

Taillon stated that the City is entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with VLAWMO for the creation of a Wetland Vegetation Management Plan at Rotary Nature Preserve. VLAWMO offered to cover the cost for a consultant to create the plan which will identify wetland restoration implementation items, prioritization, and budget. The City will partner with VLAWMO on the implementation of the plan as funding becomes available.

- EPA Climate Grant

Taillon mentioned that the Environmental Protection Agency announced the approval of 250 million in non-competitive planning grants for climate action planning, with 67 million of this being distributed to municipalities. Another 4.6 billion is slated for climate action implementation through a competitive grant process. Taillon stated that she is closely following any updates on this program.

- National Mayor's Water Challenge

Taillon noted that the National Mayor's Water Challenge is coming up in April and encouraged the commission members to take the pledge.

B. Commission member updates

- NE Metro Climate Action Meeting

Chair Schroeher reported that he attended the NE Metro Climate Action Meeting. Ramsey County Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo spoke about the county's climate action planning which will be completed this summer. She highlighted some of the county initiatives that are in the plan: planting pollinator plants in the Pierce Butler Right of Way, resiliency in county parks such as solar lights, purchasing an anaerobic digester to convert food waste into energy, community resource hub for recycling, household hazardous waste, fix it clinics, etc., and curbside composting in 2024.

Chair Schroeher also reported that the League of Women voters created a priority climate impact analysis and supports communities impacted by pollution along I94 where asthma attack rates are higher, reducing/eliminating PFA's. Other initiatives include the Right to Repair, and a bottle deposit bill. Member Greene notes that the MN Department of Health is developing maximum contaminate levels of PFAs and PFOs in drinking water.

- RCWD Climate Resiliency Workshop

Member Frye reported on the RCWD Climate Resiliency Workshop that he and Taillon attended on February 28th. The workshop focused on identifying vulnerabilities and strengths for various climate related impacts within Rice Creek Watershed District. The vulnerabilities and strengths were organized into three categories: infrastructure, environmental, and societal. The next workshop will be held on March 19, 2023 and will focus on brainstorming solutions to the vulnerabilities identified in the February workshop. Chair Schroeher stated that he may not be able to attend the March workshop. Member Frye volunteered to attend in Chair Schroeher's absence.

Member Frye mentioned that his blue curbside recycling container does not have recycling labels. Member Luxford suggested that the labels be put inside the lid to keep them from fading. Member Frye also noted that the new trash hauler contract splits the fees and added more cost to recycling.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for February 15, 2023 include:

- Members to create a large sign for electric lawn equipment display
- Taillon to purchase seeds to give away at the Environmental Resources Expo
- Taillon to email revised Expo spreadsheet to members
- Taillon to create draft agenda/talking points for joint meeting with the Parks Commission and email to members for review

D. April agenda

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

E. Volunteer request

Taillon noted that a resident reached out to her and Member Bolstad about an interest in helping to support the work of the Environmental Advisory Commission as a volunteer. She is mainly interested in helping with waste reduction, freshwater, and environmental justice initiatives. Taillon will respond back and invite her to a future EAC meeting.

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 8:47 p.m.

Motion carried, 7:0

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



March 3, 2023

To: City and Township Officials and Staff

Re: Notification of the Valley Branch Watershed District's 2025 Watershed Management Plan Update and Request for Input from Cities and Townships

Dear City and Township Officials and Staff:

The Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) Board of Managers (Managers) is in the early stages of updating its Watershed Management Plan (Plan). The Plan will establish the goals, policies, and actions for the VBWD's management of water resources within the watershed.

State law and rule govern the watershed planning process and require that watershed management plans be updated every 10 years. The VBWD adopted its current Plan in 2015 and anticipates completing the updated Plan in 2025. During Plan development, the Managers will seek input from cities, townships, partners, and the diverse communities within the watershed.

The Managers are initially seeking input from your city/township regarding water and natural resource concerns and priorities as well as feedback on the working relationship between your city/township and the VBWD.

Please use the attached questionnaire to document city/township input. Although input from technical staff is highly valuable, we also request that you seek input from your city council, environmental commission (if applicable), or other relevant city/township representatives or staff. This questionnaire is part of the VBWD's initial stakeholder engagement effort and will guide the early stages of Plan development. Please contact Greg Williams at gwilliams@barr.com if you prefer to provide input through a virtual or in-person interview.

This questionnaire is not your city or township's only opportunity to comment. As part of Plan development, a representative from your city or township will be invited to participate in a technical advisory committee (Plan TAC). The Plan TAC will meet periodically during Plan development to discuss issues, priorities, goals, policies, and/or implementation activities. In your response to the questionnaire, please identify the individual(s) from your organization who should participate in the Plan TAC.

This request for city and township input serves as the official notification of plan update required by Minnesota Rules 8410.0045 Subp. 3 and Subp. 4. Please provide responses no later than **May 2, 2023** to Greg Williams at gwilliams@barr.com.

Thank you for your time and assistance in providing this requested information. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Williams at gwilliams@barr.com.

Sincerely,



Ed Marchan

President, Valley Branch Watershed District Board of Managers

- c:
- City of Afton
 - Baytown Township
 - City of Grant
 - City of Lake Elmo
 - City of Lake St. Croix Beach
 - City of Mahtomedi
 - City of Maplewood
 - City of North St. Paul
 - City of Oak Park Heights
 - City of Oakdale
 - City of Pine Springs
 - City of St. Mary's Point
 - West Lakeland Township
 - City of Woodbury
 - City of White Bear Lake



2025 – 2035 Watershed Management Plan Update City/Township Questionnaire

Please complete and send to gwilliams@barr.com by **May 2, 2023**

The VBWD seeks perspectives from city/township staff and elected/appointed officials on water resources in their community and the role of the VBWD. Please limit your answers specifically to those areas and resources in the portion of your city/township within the VBWD. You may submit multiple responses to the questions below, or aggregate responses into a single form. If you would prefer to schedule a **virtual or in-person interview** to share this information, please contact Greg Williams at gwilliams@barr.com.

City/Township: _____

What is your name and position at the city or township? (If aggregated responses, please list names and positions of all who provided input)

Who in your city or township should be invited to participate in a Plan development Technical Advisory Committee?

1. Regarding VBWD **programs and services** (e.g., water quality/aquatic plant monitoring, hydrologic modeling, development review and permitting, capital improvements/projects, cost-share, technical assistance):
 - a. How would you rate the overall level of service and quality of programs provided by the VBWD?

Excellent Good Just Adequate Subpar Needs Significant Improvement
 - b. Focusing on the last 10 years, which services are the most helpful or useful to your city/township? (What's working well?)
 - c. What programs or services could be improved? (What's not working well?)
 - d. Overall, would you prefer the VBWD provide more and broader programs and services, or smaller/fewer programs and services?
 - e. Which programs or services should be expanded, or which should be reduced?

2. Are there **practices or programs** implemented by other watershed management organizations/watershed districts that you think should be implemented in the VBWD?

3. What **education and public engagement activities** would be most helpful for the VBWD to cooperate or collaborate on with your city or township?

4. What and where are your city or township's primary concerns regarding **surface water quality**, such as:
 - a. Water quality of specific water bodies
 - b. Specific pollutants of concern
 - c. Areas of concentrated pollutant loading ("hot spots")

5. What and where are your city or township's primary concerns regarding **surface water quantity or flooding**, such as:
 - a. Flooding at specific locations
 - b. Excessive runoff flow rates and/or erosion
 - c. High or low water levels
 - d. Structures or essential infrastructure at risk of flooding

6. What and where are your city or township's primary concerns regarding **wetlands, habitat, or natural areas**?

7. What are your city or township's primary concerns regarding **stormwater management**, such as:
 - a. Inspection, maintenance, and repair of your stormwater system and management facilities
 - b. Issues anticipated due to growth or climate change
 - c. Implementation or enforcement of local stormwater controls
 - d. Stormwater utility and/or other funding mechanisms
 - e. Regulatory compliance (e.g., MS4 permit)

8. What are your city or township’s primary concerns regarding **groundwater resources**, such as:
 - a. High or low groundwater levels
 - b. Adequacy for drinking water supply (if applicable)
 - c. Groundwater/surface water interaction issues
 - d. Well-head protection and groundwater quality
 - e. Effects of infiltration practices on groundwater

9. Regarding your city or township’s working relationship with the VBWD:
 - a. How would you characterize it?
 - b. What barriers limit the effectiveness of this relationship?
 - c. What changes would you recommend to improve the working relationship between the VBWD and your city or township?

10. What official controls do your city or township enforce related to stormwater management and natural resource protection (e.g., ordinances, design standards, local water management plan)?

11. Broadly, regarding the following issues:
 - a. How concerned are you about the issue?
 - b. How involved should the VBWD be in addressing the issue?
 - c. What should the VBWD’s involvement include?

General Issue (Please clarify as desired)	Level of concern about the issue in your city/township; desired level of VBWD involvement in addressing the issue (select a response in each row); and how VBWD should be involved		
A. Addressing surface water quality issues	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned
	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Not Involved
	How should VBWD be involved:		
B. Addressing surface water quantity and flood risk	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned
	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Not Involved
	How should VBWD be involved:		

C. Addressing wetland, habitat, and natural area issues	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned
	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Not Involved
	How should VBWD be involved:		
D. Addressing stormwater management issues	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned
	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Not Involved
	How should VBWD be involved:		
E. Addressing groundwater management issues	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned
	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Not Involved
	How should VBWD be involved:		
F. Addressing issues related to climate resiliency (i.e., ability to prepare for, recover from, and adapt to changes in climate)	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned
	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Not Involved
	How should VBWD be involved:		

12. Is there anything else you would like to share with the VBWD or would like the VBWD to consider during the planning process?

2023 ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONS CONFERENCE



CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA

Conservation Minnesota invites Environment Commission Members from across Minnesota to learn from other environmental commissions, see what issues are affecting other communities in Minnesota, and network with other commission members. Attend online or in-person!

This event will feature presentations from:

- **Jennifer Fierce** the sustainability coordinator for the City of Eden Prairie will be presenting on the city's successful electric vehicle initiatives.
- **Elizabeth Kramer** public services analyst and Rocio Durkot utilities water quality specialist with the City of St. Cloud will be presenting on energy and water quality projects at the city's wastewater treatment facility.

WHO

All city environment commission members and people interested in starting a similar commission in their own community.

WHERE

- **In-person**
Ridgedale Public Library, Robert H. Rohlf Room
12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka MN 55305
- **Online**
Register and we'll contact you with more details.

WHEN

Saturday, May 20th, 9am-12:30pm

QUESTIONS?

Contact John Anderson at: johna@conservationminnesota.org

REGISTER



SCAN

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-environment-commissions-conference-tickets-602736108927>