



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers - City Hall, 3rd Floor
1717 E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Shannon Derby called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

Board Members: Present: Shannon Derby, Douglas Brandt, Donald DeBruyn, Corinne Weis, Heather Gross, John Tillotson; Excused - Tracey Koach

Staff and Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl, Mike Mathis (Virtual)

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the June 17, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting

Corinne Weis made a motion to accept the June 17, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting minutes, seconded by John Tillotson. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Heather Gross notified the board that this would be her last meeting and needs to resign her position on the board as she has relocated outside of the area.

5. **NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED – N/A**

6. **ONGOING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED**

A. **EAB City Posted Website Videos Update**

1. Darla LeClair has equipment and is willing to train Shannon on how to utilize it if we want to continue posting videos.
2. A question was asked about how many 'hits' the videos receive on our website.

B. **Did You Know - Ideas Update**

The original concept was to get ideas to the City Manager for inclusion within the Manager's Report during Council Meetings. We need to determine what the new format will be moving forward with the new City Manager. They could possibly be added as an insert with the monthly utility newsletter.

C. **Native Plant Information Update**

Inquire as to what resources are presently available such as WDNR and similar agencies, refrain from private business' information. Also, check if Park & Recreation has anything available.

D. Fall/Winter Educational Series Update

1. Shannon has set the initial 2025-26 Educational Series schedule and has been working with library staff to prepare appropriate flyers for advertisement.
2. Presentations will be the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Lester Public Library
 - a. October 16: Organic Farming Practices by Ryan Sullivan
 - b. November 20: Hika Bay – Then and Now by Sam Frauenfeld and Patricia Scugilk of LNRP
 - c. January 15: Great Lakes Fish by Titus Seilheimer
 - d. February 19: Forget-Me-Not Creek Watershed by Sue Crawley
 - e. March 19: *** Open ***
 - f. April 16: Pollinator and Rain Gardens by Lyssa Schmidt of Van der Brohe Arboretum

7. PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND UPDATES

A. Urban Forestry Budget

1. Mike Mathis reviewed the 2025 Urban Forestry & Tree Planting Funding budget noting that a good portion of the funding has been through WDNR grants. Future grant funding through WDNR will be more challenging so we will need to find other revenue streams to continue moving the program forward.
2. There are still some activities planned yet this fall with the remaining available funds
3. In the future EAB may consider raising the Environmental Fee to help offset Ash tree removal.
 - a. If funded, the work would be contracted out
 - b. Mike does not have the staff to stay on top of this daunting task
 - c. During the winter, Park & Rec staff will occasionally receive assistance from Two Rivers Electric Utility

B. LNRP – Lake Michigan Day Recap

Both Shannon and Mike attended this years Lake Michigan Day sponsored by LNRP. It was informative and organized to help improve water quality in and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. This was a program that creates great networking possibilities. There were also informative baseball style cards that help identify invasive species.

C. NWFW, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Grant Update

1. Recap of the July joint meeting:
 - a. Staff along with board members thought that it was difficult to follow along with both the in-person and virtual presenters
 - b. Stantec will proceed with advancing some of the projects up to 30% concept plans
 - c. Ideally, Option 4 for the project near the wastewater plant will be the ultimate concept to shoot for
 - d. Once the 30% plans are developed, will need to apply for additional funding to advance the projects up to 60% plans, similarly until the plans are ready for construction.

D. Program and Event Updates (Parks & Recreation) Faith in Place Grant Update

1. Mike reviewed upcoming activities with the board and strongly encouraged participation if available:
 - a. September 13th - Paddle Palooza (see attachment)
 - b. September 27th - Paddlers Park Native Planting Volunteer Work Day, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, social at Cool City Brew after, sign-up coming soon
 - c. October 18th - Washington Park Volunteer Tree Planting Day, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Sign-up at <https://app.seemylegacy.com/community/2075/campaign/6949>
 - d. October 25th - Tree & Shrub Pruning Workshop, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, sign-up at <https://secure.rec1.com/WI/two-rivers-wi/catalog>
 - e. Upcoming Paddling Programs - 8/23 and 9/25 (see attachment)
 - f. Upcoming - Participation in US EPA Recreation Economy for Rural Communities

8. OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF NEEDED – N/A

9. SET DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

Proposed for Wednesday, September 16, 2025, at 5:30 pm`

10. ADJOURNMENT: 6:29 pm

Doug Brandt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Don DeBruyn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Matthew R. Heckenlaible
Public Works Director/City Engineer