



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 5:30 PM

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

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:40 pm

2. ROLL CALL AND CHECK ON REMOTE PARTICIPANTS

Board Members Present: Donald DeBruyn, Darla LeClair, Jake Glaser, Jay Orvis, Tracy Koach

Not Present: Douglas Brandt

Staff present: Matthew Heckenlaible and Scott Ahl

Public present: PJ Stephen

There was a discussion as to whether Mr. Brandt has been notified of the meetings. An email was sent to all Board members and there is an email listed for Mr. Brandt.

3. REVIEW LAST MINUTES - APPROVE OR CORRECT

Don DeBruyn made a motion to approve the February 21, 2023 Minutes, seconded by Tracy Koach. Motion passed.

4. PUBLIC INPUT - None

5. GUEST SPEAKER - None

6. CURRENT ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- **No Mow May** – Greg Buckley, City Manager, inquired as to whether the Board was considering promoting “No Mow May” and if so, suggested placing it on the agenda to discuss. The Board discussed the topic along with if they wanted to support the movement what would be the appropriate mechanism to suspend enforcement of applicable ordinances as it pertains to long grass complaints. It was decided that a formal resolution would need to be created. Board members asked what the purpose and benefits was associated with “No Mow May”. Per Google – *‘No Mow May is a conservation initiative that encourages people to stop mowing or mow less often for the month of May to create habitat and provide resources for bees and other early-season pollinators.’* It was suggested a portion of lawns be allowed not to be cut. That idea was discussed and it was decided that it would be the entire lawn or nothing. After the discussion concluded, it was strongly suggested that people should be encouraged to cut their lawns at a higher mow height, plant pollinator gardens and that the Board opted to table the discussion of “No Mow May” until fall, 2023, after they have had time to do more research as to the benefits and how to administer an organized program.
- **Front Yard Vegetable Garden Update** – Darla LeClair provided the Board an update that City Council took action at the March 20, 2023, Council Meeting to allow the 2023 Pilot Program to proceed forward, passing the ordinance revisions and limiting the program to 20 participants.
 - The submitted guidelines were provided to the Board Members.

- Need a subcommittee to review applications and work with residents - Darla LeClair asked whether a subcommittee of the Board should be considered to be formed to assist in administering the Pilot Program. After a brief discussion, it was concluded that other Board Members would assist if asked. Tracy Koach will reach out to the High School to see if students would want to get some Community Service Hours and help monitor the Pilot Program as well. We could also utilize this Community Service toward Public Involvement related to the City's WDNR Stormwater Permit.
- Amber Daus – Grow It Forward involvement regarding funding
- Create Facebook page – project goals, procedures, links to forms, ordinances and educational materials – Darla LeClair was going to work with City IT staff to get information out through various media venues – website, Facebook, etc.
- Where do we go from here? If Polit Program is successful:
 - Work in tandem with Amber Daus to provide Grow It Forward workshops.
 - Set up a citizen led cooperative for self-policing the program and to create relationships with local food banks for donations of surplus produce e.g., with eggs, participants cannot direct sell and make a profit from their goods.
- **Winter Educational Series** – Darla LeClair provided an overview of the previous presentation along with the up-coming programs including possible topics for next winter.
 - Previous presentation – March 9, 2023, Nick VanDeHey/McMahon Associates - clean water/ stormwater runoff/ DNR requirements – a discussion pertaining to the Northeast Lakeshore TMDL and potential impacts for the City of Two Rivers.
 - Next presentation – April 6, 2023 Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director of Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve, presenting on Green Infrastructure Design and Implementation
 - May 2023 presentation – Steve Lankton, UW-Manitowoc Master Gardener, presenting on pollinators and pollinator gardens
 - Potential topics for Winter 2023-2024 Series
 - Pollinators & You!
 - Backyard Bees – tie in with Monarch City promotions (pollinators & pollinator gardens)
 - Gardening 101
 - Composting
- City match WPPIT new tree grant (Tree Planting Grant Pilot Program 2023) in resolution previously passed at City Council meeting.
- **Have future discussion relative to having the Wastewater Treatment Plant work with farmers on Adaptive Management measures upstream of the plant.**

Director Heckenlaible stated that although Adaptive Management is an option for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to try and obtain Phosphorus and Sediment reduction credits, at this time it is not necessary for the City of Two Rivers. Neither the Wastewater discharge permit nor the proposed Northeast Lakeshore TMDL will be requiring further reductions than what are in current permits and as such, staff would not support taking this type of action at this time.
- **Discuss continuation of Agricultural Education** – Director Heckenlaible stated that it is always beneficial to know what is occurring elsewhere, but we need to concentrate on what we need to accomplish within the City of Two Rivers.
- **Backyard Bees** – help promote pollinator gardens.

7. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- **Status of new DNR Northeast Lakeshore TMDL - 2023 or 2024** - Director Heckenlaible provided a brief overview of the TMDL. The draft report is out and WDNR was accepting public comment on the draft. Once they receive, review and respond back to those comments and make any necessary significant changes, if necessary, the WDNR would then forward the final report to EPA for review and approval. It is anticipated that the Final Northeast Lakeshore TMDL would be approved by EPA late 2023. The City of Two Rivers is included within 7 reach sheds that are included within Molash Creek, East Twin River, West Twin River and an unnamed tributary presumed to be Forget Me Not Creek. The baseline sediment loading for the City of Two Rivers for discussion purposes is around 20 Tons and we would need to reduce that loading by 20%. Similarly for Phosphorus reduction requirements. Director Heckenlaible stated that obtaining those reduction goals are very achievable and was very optimistic that the City of Two Rivers will be able to meet those requirements. Public Works Staff is planning on applying for a planning grant to determine where we sit today relative to current reductions as compared to the baseline values and what alternatives can be utilized along with a timeframe to implement those alternatives.
- **Explore Grant opportunities for environmentally related activities that are complementary to and cooperative with future City projects ON-GOING**
 - Watch for opportunities for green infrastructure.
 - Grant applications need to be considered two years prior to project.
 - Look at the development of green infrastructure near Water Plant where it would be visible from Memorial Drive and/or from the trails in the area.
 - McMahon Associates will be preparing and submitting an application for an Urban Non-point Source & Stormwater Planning Grant on behalf of the City – ***noted above in TMDL discussion.***

8. NEW ITEMS

- Bat Houses were suggested as a possible future discussion item.

9. NEXT BOARD MEETING - Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 5:30pm

10. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Jay Orvis to adjourn, seconded by Tracy Koach. Motion passed. 6:38 pm.

Please note, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs to disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, please contact the Office of the City Manager by calling 793-5532.

It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information; no other action will be taken by any governmental body at the above-stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.