



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 20, 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 5:31 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL**
Board Members: Tracey Koach, Donald DeBruyn, Douglas Brandt, Corinne Weis, Heather Gross, John Tillotson, Shannon Derby
NOTE: Shannon Derby has replaced Darla LeClair as a City Council representative.
Staff & Others: Matthew Heckenlaible
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Minutes from the April 16, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting

Doug Brandt made a motion to accept the April 16, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting minutes, seconded by Corinne Weis. Motion carried.
4. **PUBLIC INPUT - N/A**
5. **NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED - N/A**
6. **ONGOING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED**
 - A. **EAB City Posted Videos on Website**

This was one of Darla LeClair's projects. The board members present felt that the past videos were very well done and that more of them should be made. These videos can be found on the city's website, under the Public Works – Environmental Advisory Board tab.
<https://www.two-rivers.org/eaboard/page/educational-video-library>

Doug Brandt and Corinne Weis will have discussions with outside people regarding creating, editing and posting similar educational videos. The other challenge is how to promote and make people aware of them.
7. **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN QUE INCLUDE:**
 - A. **Urban Forestry Grant Update**

Tree removals and plantings continue, primarily on the south side of the city.
 - B. **Faith in Place Grant Update**

This grant has been held up by potential federal cuts. However, 25 percent of the funding is being advanced to Grace Church. It is not known if the remainder of the grant funds will be available in the future. Grace Church and the city are planning a joint planting event for the fall of 2025 in Washington Park.

C. Lake Michigan Bird Observatory Grant Update

38 trees were planted on May 14th across the south side and another 22 trees will be planted on May 20th.

D. Paddlers Park Update

No change, federal hold up will likely delay any grant funding until fall 2025.

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

After a long delay due to funding uncertainty, the projects are moving forward. A kickoff meeting was held on April 25, 2025, with members of the City, StanTec, LNRP and Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities initiative. We discussed the goals and objectives of the two projects.

The northerly project includes harbor protection and beach front expansion adjacent to the south side of the wastewater treatment plant and public works facility. The second project addresses shoreline protection from the Lighthouse Inn to the southerly wayside near the Chamber of Commerce building in Manitowoc. This project deals with trying to capture and delay upland runoff from waysides and from Memorial Drive to aid in reducing erosion of the embankments heading to Lake Michigan. StanTec is tasked to develop some conceptual plans for different alternators for each of the projects. Presently, StanTec is gathering information to aid in putting these concepts together.

There will be a joint meeting with the Advisory Recreation Board, Plan Commission and Environmental Advisory Board along with interested council members on July 23rd to discuss the various concepts. More information regarding the joint meeting at EAB's next meeting.

F. Neshotah Beach Project(s) Update

Despite a minor setback due to the WDNR Stewardship Grant funding requirements requiring an archaeological study be completed prior to the start of any construction, progress in the park is occurring with the placement of concrete foundations for the climbing rock and bamboo climbing sticks along with the replacement of the slab beneath the Jaycee shelter.

Work has also begun on the access trail from Pierce Street to the south side of the concession building with excavation and graveling of the trail being completed. The trail from Pierce Street to Garfield Street will begin when this part of the trail has been completed. Two shelter pads along the trail are also being constructed. The resurfacing of Pierce Street and the parking lots has been delayed due to the archaeological study and WDNR authorization to proceed. We continue to work with the contractors to determine if there will be an opening in their construction schedule to complete this project in the near future. As of now, it may be delayed until after Labor Day.

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

A. Did you know.....ideas

Corinne Weis was inspired from discussion at the April 16th meeting to try to get tidbits of information out to people while making it fun. The concept is to state a fact about an issue, provide an example of that fact or issue and then provide reference resources about it to reinforce the importance of the information. The reference resource could be city ordinances, information that is found within the EAB webpage or other natural resource pages, etc. The

intent is to keep these short and easy to understand. Additional discussion was considered on how to kick off the idea. One means of promoting this might be to include it within the City Manager's report during the City Council meeting and then republish it possibly in the monthly utility bill insert. Other possible places to post these fun facts might be the library or in schools along lunch lines so as kids are waiting in line, they come across these fun facts and may be intrigued to do some research into the topic. Corinne shared examples of her ideas with the EAB and the first fact could revolve around the City's Appliance Rebate program. More information to follow at future meetings.

B. Native Plant Information

Corinne Weis also shared with EAB an educational piece that was reprinted from the 'Wild Ones Journal', Nov/Dec 2013 issue, on "Nativars: Where do they fit in?" A Nativar is a variant of a cultivar, which is a plant bred by humans for specific traits such as their color or size. The Nativars are bred from native plants but may have characteristics that may differ from the wild, native plants, such as disease resistance, region adaptation or appearance.

Corinne Weis also stated that since we suggest the utilization of native plantings we should provide resources as to where individuals can purchase these plants, such as The Wildones in the Fox Valley, Stone Silo Prairie Gardens in De Pere, Door Landscape and Nursery in Egg Harbor and Hoot Blossom Farm in Washington Island, etc.

C. Fall / Winter Educational Series

If EAB wants to continue with this yearly educational series, we need to consider working on planning speakers and topics for the next series. EAB members will consider various topics and potential speakers and bring those ideas back to the June meeting for further discussion.

9. SET DATE, TIME, AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

Proposed for June 17, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

NOTE: Joint meeting with Advisory Recreation Board, Plan Commission and Environmental Advisory Board July 23, 2025, with time and location to be determined.

10. ADJOURNMENT: 6:45 pm

Tracey Koach made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Tillotson. Motion carried.

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