



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 pm Shannon Derby called the meeting to order
2. **ROLL CALL**
Board Members Present: Shannon Derby, Donald DeBruyn, DeeAnna Laine, Corinne Weis
Excused: Darla LeClair, Tracey Koach, Laura Prellwitz
Staff and Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl, Mike Mathis, Kyle Kordell, Peter Becker, Ava Blohowiak (Sr. @ TR HS)
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Minutes from the April 21, 2026, Environmental Advisory Board meeting

Corinne Weis made a motion to accept the April 1, 2026, Environmental Advisory Board meeting minutes, seconded by DeeAnna Laine. Motion carried.
4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Ava Blohowiak introduced herself along with her passion for the environment.
5. **NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED**
 - A. **River Clean Up - June 6th**
Shannon Derby provided an update and distributed an updated handout to assist with promoting the event. The City will provide garbage bags, grabbers, and latex gloves for volunteers. It was strongly recommended that volunteers remain out of the water to minimize potential safety risks.
 - B. **Review of Board Mission and Goals**
Shannon Derby stated that this item was requested by Darla LeClair to be placed on the agenda. Due to Darla LeClair's absence, it was recommended that the topic be tabled and discussed at the next meeting.
6. **ONGOING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED**
 - A. **EAB Educational Series Update**
Board members discussed potential educational topics and suggested tracking ideas within a shared Google Document so members could provide input at any time for future discussion. The Board also discussed offering more interactive sessions, similar to the "Paint a Can" session that wrapped up the Spring 2026 session, which was very well attended. Additional potential topics included a "House Plant Bingo" session, where winners would receive various house plants and participants could learn more about the plants. Other suggested topics included education on invasive vegetation, including how to identify and control invasive species.

B. Did You Know

The Board continued discussing short educational “Did You Know” tidbits and ways to keep message ideas centrally located and easily accessible. A Google Document was created to provide a shared resource for the group to add and reference information.

7. PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND UPDATES

A. Sustainable Cemetery Initiative

Mike Mathis, Park & Recreation Director, provided a brief overview of the status of the pilot programs. A preliminary layout has been developed showing potential future grave sites along with areas for more diverse native plantings. The concept is intended to illustrate what the area could look like in the future while still maintaining mowable and walkable areas between plots. The pilot project has been delayed due to the recent storm.

Mike Mathis also provided an update on the impact of the recent windstorm, noting significant damage throughout the City, including impacts to terrace trees, parks, and the cemetery.

An update was provided regarding the stone tree planting bed constructed with assistance from high school students. The bed will be planted with tree whips at an estimated cost of approximately \$30 each rather than 2-inch caliper trees, which would cost approximately \$250 per tree.

A brief recap was also provided on the current status of the Paddler’s Park improvements taking place this spring, including concrete walkways, picnic tables, and bench pads. A concrete mattress boat/jet ski launch is anticipated to be installed later in June.

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

A. Discussion regarding the allowance of “Native Vegetation Landscaping” as an alternative to traditional turf grass lawns.

The Board discussed that, in lieu of “native vegetation landscaping,” creating edible landscaping in public spaces may be more acceptable and easier to implement. This approach may require modifications to the Municipal Code (Section 9-2-2). The topic will be discussed further at future meetings.

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

Proposed for Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 5:30 pm

10. ADJOURNMENT: 6:55 pm

DeeAnna Laine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Corinne Weis. Motion carried.

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