



City of Blaine

Natural Resource Conservation Board

May 16, 2023 | 7:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

The Natural Resource Conservation Board is an advisory body to the City Council. The Board is charged with recommending acquisition of lands for open space and developing a Natural Resource Plan which includes environmental policy and guidelines for the maintenance and preservation of Blaine's existing and future open spaces and trail corridors. One of the Board's functions is to hold public meetings and make recommendations to the City Council. For each item, the Board will receive reports prepared by City staff, provide the opportunity for public response, conduct Board discussions and make recommendations. The City Council, however, makes all final decisions on these matters.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.1.** 2023-184 Approval of the April 18, 2023 NRCB Meeting Minutes
Sponsors: Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator
- 4. Open Forum for Citizen Input**
- 5. New Business**
 - 5.1.** 2023-182 Combined RFP for Consulting Services for BWS Wetland Bank and Consulting Services for BWS Trail System
Sponsors: Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator
 - 5.2.** 2023-185 NRCB Updates
Sponsors: Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator
- 6. Adjournment**

**City of Blaine
Anoka County, Minnesota**

**Natural Resources Conservation Board
Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

7:00PM
Council Chambers
10801 Town Square Drive

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.
2. Roll Call – Chair Rafferty, Boardmembers Filipi, Genet, Panning, Truchon.

Absent – Boardmember McKinley.

Others Present: Recreation Manager Nate Monahan and City Clerk Sorensen

3. Approval of Minutes

Boardmember Panning reported the minutes should reflect the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Acting Chair Rafferty. She noted the roll call should reflect Acting Chair Rafferty was in attendance and Chair Perkins should be removed. She stated on Page 5 under Boardmember Genet's comment she would like more detailed information included on the project would move forward.

Boardmember Truchon requested a change to the top paragraph on Page 5 stating her comment should read: she did not want asphalt used on the trail.

Boardmember Panning suggested this statement read: she appreciated the fact the city had the option of moving forward with a sustainable composite building material. Then staff should strike the next line.

Boardmember Panning requested a change to the minutes on Page 6 in the sixth paragraph noting her comment should reflect she would like the number of board members to be further discussed with the mayor.

Boardmember Panning reported on Page 12 the adjournment should reflect Acting Chair Rafferty adjourned the meeting.

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Genet, to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 board meeting as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Alena Shank explained she lived on campus at the University of Minnesota but was a resident of Blaine. She stated she has a strong interest in promoting a healthier and more sustainable community. She reported she was studying environmental science. She reported she was currently enrolled in a Natural Resource and Environmental Policy class and she was tasked with implementing a small scale environmental change. She noted she and her team were promoting rain gardens as an effort to combat urban runoff. She commented Blaine was home to over 700 stormwater ponds. She indicated she would like to inform the public of the benefits of rain gardens through an informal pamphlet noting this would help her achieve her policy goal. She asked if the city would allow her have a pamphlet at the city's booth at the Blaine Festival in June. She thanked the commission for their time and consideration.

Giana Piatza, introduced herself to the board.

Boardmember Truchon stated this was a wonderful idea. She reported she served on the Anoka Conservation District and noted she would push to have a pamphlet at a booth at the Blaine Festival. She encouraged Alena and Giana to attend this event.

Mr. Monahan stated an informational board could be posted at Pioneer Park and Laddie Lake as well.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Boardmember Truchon asked that after the wetland bank presentation, she be allowed to discuss open space resources.

MOVED by Boardmember Panning, seconded by Boardmember Genet, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. New Business

6A. Oaths of Office: Dottie McKinley, Kristen Genet, Mary Jo Truchon, Ken Anderson

City Clerk Sorensen administered the Oath of Office to NRCB Boardmembers Kristen Genet, Mary Jo Truchon, and Ken Anderson. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

6B. Wetland Bank Presentation

Mr. Monahan stated Patrick Hughes from Rice Creek Watershed District and Ben Meyer from Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources will give a presentation on wetland banking.

Ben Meyer, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, provided the board with a presentation on wetland banking. He discussed the value and function of wetlands and how they are regulated, commented on the purpose of wetland banking, reviewed the process followed for establishing a wetland bank, and noted what actions are eligible for credits. He provided an overview and purpose of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and commented on the organizations that oversee waterways in Minnesota. He described the function of the local government road wetland replacement program. He commented on how exceptional natural resource value (ENRV) areas are protected, noting state conservation easements are put over these areas. He

reported Minnesota has more wetland banks than any other state in the union and these banks are owned by cities, counties and private property owners (farmers). Further discussion ensued regarding the timeline and process followed for a draft prospectus. The role of the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP)/Local Government Unit (LGU) was discussed along with how mitigation plans and performance standards were measured.

Boardmember Anderson asked if conservation easements impact the value of a property. Mr. Meyer stated he was uncertain if property values were impacted.

Patrick Hughes, Rice Creek Watershed District, introduced himself to the Board. He shifted the presentation to comment further on how wetland credits are deposited once all requirements are met. He discussed how credits are withdrawn and transferred to other parties. He provided an overview on how wetland bank monitoring occurs noting monitoring was conducted for at least five growing seasons. It was noted monitoring reports had to be submitted on an annual basis.

Boardmember Genet thanked Mr. Meyer and Mr. Hughes for their presentation. She stated she understood if Site 7 does not achieve the proper performance standards, the monitoring would be extended. She questioned where the city's Site 7 monitoring report was for year 6. Mr. Monahan stated he does not complete this work and explained this work was completed by Ms. Hedstrom or the engineering department.

Boardmember Genet stated she would like to know more about the status of this report and if Site 7 was in compliance. Mr. Meyer stated Site 7 was not in compliance at this time because a year 6 monitoring report has not been submitted.

Boardmember Genet discussed the hydrology of Site 7 noting there were several issues that may be impacting the hydrology of this site. Mr. Meyer stated BWSR supported Site 7 and noted the hydrology on the site was working. He reported BWSR has two monitoring wells on Site 7 and the data from these wells could be shared with the Board.

Boardmember Truchon thanked Mr. Meyer and Mr. Hughes for their informative presentation. She noted the city of Blaine has a lot on their plate.

6B.1 Open Space Resources

Boardmember Genet stated it was brought to her attention today that Carrie Taylor from the Anoka County Conservation District met with Blaine staff to talk about pollinator plantings. She explained Ms. Tayler was seeking information about sites with rare plants, of which Blaine has many. She discussed an endangered grass that was found only in Loch Ness Park. It was her understanding there was fill sitting in Loch Ness Park and she did not want this fill covering the endangered grass. She also recommended reduced mowing be conducted in Loch Ness in order to protect this species of grass.

Ms. Monahan explained Ms. Hedstrom spoke with public works about the areas that can and cannot be mowed at Loch Ness Park.

Boardmember Truchon requested the fill be kept as far away as possible from the endangered grass to ensure it is not harmed. Mr. Monahan noted he would follow up with Ms. Hedstrom and Justin _____ regarding the fill at Loch Ness Park.

Boardmember Truchon recommended an interpretive sign be posted within Loch Ness Park to educate the public on this endangered grass.

6C. NRCB Updates

Mr. Monahan provided the board with an update on the following projects:

No Mow May – Staff noted the go live date to register for No Mow May was April 24.

Volunteer Opportunities – Staff reported 14 parks have been adopted for an Earth Day cleanup. He explained a garlic mustard pull event was being planned for Pioneer Park. Staff was organizing treatments in the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary for Site 7 and the southern section. In

addition, prescribed burns were being planned for the southern portion of the BWS this spring if weather allows.

Laddie Lake Pollinator Conversion – Staff stated in 2022, Anoka County Conservation District applied for a grant on behalf of the city to conduct a turn to pollinator conversion at Laddie Lake.

RFP for Consulting Services for BWS Wetland Bank – Staff will be emailing the board later this week with an update on the RFP process.

Boardmember Truchon stated she would like to know more as to why the current contract lapsed.

RFP for Consulting Services to update BWS Trail System – Staff has three proposals for the BWS trail system. He explained staff was reviewing the proposals and will be emailing the board later this week with findings from the review of the three RFP's.

Eagle Scout Project - Bat Houses BWS – Boardmember Genet explained the bat houses were supposed to be installed last Saturday, but this did not happen due to the weather. She noted the bat houses would now be installed on Saturday, April 22, on Earth Day.

Boardmember Genet invited the Board, city staff and city council to attend a virtual sustainability panel on Thursday, April 20.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Communication

None.

9. Adjournment

Chair Rafferty adjourned the meeting at 8:51PM.



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number:

Agenda Date

May 16, 2023

Status

In Control

File Type

Natural Resources Conservation
Board

Report

New Business -

Agenda Item # 5.1

Combined RFP for Consulting Services for BWS Wetland Bank and Consulting Services for BWS Trail System

Background

Staff will present for discussion on the combined RFP for Consulting Services for BWS Wetland Bank and Consulting Services for BWS Trail System.

Recommendation

Attachment List

1. RFP and Updates Presentation



May NRCB

City of Blaine – NRCB March 21, 2023



Revamped RFP

City of Blaine – NRCB May 16, 2022

Updates



- ◆ Over the past 2 months have been working with BWSR and the Corps to 'revamp' the RFP for environmental services
- ◆ Combining environmental services for all of BWS on one RFP. This impacts the Trail RFP
- ◆ BWSR providing final comments shortly



Table 2.0: Credit Release Table (Consistent with October 2018 Final MBI)		Blaine Site 7 Wetland Bank									
		Credit Release Detailed Schedule									
		City of Blaine, MN (Sponsor)									
		Critical Connections Ecological Services, Inc. (Agent)									
		July 1, 2021									
						15%	15%	45%	25%		
Type of Compensation	Number of Acres	Type of Wetland Credit	Final Projected Credits	UpBuff%	Initial Release	Interim 1 Vegetation Performance Standards	Interim 2 Vegetation Performance Standard	Final Veg PS & Approval Final Del Rpt	Totals		
Enhancement (2:1 ratio)	85.2	Sedge Meadow (Type 2)	42.6300								
	0.6643192	Sedge Meadow (Type 2) Rich Fen	28.3199		4.2480	4.2480	12.7440	7.0800	28.3199		
	0.3356808	Sedge Meadow (Type 2) Poor Fen	14.3101		2.1465	2.1465	6.4395	3.5775	14.3101		
Enhancement (2:1 ratio)	69.3	Wet Meadow (Type 2)	34.6600		5.1990	5.1990	15.5970	8.6650	34.6600		
Incompatible Land Use Buffer Enhancement (4:1 ratio, but may not contribute to more than 25% of total bank credits)	1.9	Wet Meadow (Type 2)	0.4900		0.0735	0.0735	0.2205	0.1225	0.4900		
Upland Buffer, Native, Non-invasive**	13.2	Sedge Meadow (Type 2)	1.7977	55%	0.2697	0.2697	0.8090	0.4494	1.7977		
		Wet Meadow (Type 2)	1.4522	44%	0.2178	0.2178	0.6535	0.3631	1.4522		
		Wet Meadow (Type 2)	0.0301	1%	0.0045	0.0045	0.0135	0.0075	0.0301		
No Credit Areas*	1.9	No Credit	0.0000		0.0000	0.0000	0.0000		0.0000		
Total	171.5		81.0600		12.1590	12.1590	36.4770	20.2650	81.0600		
Credit Areas	169.6		81.0600								
Green Cells = Actual Credits Deposited from Initial Release, Nov 2018 = 12.1590											
Orange Cells = Nov 25, 2019 Credit Deposit Form (Eligible For Deposit from MBI) = 9.0780											
Pink Cells = December, 2020 Credit Deposit Form (Eligible for Deposit from MBI) = 5.7240											
Yellow Cells: Percent of Credit Area by Credit Subtype											
Blue Cells: Proposed Complete with Year 4 (2020) Monitoring Report = 12.7440											



Updates



- ◆ Incorporates past recommendations from the NRCB as well as recommendations made by Council
- ◆ Incorporates recommendations from BWSR and the Army Corps
- ◆ Scheduled to be at the June 19th Council



Updates

City of Blaine – NRCB May 16, 2022

No Mow May

- ◆ 230 registrants to date
- ◆ Watching research coming out of the U for next year



Lochness Park



Laddie Lake Update



RAIN GARDENS: CHOOSING SUSTAINABILITY FOR YOUR LAWN

Created by UMN Students: Leigh M, Gianna P, Alina S, Grayden Y



WATER POLLUTION... **Warning!**

Increased urbanization means less natural habitat to capture pollutants, funneling them to local waterways. What should we do?



RAIN GARDENS... **Ta Da!**

Rain gardens naturally bio-filtrate pollutants from urban runoff before reaching our marine ecosystems.



IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY? **Hmm...**

1. Protecting water quality means protecting our future.
2. Improving the water quality in Blaine begins with the community.



NEW TO RAIN GARDENS?

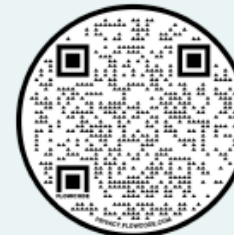
1. They are inexpensive in residential areas, averaging \$3-\$5 per square foot.
2. Pests such as mosquitos are **not** attracted to these areas.
3. Rain gardens require **little** maintenance when installed properly.



THAT'S AWESOME...

Now how do I install one?

We're so glad you asked. Scan the QR code below to look at options specific to your area:



To learn more about specifications for your new rain garden scan here or visit: anokaswcd.org

Courtesy of Anoka County Watershed District

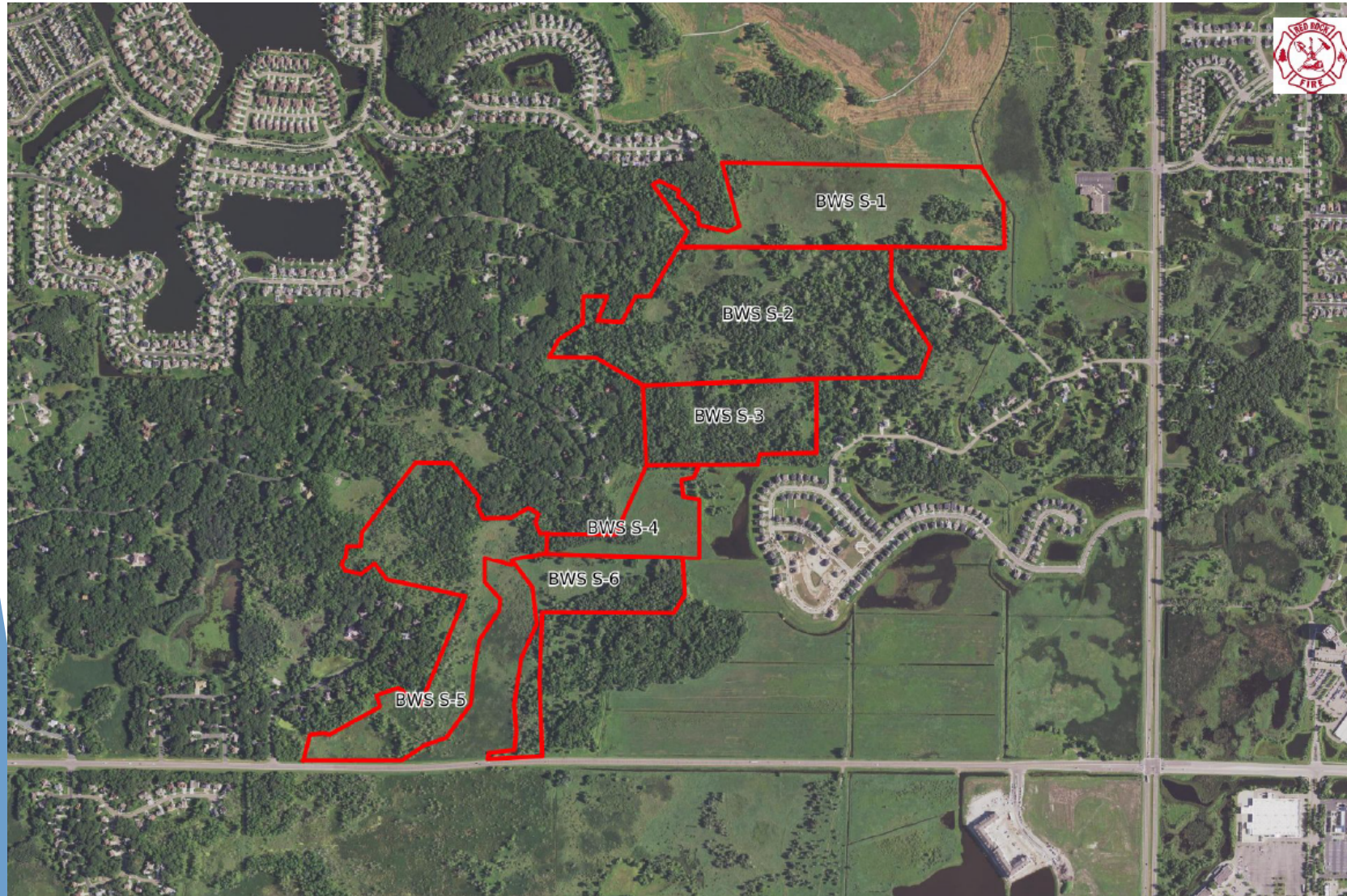


Volunteer Update



- ◆ May is Wetlands Month
 - ◆ Working with Northtown Library on updating the display case information
- ◆ Great River Greening Events
- ◆ Garlic Mustard Pull

Prescribed Burn



June Tour Ideas

- ◆ Lochness Mowing
- ◆ BWS Bat houses
- ◆ Other ideas



Other Business

- ◆ Bat Houses
- ◆ Other Items?





City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number:

Agenda Date

May 16, 2023

Status

In Control

File Type

Natural Resources Conservation
Board

Report

New Business -

Agenda Item # 5.2

NRCB Updates

Background

No Mow May

Mowing at Lochness Park Disc Golf Course

Student Rain Garden Flyer - Posted at both Pioneer Park and Laddie Lake Park

Volunteer Opportunities

BWS Prescribed Burns in the Southern Portion

June Open Space Tour Location Ideas

Recommendation

Attachment List

1. Rain Garden Poster Proposal (1)
2. ARLO and Frisbee golf map

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Created by UMN Students: Leigh M, Gianna P, Alina S, Grayden Y



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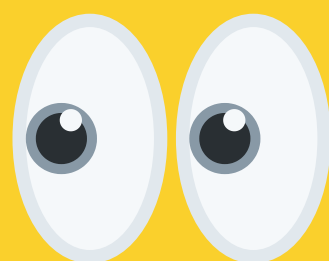
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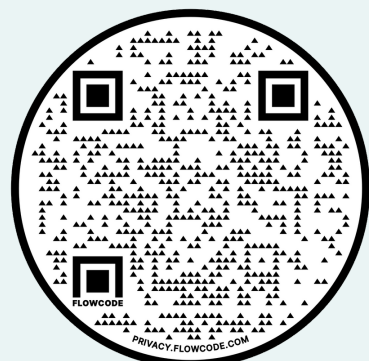
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Courtesy of Anoka County Watershed District

Lochness Park - *Aristida longespica*



Frisbee_Golf_GPS



17 ft wide mow path



<all other values>

Observed



Approx Collection Location



Habitat



Observed