



City of Blaine

Natural Resource Conservation Board

September 19, 2023 | 7:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

2. Roll Call

Present – Chair Rafferty, Boardmembers Anderson, Genet, Truchon.

Absent – Boardmembers McKinley and Panning.

Others Present: Stormwater Coordinator Megan Hedstrom.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. 2023-421 Approval of NRCB Minutes for July 18 and August 15, 2023
Sponsors: Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Anderson, to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2023 and August 15, 2023 board meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

No one appeared to address the NRCB.

5. New Business

5.1. 2023-422 NRCB Updates

Stormwater Coordinator Hedstrom provided updates on the following topics:

- Rare Grass Signage at Lochness Park - The commission did not believe it was necessary to have two duplicate signs for the rare grass, but rather could support two signs being posted within the park that were different.
- Laddie Lake Pollinator garden and building/north shelter removals
- RFP for Blaine Wetland Sanctuary - The council would be reviewing the BWS RFP in October. It was noted a special botanist had to be brought in to help with the Site 7 complexities.
- The commission requested staff report back at a future meeting with information on how groundwater levels were being impacted by the drought.
- Volunteer Opportunities
- BWS Walkthrough would be held on Wednesday, September 20 from 9:30AM to 12PM
- Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Southern Section - A volunteer event was held on September 8 where 20 native shrubs were planted, buckthorn was removed and native understory seed was spread

5.2. 2023-424 Open Space Inspection Reports

Sponsors: Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator

Ms. Hedstrom stated staff and board members will provide reports from inspections of Open Spaces. It was noted staff will create work orders based on the findings within each inspection.

Kane Meadows South: Nate Monahan - Several signs needed updating and work orders were brought to the public works department.

Kane Meadows North: Ken Anderson - The trail has several cracks and vegetation was growing in the cracks. Several sizeable trees in the park were dead and should be removed. It was recommended city vehicles no longer drive on the trail. One of the park benches was in need of replacement. There was minor spider cracking on the basketball court.

Sunrise Ponds: Ken Anderson - There were some minor invasive species along the trail, such as thistle, that should be removed. It was recommended all the ponds within the park be dedicated as open space. The old farm barbed wire should be removed when the trail was installed.

Oak Savanna: Kristen Genet - This park has no parking lot. This park has a wood chip trail and boardwalk. Both were in good condition. It was noted the residents have created an intricate mountain bike course in this park. The new dirt trails have impacted the integrity of the oak savanna. The park has some buckthorn invasion and should be checked for garlic mustard this spring. Staff was asked to investigate the new dirt trails within this park.

Laddie Lake: Gene Rafferty - The parking lot was in good shape and the spaces were clearly

marked. The trails appear to be in good condition, but the shelters were in rough shape. Staff noted the shelter and building would be removed this week. Staff indicated a prairie restoration project was being pursued for this park. It was recommended signage be posted to inform the public when to turn into Laddie Lake Park.

Hidden Ponds: Megan Hedstrom - This open space could only be accessed by on street parking. There were several signs for this park and staff noted the Open Space signs should be replaced. The wood chip path needs new chips and maintenance. The open space has buckthorn that has to be removed, as well as garlic mustard. It was noted this would be a great park for an educational/volunteer land management event.

Boardmember Truchon commented on a meeting she had with City Manager Wolfe, Recreation Manager Monahan, and Boardmember McKinley where the use of electric scooters/bikes and motorized vehicles on city trails was discussed.

6. Adjournment

Chair Rafferty adjourned the meeting at 8:37PM.