



City of Blaine

Natural Resource Conservation Board

May 16, 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

Roll Call – Chair Rafferty, Boardmembers Anderson, Genet, Panning, Truchon.

Absent – Boardmember McKinley.

Others Present: Stormwater Coordinator Megan Hedstrom.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.1.** 2023-184 Approval of the April 18, 2023 NRCB Meeting Minutes
Sponsors: Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator

Boardmember Panning reported Boardmember Filipi should be removed from the roll call. She stated on Page 6 under Item 6B she recommended the endangered grass, _____, be spelled out within the minutes. The Board asked that Justin's last name be filled in on Page 6.

Boardmember Panning expressed concern with the fact the discussion regarding the RFP lapsing was not expanded upon within the minutes.

Chair Rafferty stated he did not believe it was necessary to have this information detailed in the minutes.

Stormwater Coordinator Hedstrom reported the Board could postpone approval of the minutes in order to have more detail added.

MOVED by Boardmember Anderson, seconded by Boardmember Truchon, to table action on the April 18, 2023 board meeting to the June NRCB meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

No one appeared to address the NRCB.

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

Stormwater Coordinator Hedstrom presented for discussion the combined RFP for consulting services for BWS Wetland Bank and consulting services for the BWS Trail System. She reported over the past two months staff has been working with BWSR and the Corps to revamp the RFP for environmental services. She explained the city would be combining environmental services for all of BWS on one RFP, which would impact the trail RFP. She commented on the tasks that would need to be completed in 2023. She noted BWSR would be providing final comments shortly. She discussed how BWSR has been helping staff with historic monitoring, especially with the wet meadow section of Site 7. It was noted the city would be pursuing a seven year contract.

Boardmember Genet asked what the difference was between the yellow and red trails. Ms. Hedstrom explained the red was the alignment that has been surveyed and was field accurate. She indicated the yellow area was field located, but has not been surveyed or delineated.

Boardmember Genet questioned what consultants were being asked to provide an RFP. Ms. Hedstrom stated Critical Connections, StanTec, Minnesota Native Resources, SEH, and Bolton & Menk.

Boardmember Genet inquired when the council would be considering the RFP's. Ms. Hedstrom reported the council would be reviewing this matter the week of June 19. She indicated staff would have the proposals in hand on Friday, June 2.

Boardmember Anderson asked if the board would be able to provide the council feedback on the proposals prior to them making a final decision. Ms. Hedstrom stated it was her intent to gather comments from the board prior to the council's review.

Boardmember Panning indicated the board asked to review the RFP prior to it being sent out and the board has not seen anything. She questioned how the board could access this information. Ms. Hedstrom noted she was still working on the RFP and would forward this

information to the board when it was completed.

Boardmember Truchon stated she was thankful BWSR was helping city staff with this process.

5.2. 2023-185 NRCB Updates

Sponsors: Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator

Ms. Hedstrom provided the board with an update on the following projects:

No Mow May - Staff noted 234 properties have registered for No Mow May.

Boardmember Truchon suggested the city sponsor a workshop with Metro Blooms on ecofriendly lawns.

Boardmember Genet reported St. Louis Park was not promoting No Mow May but rather was promoting a reduction or elimination of pesticides in public spaces, along with dandelions and white clover in public spaces. In addition, they have a native vegetation permitting process which was a more wholistic approach. She commented on how the city of Fridley was reviewing its ordinances to see where costs could be cut and where the city could move towards more sustainable efforts.

Boardmember Truchon believed it would benefit the city to pursue a more wholistic approach to vegetation for the city's parks. She supported the city using less pesticides and more native plantings. Ms. Hedstrom explained she would be reviewing the city's native yard ordinance.

Mowing at Lochness Park Disc Golf Course - Staff met with Carrie from ACD in order to walk the disc golf course and explained staff has the public works team on board for how to mow the course in June.

Boardmember Genet questioned what would happen to the piles of fill at Loch Ness Park. Ms. Hedstrom stated this was yet to be determined. Staff anticipated the fill would be moved back to the public works yard.

Student Rain Garden Flyer - Staff noted the rain garden flyer was posted at both Pioneer Park and Laddie Lake Park. It was noted staff would have these flyers available for the public at the Blaine Festival.

Boardmember Truchon thanked staff for their efforts on this matter.

Volunteer Opportunities - Staff reported May was Wetland Month in the city of Blaine. She noted the city was working with the Northtown Library on updating the display case information. She encouraged the public to participate in an upcoming garlic mustard pull event.

Boardmember Genet and Boardmember Panning were interested in assisting staff with

garlic mustard pull events.

BWS Prescribed Burns in the Southern Portion - Staff reported Great River Greening would be holding controlled burns in May or June for the southern portion of the BWS. She noted a letter has been drafted and will be mailed to neighbors.

Boardmember Genet requested staff provide the board with maps prior to each meeting for future NRCB meetings.

Boardmember Anderson agreed this would be beneficial information for the board to have prior to each meeting.

June Open Space Tour Location Ideas - Staff reported the NRCB would be completing an open space tour during their June meeting, on June 20. She proposed the tour include Lochness Park and the BWS bat houses.

Boardmember Truchon stated she did not believe the city council and park board understood the NRCB very well. She recommended staff invite the city council and park board members to the upcoming NRCB open space tour.

Boardmember Anderson supported this recommendation.

Boardmember Panning suggested the NRCB boardmembers consider adopting and completing open space inspections again this summer and report back on the open space conditions. Ms. Hedstrom suggested she bring a list of open spaces to the June meeting and that the NRCB boardmembers divvy out the spaces at that meeting.

Further discussion ensued on future meeting topics for the NRCB.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hedstrom provided the board with an update on Laddie Lake.

Boardmember Genet commented on the sign that was being proposed to be posted near the new bat houses within BWS and asked for feedback from the board.

Boardmember Panning stated she appreciated the great work on the bat sign. She stated she appreciated the great efforts in the community from the Eagle Scouts.

Boardmember Anderson suggested the benefits of bats be noted on the sign.

6. Adjournment

Chair Rafferty adjourned the meeting at 8:08PM.