



City of Blaine

Natural Resource Conservation Board

October 15, 2024 | 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.** 2024-461 Approval of the August 20, 2024 NRCB Minutes
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

4. Approval of Agenda

5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

6. New Business

- 6.1.** 2024-462 Recommendation of the 2025 - 2029 Open Space CIP
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

- 6.2.** 2024-465 Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Consultant for Wetland Bank and Trail System Development
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

- 6.3.** 2024-464 NRCB Updates
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

7. Adjournment



City of Blaine

Natural Resource Conservation Board

August 20, 2024 | 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, Dahl, Panning, Truchon.

Others Present: Recreation Manager Nate Monahan.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.1. 2024-353 Approval of the April 16, 2024 NRCB Minutes
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

Boardmember Panning requested staff put into the minutes the languages changes
Boardmember Anderson and Boardmember Truchon requested for the rain gardens and
rain garden signs.

Boardmember Anderson recommended Dottie's last name (McKinley) be added to the
minutes under the approval of minutes section. He requested in Section 5.1 in the last
sentence of the first paragraph that moved be changed to removed. Also changing who to
that in the reference to the Planning Commission. He asked that the reference to BWS be
spelled out as Blaine Wetland Sanctuary with (BWS) following. He requested the reference to
rare grass on the last page of the minutes, change the word install to installed.

MOVED by Boardmember Anderson, seconded by Boardmember Truchon, to approve the
minutes of the April 16, 2024 board meeting as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

No one appeared to address the NRCB.

5. New Business

- 5.1. 2024-354 Presentation by Intern Irene Woods
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

Intern Irene Woods was not able to be in attendance at this meeting.

- 5.2. 2024-356 NEW! Blaine Wetland Sanctuary New Solar Walk
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager Monahan presented the NRCB with information on the new Solar System interpretive walk at the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary. He thanked Heidi Farris for her assistance with this signage.

Boardmember Anderson asked if hard copies of the signage information was available for parents and children. Mr. Monahan stated printouts would be available at the library and city hall, otherwise parents would be able to follow along with the walk on their smart phones.

Boardmember Truchon thanked staff for their efforts on this project.

- 5.3. 2024-370 Review of Wetland Bank Concept Signage from Metro Blooms
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

Mr. Monahan reviewed with the board conceptual signage for wetlands that was designed by Metro Blooms.

Boardmember Truchon recommended the city provided a definition for a wetland bank on this sign.

Boardmember Panning supported the city installing this type of sign at all of the city's wetland banks.

- 5.4. 2024-357 Volunteer Opportunities
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

Mr. Monahan discussed volunteer opportunities the NRCB members could participate in through the Anoka County Conservation District (ACD), which included an event being held

at the Cedar Creek Conservation Area on August 21 and pollinator garden planting events scheduled for September 14, September 16 and September 19. He reported there would be a collection of wildflower seed event on September 24 and a pollinator meadow planting event on October 3. He stated he would be sharing the list of these events with the boardmembers.

5.5. 2024-369 NRCB Updates

Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

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

Eagle Scout Brayden Samuelson Project: Three benches were constructed at Sunrise Ponds within the Open Space.

Boardmember Anderson expressed concern with the fact the benches were quite close to the trail. Mr. Monahan explained he would mention this to the Park Supervisor to ensure staff does not damage any of the park equipment.

Dottie McKinley's Memorial Bench at Pioneer Park: Staff explained a bench will be installed in Pioneer Park in memory of Dottie McKinley. He read the words that were written by her family and were inscribed on the bench.

Boardmember Truchon discussed how Boardmember McKinley was the driving force for getting Pioneer Park turned into a park. She thanked staff for their efforts to get this memorial bench in place.

Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Consultant: Staff reported Stormwater Coordinator Hedstrom has been working with BWSR, Rice Creek Watershed District and the Army Corp of Engineers on the consultant proposal. He reported he would continue to push for a Stantec proposal to be brought forward to the City Council at a future meeting.

Boardmember Anderson explained several of the boardmembers wanted an opportunity to review this proposal before going to the City Council. He questioned if the proposal would be reviewed by the NRCB prior to going to the City Council. Mr. Monahan explained it was his understanding the proposal would be forwarded to the board for comments.

Boardmember Truchon indicated she recently spoke to the Army Corps and it was understanding they were waiting on the City of Blaine. She stated a conditions assessment had been completed because of the wetland bank regulations. She commented on how important it would be for the consultant to have the right qualifications in place in order to properly manage the wetlands. She asked that the previously completed trail system be honored by the City and that the upland routes be completed so as not to disturb too much of the wetlands.

Mr. Monahan explained Ms. Hedstrom had met with BWSR and the watershed district. It was his understanding that these groups do not move with any sense of urgency. He stated it was staff's intention to island hop in order to use the upland areas and due to the

expense of boardwalks. He stated once conceptual plans were in place, town hall meetings would be held.

Boardmember Truchon asked who the three vendors were that submitted proposals to the City. Mr. Monahan explained proposals were received from Stantec, WSB and SRF.

Boardmember Truchon discussed how Stantec's plans for the interpretive center had not gone well. She hoped the City would have more success with Stantec through this proposal.

Boardmember Anderson asked if the trails would be gravel on the upland and boardwalk across the wetlands. Mr. Monahan stated this would be the case. He discussed how the technology for boardwalks has improved since 2016.

Boardmember Anderson questioned if a controlled burn had occurred within the wetland area this year. Mr. Monahan explained this has not yet occurred because of weather concerns.

Chair Rafferty asked if staff would entertain holding a special NRCB meeting to review the proposals prior to the final proposal going before the city council. Mr. Monahan stated he could speak with Ms. Hedstrom regarding this item to try and get a meeting scheduled.

Further discussion ensued regarding the ballfields at Airport Park.

6. Adjournment

Chair Rafferty adjourned the meeting at 8:13PM.



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number: 2024-462

Agenda Date	Status
October 15, 2024	
In Control	File Type
Natural Resources Conservation Board	Motion

New Business -

Agenda Item # 6.1

Recommendation of the 2025 - 2029 Open Space CIP

Background

Staff will review the attached 2025 - 2029 Open Space CIP with the NRCB.

Recommendation

By motion, recommend to the City Council the 2025 - 2029 Open Space CIP.

Attachment List

1. Open Space CIP 2025 - 2029

City of Blaine, Minnesota
Open Space Fund - 405
Summary of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance
2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan - As of September 1, 2024

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 CIP	2026 CIP	2027 CIP	2028 CIP	2029 CIP
Operating Revenues							
Park Dedication Fees	\$ 273,423	\$ 523,202	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Wetland Credit Sales	-	200,000	-	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Investment Earnings	267,212	-	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Total Revenues	540,635	723,202	285,000	535,000	535,000	535,000	535,000
Capital Outlay							
Lexington Ave Monument Signage	8,361	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sunrise Ponds Trail	2,350	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Trail Development	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-
Trails Development - Open Space	-	150,000	150,000	150,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Wetland Management - Site 7	-	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Ongoing Maintenance of BWS	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
BWS Structure and Restroom	-	-	-	-	750,000	-	-
Total Capital Outlay	10,711	1,300,000	300,000	300,000	1,100,000	350,000	350,000
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	529,924	(576,798)	(15,000)	235,000	(565,000)	185,000	185,000
Other Financing Sources (Uses)							
Transfers In	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer Out To EDA Capital Fund	-	1,524,600	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	1,524,600	-	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	529,924	947,802	(15,000)	235,000	(565,000)	185,000	185,000
Fund Balance, January 1	5,151,720	5,681,644	6,629,446	6,614,446	6,849,446	6,284,446	6,469,446
Fund Balance, December 31	5,681,644	6,629,446	6,614,446	6,849,446	6,284,446	6,469,446	6,654,446
Cash Balance, December 31	\$ 5,672,733	\$ 6,620,535	\$ 6,605,535	\$ 6,840,535	\$ 6,275,535	\$ 6,460,535	\$ 6,645,535



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number: 2024-465

Agenda Date	Status
October 15, 2024	
In Control	File Type
Natural Resources Conservation Board	Motion

New Business -

Agenda Item # 6.2

Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Consultant for Wetland Bank and Trail System Development

Background

Discuss next steps for the hiring of Stantec as the consultant for the Wetland Bank and Trail System Development.

Recommendation

Attachment List

1. BWS RFP



City of Blaine

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF PROPOSAL

**Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Monitoring and Management
May 22, 2023**

CONSULTANT LETTER OF PROPOSAL REQUEST

You are requested to submit a letter of proposal for the project indicated below:

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The proposed project will involve the long-term monitoring and maintenance of the established Site 7 ENRV Wetland Bank located in the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary. To date, the release of 39.255 credits out of a total 81.06 potential credits have been released. The proposed project includes the continuation for restoration and monitoring in this bank for the years 2023-2030.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The City of Blaine is requesting a letter of proposal to perform routine monitoring as required for an ENRV Wetland Bank, as well as a restoration proposal to achieve outlined Vegetation Performance Standard

Services requested by the consultant include, but are not limited to:

- 1.) Restoration Tasks
 - (a) Include proposed treatments and fee schedule for the following tasks for the duration of the 2023-2030 restoration seasons:
 - i. Winter Tree and Shrub Removal
 - ii. Invasive Tree and Shrub Stump Treatment
 - iii. Mowing and dethatching
 - iv. Herbaceous Herbicide
 - v. Prescribed burning and associated permitting
 - vi. Seeding
 - vii. Other tasks as recommended
- 2.) Monitoring Tasks
 - (a) 2022 Monitoring Report
 - i. Some monitoring data was collected in 2022. Include in proposal the costs associated with evaluating this data and conducting summer monitoring in 2023 to ensure a monitoring report is delivered in fall of 2023 that details restoration and vegetation performance standards to RCWD, BWSR, and Corps standards.
 - (b) Annual Monitoring
 - i. Annual Monitoring as required for an ENRV bank for the years 2023 – 2030.
- 3.) Banking Administration Tasks
 - (a) Monitoring Report Writing and Production for the years 2023 – 2030.
 - (b) Attendance at 1 – 2 Board and Council meetings annually for review of monitoring report.

PROJECT DESIGN INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CITY AS NEEDED

- 1.) Monitoring Reports from 2018 – 2021
- 2.) Credit Release Table and Restoration Progress Reporting
- 3.) ENRV Scoping Documentation
- 4.) Site 7 ENRV Commitment Letter
- 5.) BWSR Vegetative Performance Standard Recommendation
- 6.) Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Master Plan

PROJECT DELIVERABLES PROVIDED BY THE CONSULTANT

- 1.) Preliminary design parameters and estimated cost

PROJECT SCHEDULE and CONSULTANT SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY

The scheduled deadlines for the project are as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| ▪ Letter of proposals due 4:30 PM | July 14, 2023 |
| ▪ City Council Formal Contract Approval | August 7, 2023 |

Interested consultant(s) should prepare a letter of proposal due to the City for review by no later than Friday, June 2, 2023, at 4:30 PM:

- Statement of your understanding of the project requirements
- Project schedule complete with identified work tasks, estimated hours, hourly rates and total estimated costs to be itemized and included on the letter of proposal.

The City of Blaine is requesting a proposal based on “*total estimated costs*” based on the Scope of Services and Project Deliverables information provided for this project.

The City and the Consultant for the project will negotiate final contract for services through the completion of the feasibility report based on the submitted Proposal.

If the Consultant wishes to meet prior to submitting letters of proposals, please contact the City to schedule a meeting.

Please send proposal via email to Megan Hedstrom, Stormwater Coordinator at mhedstrom@blainemn.gov. If you have any further questions, please contact directly at (763) 785-6194 or email at mhedstrom@blainemn.gov.

The City of Blaine appreciates your time and interest in the project.



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number: 2024-464

Agenda Date

October 15, 2024

Status

In Control

Natural Resources Conservation
Board

File Type

Report

New Business -

Agenda Item # 6.3

NRCB Updates

Background

2025 NRCB Meetings
Wetland Sign Design
Volunteer Opportunities

Recommendation

Attachment List

1. City of Blaine Wetland Signage Larger Size

WELCOME TO BLAINE WETLAND SANCTUARY!

Wetlands soak up harmful toxins, keeping water and air clean. Water on the surface is filtered as it soaks in and recharges groundwater, which is where the City of Blaine gets its drinking water supply. Nature is not separate from communities, it is all interconnected.

This 500 acres of wetland are located in the Rice Creek Watershed, which flows into the Mississippi River. Our neighborhoods are connected by these water systems.



LOOK OUT FOR THESE AMAZING WETLAND SPECIES:



Native Bees



Native Butterflies



Twisted Yelloweyed Grass
(*Xyris torta*)



Round-leaved Sundew
(*Drosera rotundifolia*)



Green Darner Dragonflies
(*Anax junius*)



Lance-leaved Violet
(*Viola lanceolata*)



Pileated Woodpeckers
(*Dryocopus pileatus*)



Sand Hill Cranes
(*Grus canadensis*)



Blanding's Turtles
(*Emydoidea blandingii*)



Wetlands are POLLINATOR PLAYGROUNDS

providing habitats for pollinating insects, birds, and bats that we also need for our food crops.



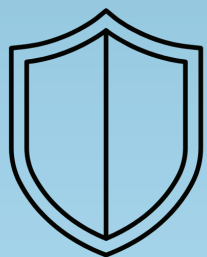
Wetlands are NURSERIES

All kinds of plants and animals raise their young in highly productive wetland habitats!



Wetlands are HOMES

providing habitat for all life stages of many species of plants and animals, including rare, threatened, and endangered species.



Wetlands are LANDSCAPE PROTECTORS

reducing the impact of flooding and erosion.



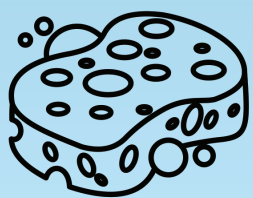
Wetlands are HAPPY PLACES

granting open space for us to enjoy and connect with our natural world.



Wetlands are RECYCLERS

decomposing organic matter and cycling important elements through plant and animal life.



Wetlands are FILTERS AND SPONGES

soaking up excess nutrients and pollutants, replenishing surface and groundwater.



Wetlands are BIOLOGICAL SUPERMARKETS

productive ecosystems, creating food at the base of the food chain to support other living things.



Scan for our website to learn more!



THIS SANCTUARY IS ALSO A WETLAND BANK!

Blaine Wetland Sanctuary is a restored wetland, created to help balance impacts to aquatic habitat and resources.

If you are interested in supporting our state wetlands, please visit our website!



40% of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands!