



City of Blaine

Natural Resource Conservation Board

October 15, 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 7:02PM.

2. Roll Call

Present – Acting Chair Anderson and Boardmembers Dahl, and Truchon.

Absent – Chair Rafferty and Boardmember Panning.

Others Present: Recreation Manager Nate Monahan.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. 2024-461 Approval of the August 20, 2024 NRCB Minutes
Sponsors: Nate Monahan, Recreation Manager

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Acting Chair Anderson, to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2024 board meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Dahl, to approve the agenda as amended, removing Item 6.2 - Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Consultant for Wetland Bank and Trail System Development under New Business and to allow for the discussion of Open Space and Trails under Item 6.1 - Recommendations of the 2025-2029 Open Space CIP.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

No one appeared to address the NRCB.

6. New Business

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

Recreation Manager Monahan reviewed the 2025 through 2029 Open Space CIP recommendations with the Board. He noted funding could be added for the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary trail/boardwalk. He explained Boardmember Truchon asked to discuss potential funding in the five year CIP for open spaces before all land is developed in the northeast corner of Blaine.

Boardmember Truchon explained the goal of Blaine was to have 90,000 residents and noted she would like to see open space set aside in the northeast corner of Blaine before the entire area was developed. She commented this was the last chance Blaine had to add to the City's open space. She discussed how valuable it was for the City to have wetlands in place. She recommended funding be set aside in the 2025-2029 CIP for purchasing additional open space.

MOVED by Boardmember Truchon, seconded by Boardmember Dahl, to recommend the 2025-2029 Open Space CIP include an appropriation of \$3 million to be spent over a three-year consecutive period beginning in 2026 on Open Space in the northeast corner of Blaine.

Acting Chair Anderson asked if the Comprehensive Plan has any future open space designations in the northeast corner of Blaine. Mr. Monahan stated no additional land in Blaine has been identified for open space. He commented one additional park (Park 67) was included. He anticipated this would be a five to ten acre park.

Acting Chair Anderson inquired what the cost was for one acre of land in Blaine. Mr. Monahan stated he was uncertain. He commented further on the potential cost for connecting and building out the boardwalks within the BWS, noting this expense would have to come from the wetland bank.

Boardmember Truchon stated it was a very positive thing to have open space and she hoped the City could find funding to assist with purchasing more open space in the northeast corner of Blaine.

Acting Chair Anderson explained he saw value in concentrating or integrating open space into a contiguous network. Mr. Monahan agreed it was valuable to have these spaces tied together.

Boardmember Truchon hoped the City would be able to find a large piece of land that was

contiguous to park land and noted the City would also appreciate donated wetlands.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOVED by Acting Chair Anderson, seconded by Boardmember Truchon, to recommend the \$1 million appropriated in the 2024 CIP be pushed to calendar year 2025 for Trail Development at the BWS.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Monahan thanked the Board for their comments and recommendations. He noted he would make the necessary adjustments to the CIP and this would go before the City Council in December for consideration.

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

This item was removed from the agenda.

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

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

- 2025 NRCB Meetings - Discussion ensued regarding the 2025 NRCB meeting schedule and it was noted the group would meet in January, April, June, August and October on the third Tuesday of the month.
- Wetland Sign Design - Staff reviewed the Welcome to the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary sign design with the Board. Boardmember Truchon recommended information be provided on the sign that details what a wetland bank was.
- Volunteer Opportunities - Staff reported the Anoka Conservation District had a volunteer event at Laddie Lake Park in order to improve the prairie.
- Eagle Scout Project - Staff met with an eagle scout that would be putting three composite benches on the island within the BWS.
- Lexington Avenue Upgrades - There was a new stop light at Lexington Avenue and 122nd. It was noted a trail would now be completed to the Lexington Athletic Complex.
- Dottie McKinley Memorial - The Board thanked staff for putting a memorial bench for former NRCB Member Dottie McKinley within Pioneer Park.

7. Adjournment

Acting Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:56PM.

