



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on July 17, 2024

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Welcome new member Ellen Gurrola

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Environmental Resources Expo recap
- B. 2024 budget
- C. Buckthorn removal event
- D. Electric equipment survey

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2025 work plan

7. DISCUSSION

- A. Staff updates
 - Curbside mattress collection
- B. Commission member updates
- C. Do-outs
- D. September agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: August 16, 2024
Subject: Action Items for August 21, 2024 EAC Meeting

Agenda item 5A. Environmental Resources Expo recap

The Environmental Expo was held at Marketfest on July 25, 2024.

Action: Discuss what went well and what could be improved. Consider feedback regarding setup and takedown and the new prize drop game.

Agenda item 5B. 2024 budget

Included in the August agenda packet is the 2024 EC budget to date. Remaining budget is \$400.

Action: Review budget and discuss any potential expenses for the second half of 2024.

Agenda item 5C. Buckthorn removal event

Included in the August agenda packet are notes and a to do list for the buckthorn removal event this fall. At the July meeting, an event date of October 5th, with a rain date of October 12th, was discussed.

Action: Finalize the event date & time and make a motion to approve. Continue to discuss 'to do' items and report on any conversations with RWMWD.

Agenda item 5D. Electric equipment survey

Included in the August agenda packet is a draft Public Works survey.

Action: Continue drafting the survey questions. Plan to have survey responses back by the January joint work session.

Agenda item 6A. 2025 work plan

Included in the August agenda packet is the draft 2025 work plan

Action: Begin discussing 2025 priorities and revising draft work plan calendar.



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Frye, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Jeff Luxford

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Schroeher (Chair)

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

VISITORS PRESENT: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and added 'Low waste subcommittee update' to item 7B. Commission Member Updates.

It was moved by member **Luxford** seconded by member **Frye**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried, 5:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on June 12, 2024.

The commission members reviewed the draft June 12, 2024 meeting minutes and had the following change: last sentence in Item 2. Approval of Agenda, change 'member' to 'members'.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Luxford**, to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

Motion carried, 5:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2024 Environmental Resources Expo

Member Greene noted that three EV's have confirmed: the WB Press van, a Tesla Model Y, and a Ford Mustang Mach E. Taillon mentioned that a Cybertruck may also be there, but it is not confirmed yet. Member Greene stated that one boy scout has signed up to

help with tent setup, and he is hoping for 4 total. Member Greenleaf stated that the Master Gardeners have confirmed. Taillon will finalize the exhibitor map and email the maps to the Marketfest coordinator for her review and approval. Once approved, Taillon will email the map and detailed exhibitor instructions to the commission members for them to forward to their respective contacts.

The commission member brainstormed questions for the Prize Drop game. There are four colors with the game, and each color will represent a category. The questions will be on a sheet of paper and color coded for each category. The commission members will continue to add questions to the Google docs that Member Bolstad will create.

B. Electric equipment survey

For the sake of time, Member Luxford asked to table this agenda item until next month.

C. Buckthorn removal event

Taillon reported that the restrooms at Lakewood Hills close on October 15th, and possibly earlier if the weather is unseasonably cold. Commission members discussed setting a buckthorn removal date prior to restroom closure and before MEA week, which is October 18-20. The tentative buckthorn removal date discussed is Saturday, October 5th, with a rain date of Saturday, October 12th.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fall newsletter articles

Taillon stated that fall newsletter articles are due August 9th. Commission members asked to include Adopt-a-drain, buckthorn removal volunteer sign-up, and the recycling graphic in the fall newsletter.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

Taillon mentioned that she will report on curbside mattress collection totals at next month's meeting. She reported that a new commission member will be appointed soon.

B. Commission member updates

- Low waste subcommittee update

Member Bolstad reported that her and Member Greenleaf met with the Marketfest coordinator, Lisa Beecroft, on June 17th to discuss ideas for making Marketfest a low/zero waste event. There are 50 food vendors, with 15 of these that sell packaged food that is not consumed onsite. There will be fewer Marketfest dates in 2025 because of the parking lot resurfacing project, so Lisa mentioned that 2025 might be a good year to try implement low/zero waste. She suggested finding suppliers for certified compostable containers, working on messaging low/zero waste in the WB Press and at a Marketfest booth, and looking for sponsors.

Lisa stated that there are 20 to 23 trash and recycling stations at Marketfest each week, with staff coordination by Frank, one of the Marketfest volunteers. Public Works provides bins and arranges with the hauler for drop off and pick up. Large numbers of low/zero waste volunteers would be needed to monitor that many stations, so commission members discussed the possibility of reducing the number of stations or consolidating the locations. They suggested reaching out to Frank to get his feedback. The group also discussed budget needs for bins, marketing, signage, and vests, and to look into possible grants to help cover the cost. The commission members suggested discussing this topic at the joint Council workshop in January.

Member Greenleaf stated that she attended a recent Marketfest and looked in the trash and recycling bins. She found that the trash was full, and the recycling was almost empty. There were recyclable plastic water bottles in the trash.

Member Bolstad noted that the subcommittee will meet again in July and November.

- Member Greenleaf reported that her church plans to install ground mount solar. Their project will be on the August planning commission agenda.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for July 17, 2024 include:

- Taillon to finalize exhibitor map with Marketfest coordinator and email map and exhibitor details to commission members.
- Commission members and staff to send exhibitor information to their respective contacts.
- Member Bolstad to send Google Docs link to members
- All members to add questions and answers to Google docs

D. August agenda

Commission members asked Taillon to add the electric equipment survey, buckthorn removal event, and mattress collection update on the August agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Luxford** seconded by member **Greene** to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Motion carried, 5:0

EAC 2024 Budget

Budget for 2024	\$500.00
Expenditures:	
Prize drop game	\$86.03
Suckers for game prizes	\$9.98
Rope for expo tents	\$3.99
TOTAL REMAINING	\$400

“Buckthorn Busting” Volunteer Event Notes

Supplies

Public Works

- 2 to 3 buckthorn pullers
- Clippers

Volunteers

- Gloves
- Sturdy shoes
- Hand cutters (pruning shears, loppers, etc.)

EAC/staff

- Snacks
- 2 tables (1 for supplies, one for snacks)

Possible Partners

- RWMWD staff and volunteers
- Master gardeners
- City volunteer list

Notes

- Only City staff to treat stumps with herbicide
- No chain saws or other motorized tools
- Volunteers to stack buckthorn in piles for PW to pick up
- Start at the bench on the N side of Hanlo's Pond and work on both sides. Also clear in wetland area near this bench.
- Consider planting natives in cleared areas
- Consider removing the trees with berries first
- Leave the large buckthorn for PW to cut

To Do

- Tentative date – **OCTOBER 5th, RAIN DATE OCTOBER 12th**
- Ask PW when restroom as closed for the year – **OCTOBER 15**
- Create map with the area to clear circled
- Create waiver
- Determine minimum age limit (ask RWMWD?)
- Talk to RWMWD regarding a maintenance grant
- Get cost estimate from NST to seeding and maintenance
- Coordinate the large buckthorn removal and treatment with PW prior to or after the volunteer event

Good Morning,

My name is Jeff Luxford and I am writing to you as a member of White Bear Lake's Environmental Advisory Commission. We are an appointed group of citizens that educates and encourages the city government and area residents to operate in a more environmentally-friendly manner. We will be asking the city's Department of Public Works to adopt a policy that prioritizes electrified (battery-powered) equipment when they purchase new or replacement equipment when it is practical to do so. We understand our experiences with this type of equipment as individual homeowners differ from the usage patterns and functionality demands that the Public Works department will have, so we are first contacting other Public Works departments in the area to gather information.

- 1) Does your department have a policy regarding the adoption or use of electrified (battery powered) equipment? Does the department currently have any electrified equipment? If so, we would appreciate any positive, negative, or neutral feedback to the following questions:
- 2) Does your department have any equipment that wouldn't be owned by a homeowner (e.g. road marking equipment)?
- 3) Overall, how would you compare the performance of electric equipment compared to similar gasoline/diesel equipment?
- 4) What has been worker reaction to using electric equipment?
- 5) What factors were considered when deciding on the brand of equipment to purchase? As battery packs tend to be exclusive to a particular manufacturer, do you have light-duty equipment from multiple brands?
- 6) Based on your experiences, do you expect to reduce, maintain, or expand the amount of electric equipment in your department in the future?
- 7) Would you be willing to discuss the subject with someone from the White Bear Lake Public Works department if they wanted to contact you directly?

Environmental Advisory Commission 2025 Work Plan - DRAFT

Month	Recurrent Agenda Items	Activities/Events /Speakers
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • Priority goal(s) planning 	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring newsletter articles • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals • National Mayor’s Water Challenge • Discuss upcoming annual SWPPP meeting 	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Expo exhibitor invites by end of April
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Schedule tour of R&E facility at a date TBD
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • Fall newsletter articles 	Environmental Resource Expo, TBD
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026 Work Plan • Environmental Resource Expo recap 	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026 Work Plan • Volunteer Recognition Dinner presentation 	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026 Work Plan • Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair 	Buckthorn Brigade date TBD
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026 Work Plan • Joint workshop planning 	Volunteer recognition dinner
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve 2026 Work Plan • Joint workshop planning 	Holiday Treats

High Priority Goals for 2025

- Text
- Text
- text
- text
- text

Ongoing initiatives

- Downtown Revitalization Project
 - Recycling containers
 - EV chargers
 - Boulevard trees
- Zero Waste Events
- Promote electric lawn equipment

High Priority Goals for 2024

- Invasive species management and native plant restoration plan on City property
- Fall buckthorn removal event
- Marketfest zero waste discussion
- Downtown tree planting (part of DT revitalization project)
- Electrify City equipment

High Priority Goals for 2023

- 'Reduce recycling contamination' education
- ~~grant availability~~
- Pollinator plantings
- Solar on buildings
- Buckthorn removal

Joint work session notes – Jan 2023

Mayor comments:

- Water conservation a priority
- Not interested in a local single use bag ban/charge
- Helpful to create a plan assigning priorities and costs to pollinator/native plantings in collaboration with Parks Commission

Councilmember Walsh comments:

- He was at a National Night out near Dillion Ditch and was wondering if we could look into pollinator plantings at that location.
- What about pollinator plantings at Bossard Park on the sloped areas.

Joint work session notes – Jan 17, 2024

Attendance: Mayor, Edberg, Walsh, Hughes, West

Mayor questions

- *EAC liaison role in downtown committee?*
- *How do residents receive bags for curbside food scraps program?*
- *Did the big trees by the Hardware store get discussed in the DT steering committee?*

Councilmember Walsh comments/questions

- *Will any trees be removed as part of the downtown project?*
- *Need to make a point to add downtown trees to budget*
- *Thinks downtown trees are meaningful and a good goal. Lindy said that there are also opportunities to add other types of plants downtown*

Councilmember West

- *Have a volunteer group, or more than one group for buckthorn removal*

Councilmember Edberg

- *Is public engagement too much to handle? Could time be used more to work with volunteers?*
- *Get the most value from the time that you put in.*
- *He dislikes buckthorn and has no issue painting the stump with an herbicide.*
- *Look at scout troops, school groups, etc. to help with buckthorn removal. Are there other groups?*
- *Along with buckthorn removal, also reforestation initiatives. The public would benefit from an expert determining tree species and how to provide diversity. Re-establish/reforest the urban forest.*
- *Consider education around environmentally friendly lawn care.*
- *Water is critical, such as the quality of White Bear Lake and Birch Lake. Raise awareness of chlorides and how it relates to water quality and road safety.*
- *'Buckthorn Brigade'*

GreenStep Cities best practices: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>

Climate Smart Municipalities topics for Steering Committee

- Community solar and solar panels on City buildings
- Charge for plastic bags
- Single use plastics
- Climate change resolution
- Partner with Xcel Energy for Projects
- Air quality-lawn equipment (City and private)
- Energy focus, specifically renewables

Ramsey County Solid Waste Master Plan topics

- Curbside collection of bulky items for recycling
- Inclusion of small businesses in City recycling service
- Textile recycling (curbside, special collection, or drop-off) – required by 2019

MS4 Permit topics

- Salt management education
- Dog waste
- Other stormwater topics