



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

### Environmental Council

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Friday, September 15, 2017

2:00 PM

Edgewood College, Mazzuchelli Hall, Room 103

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#### Edgewood College, Mazzuchelli Hall, Room 103

#### A. Call To Order

**Present** 6 - PATRICK DOWNING, SHELLY ALLNESS, LAKSHMI SRIDHARAN, Vice Chair  
JEFFREY SOELLNER, Chair ALIXANDRA JACOBSON, and Secretary TEAGUE  
MAWER

**Absent** 1 - NIKOLE JONES

Jacobson called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. Others present: Habecker.

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

*A motion was made by JACOBSON, seconded by SOELLNER, that the July 17, 2017 Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote. Allness abstained from the vote.*

**approved**

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MINUTES JULY 17 2017

**Attachments:** [Minutes July 17 2017](#)

#### C. Action Items

##### 1. Announcements

Habecker announced that the Aldo Leopold Nature Center has given the Council an invitation to an upcoming event. Jeff Soellner will represent the Council on September 30th. Habecker also shared final grant reports and developed materials where the Council was credited for their support of the project. Downing announced that the Dane County Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee is sponsoring a farm tour on environmentally friendly management. The tour will be held on October 3, 4-5pm and focus on a Soil Health Demonstration & Rotational Grazing at the R&G Miller Farm, 1706 CTH V, Columbus.

##### 2. Fundraising

Council discussed fundraising as the MG&E five year grant ended this year. Habecker will send out the fundraising list of potential donors and the talking points to members. Members should decide who they wish to directly contact and let all know who they will contact. Habecker will keep a master list. Will discuss the progress at the next meeting.

### 3. Clean Lakes Alliance Grant Revision

*A motion was made by Soellner and seconded by Allness to approve Clean Lakes Alliance expenditure of \$202.21 for a collapsible utility wagon and two wire shelving units with the remainder of their 2017 Capital Equipment grant.*

**approved**

Council discussed the Clean Lakes Alliance request to use the balance of their 2017 Capital Equipment grant money. They were able to purchase their grant materials at a reduced cost and had left over funds. Their proposal was accepted and Habecker will follow up with them.

### 4. Status of Environmental Council prairie restoration sites

Habecker shared photos of the prairies Environmental Council had established in the 1970's at the end of the Prairie Heritage Trail, near the regional airport (this prairie now destroyed with the rerouting of Highway CV) and across from the Alliant Energy Center. The county highway department was in partnership with the prairie in the Town of Primrose at the intersection of highways G, JG, and A. This is now just mowed and has a sign on it identifying the Environmental Council and Highway department for a prairie restoration project. If this prairie cannot be maintained effectively, should the sign be removed? The prairie on Rimrock Road by the Alliant Energy Center has no mention of Environmental Council. Habecker had a small 10" x 10" prairie established in the Village of Mount Horeb at the start of the Prairie Heritage Trail in 2011. This small prairie is being actively managed by the Mound View Garden Club. The county highway department has been contacted concerning this issue. This discussion will continue next meeting.

## D. Presentations

### 1. Pollinator Protection Update

On Sunday, September 10th the first educational pollinator garden was installed at Centro Hispano. Habecker trained a core of volunteer leaders who assisted the event attendees with planting the garden. There are photos of the event taken by Habecker. Some of these photos will be added to the Council's pollinator web page. About 25-30 people assisted in its planting. The event was deemed a success by Centro Hispano. Habecker also had the pollinator display and activities with Spanish and English materials. The farmers' market was going on at the same time.

Habecker is actively working with five other groups to put in pollinator educational gardens. These include working with friends groups at : Anderson Park, Lake Farm Park, Pheasant Branch Conservancy (Bock Community Garden) , Silverwood Park, and Donald Park. The siting, design, and garden preparation are occurring this year.

## 2. Field Review of 2017 Selected Grant Sites

The Council reviewed two 2017 grant sites. First they met with faculty and staff from Edgewood College and learned from Jacob Griffon, Director of Environmental Studies at Edgewood about the degree programs in environmental sciences and the community engagement efforts within their department. Stephan Hiroshi Gilchrist, the Director of the graduate program in Social Innovation and Sustainability Leadership spoke about his project based program. He also is beginning a program of continuing educational courses on topics such as mindfulness, permaculture, and other topics that are open to students and community members. Susan Serrault, in facilities operations, then discussed environmental projects on campus including pollinator gardens, rain gardens, wildlife study areas and a campus sustainability team that helps integrate this into the Edgewood College system.

The Council then toured along the Pleasure Road paths and boardwalk at Edgewood College along Lake Wingra where the Environmental Council helped fund the purchase of native trees and shrubs that were planted in this area. This area is open to the public.

The Council then traveled to the Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) on Beld Road and had Laura Green, Volunteer Coordinator, give a tour of the Center. The Council has given the CMC multiple grants to do environmental education at the Center. The Center was built in 2002 and has done environmental programs over the past four years. They have partnered with Lakes and Watershed Commission, UW Arboretum, Badger Rock School and others for this programming. Additionally the CMC has services for the homeless, ESL classes, computer labs and trainers, vocational services, tutoring, language and other classes, immigration legal services, both a food and personal needs pantry, and serves a free meal to about 100 people daily. They provide some sort of daily services to about 200 people each day. The tour ended about 5:00 pm.

**E. Reports to Committee -none****F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

The next meeting date of the Environmental Council is one Monday, October 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in room 321, City County Building.

**G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda - none****H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - none****I. Adjourned at 2:38 for beginning for field review.**

*NOTE: If you need an interpreter, translator, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this service, activity or program, please call the phone number below at least three business days prior to the meeting.*

*NOTA: Si necesita un intérprete, un traductor, materiales en formatos alternativos u otros arreglos para acceder a este servicio, actividad o programa, comuníquese al número de teléfono que figura a continuación tres días hábiles como mínimo antes de la reunión.*

*LUS CIM: Yog hais tias koj xav tau ib tug neeg txhais lus, ib tug neeg txhais ntawv, cov ntawv ua lwm hom ntawv los sis lwm cov kev pab kom siv tau cov kev pab, cov kev ua ub no (activity) los sis qhov kev pab cuam, thov hu rau tus xov tooj hauv qab yam tsawg peb hnuv ua hauj lwm ua ntej yuav tuaj sib tham.*

*Staff: Mindy Habecker 608-224-3718 or [habecker@countyofdane.com](mailto:habecker@countyofdane.com) WI Relay 711*