



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Environmental Council

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

2:00 PM

Remote Meeting: Call 1 877 309 2073

Access Code: 917-849-485

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The August 18th Environmental Council Committee meeting is being held remotely. The public can access the meeting by calling the number below. Once prompted, enter in the access code and you will be connected to the meeting.

NOTE: You will be placed on hold until the host joins.

United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073

Access Code: 917-849-485

If you would like to register to speak, please fill out a registration form by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JRW7VTK>

Registrations will be accepted until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Staff will then call you into the meeting when the item is before the committee.

A. Call To Order

Others present: Mindy Habecker and Claudia Wiederholt

Vice Chair SEEL called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and reviewed the announcements for virtual meetings

SRIDHARAN Joined meeting at 2:12 pm

Present 5 - THOMAS EGGERT, Chair NATALIE EISNER, Supervisor JULIE SCHWELLENBACH, LAKSHMI SRIDHARAN, and Vice Chair PETER SEEL

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020
MIN-093](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MINUTES 17. JUN. 2020

Attachments: [2020 MIN-093](#)

A motion was made by EISNER, seconded by EGGERT, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

C. Action Items

1. Pollinator Protection Initiatives

Habecker updated the Council on pollinator progress.

The pollinator habitat assessment tool was shared with all partners who helped to develop it, a press release was sent out through the Executive's Office about it and it is added to the Council and Dane County UW Extension's websites.

The 16 pollinator educational gardens are now completed. The signage and final supplies were delivered to the last 6 gardens this month. This now creates a network of educational gardens dispersed through the county primarily at county parks (Silverwood, Anderson, Schmacher, Stewart Lake, Lake View Hill, Pheasant Branch Conservancy (Boch Community Gardens), Indian Lake, Lake Farm, McCarthy Youth and Conservation and Prairie Moraine Parks), Henry Vilas Zoo at two locations, Washington Manor City of Madison Park, Centro Hispano, Sun Prairie Community Gardens, Fen Oak Resource Center, and Zander Park Village of Cross Plains. This completes this project.

The School and Community Project pilot project is completed at the Woodland Montessori School. This program will need to be reviewed and modified/refined for the possibility of a full roll out of the program. There are budget money to launch this program.

EGGERT mentioned that the pollinator habitat assessment tool does not come up near the top of the list with a Google search and wonders if we need to add key search parameters to our assessment. Habecker will check with the Gratton Lab about this feature.

2. Revisions for 2021 Grant Process and Guidelines

The Council reviewed suggested changes to the 2021 grant program guidelines and reviewed comments sent by one grant applicant of suggested changes.

All changes were discussed and the following were agreed by the Council to move forward with followed by who will do the task.

—Improve the functionality of the Word Doc if County IT approves changes - SEEL

—Separate out the guidelines into a separate PDF - County IT or SEEL

—Clarify the matching funds wording. - Habecker

*—Write internal guidelines for deciding how to fund imperfect grants -
SCHWELLENBACH*

—Remove letters of support from guidelines - Habecker

—Amend guidelines to note each grant requires a separate application even if applying to both - Habecker

3. Maintenance of Prairie Heritage Trail prairies

The Council learned that the 10 mile Prairie Heritage Bike Trail that was established and revamped by the Council has a small prairie at its start in the Village of Mount Horeb and at its end in the Town of Primrose site at the intersection of G, J, and JG.

This last triangular area was once prairie but now is mowed by the county highway and contains few prairie species. There are signs demarking the Prairie Heritage Trail and linking it to the Environmental Council.

The Village site prairie is small and has been established and maintained by the Mound Vue Garden Club who long time member and first chair of Environmental Council, Olive Thomson. She established this original trail.

The garden club has now been maintaining the Council's small prairie garden for over 10 years with no thank you or donation to the club in all these years except initially. The volunteers are primarily retired community people. Question arose as to whether the Council should send a formal letter of thank you and a donation to the club?

The larger triangular area at the far end of the trail is maintained by no one except the highway department. Should the Council look for a group to maintain some semblance of prairie at this location. Supervisor DOWNING represents this area and would like to see it maintained.

The Environmental Council meeting ended early due to technical difficulties

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mindy Habecker, pending committee approval.