



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Environmental Council

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

4:00 PM

Room 121, Fen Oak Resource Center, 5201 Fen Oak
Drive, Madison

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A. Call To Order

Present 7 - PATRICK DOWNING, SHELLY ALLNESS, LAKSHMI SRIDHARAN, Chair
STEVEN FALTER, JEFFREY SOELLNER, Vice Chair ALIXANDRA JACOBSON,
and NIKOLE JONES

Chair Falter called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Staff Melinda Habecker also present.

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2016](#) [ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MINUTES FEBRUARY 15 2017
[MIN-556](#)

Attachments: [Minutes February 15 2017](#)

Downing moved and Jones seconded motion to approve minutes of February 15, 2017.

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C. Action Items

Budget Review

Habecker reviewed the 2017 Environmental Council budget that has \$10,000 for Capital Equipment grants and a possible \$9,000 for Community Partners grants. Three thousand of that was privately donated money from ATC and MG&E.

Falter made and Soellner seconded a motion to set aside \$1000 for other Council business of the \$9000 dollar budget. Motion unanimously approved.

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Review of 2017 Environmental Council Grants

Falter made and Soellner seconded a motion to fund all 14 projects for a total of \$17,082. Ten thousand was awarded through Capital Equipment and \$7,082 was awarded under the Community Partner grant program. Downing not present for vote.

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The Council reviewed and discussed all of the submitted grant applications for 2017. There were 14 applications requesting a total of \$19,599. Falter made and Soellner seconded a motion to fund all 14 projects for a total of \$17,082. Ten thousand was awarded through Capital Equipment and \$7,082 was awarded under the Community Partner grant program. This motion was unanimously passed with the detailed awards granted as follows.

2017 Awarded Grants in both programs = \$17,082.00

Community Partner Grant Program 2017

Catholic Multicultural Center \$475.00 Funds will be used to provide four interactive environmental educational opportunities and two community projects for low-income and minority communities in South Madison.

Center for Resilient Cities \$1000.00 Funds will be used to provide professional services to prune trees for both safety and access for gardening plots.

Clean Lakes Alliance \$760.00 Funds will be used to purchase transportation, marketing and educational materials, and supplies for a farm tour.

Edgewood College \$970.00 Funds will be used for purchasing native tree saplings and native shrubs to restore the campus's woodlands including along Lake Wingra.

Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed \$402.00 Funds will be used to design and print educational posters on the watershed's exceptional resources.

Friends of Brooklyn Wildlife Area \$120 Funds will be used to purchase 34 inch brush mower to maintain the wildlife area's trails and fire breaks. Funds are also being provided through the Capital Equipment program for this mower.

Friends of Hoyt Park Inc. \$926.00 Funds will be used for purchasing hand tools, native plant seedlings, and herbicide to both remove invasive plants and enhance native undergrowth for an existing oak woodland in the park.

Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy \$349.00 Funds will be used to purchase a secure job box for on-site herbicide storage so that experiences volunteers and land management professionals have better access to what they need to control invasive plants while maintaining safety concerns.

Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy \$1000 Funds will be used to hire professional services for controlled burns and invasive weed control. Funds are

also being provided through the Capital Equipment program for these professional services.

Madison Metropolitan School District, School Forest \$700 Funds will be used to construct an informational kiosk at the main entrance to a heavily utilized state natural area of the Madison School forest.

Middleton Youth Center \$380 Funds will be used to purchase materials for a Gardening for Justice educational program for middle school age youth. The program includes hands-on gardening activities with discussions on environmental justice and environmental decision making.

Total amount awarded for the 2017 Community Partners grants: \$7082.00

2017 Capital Equipment Grant Program

Aldo Leopold Nature Center \$2500.00 Funds will assist in purchasing a wood chipper able to chip up to 4.75" branches to assist restoring native habitat at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center's two campus areas.

Clean Lakes Alliance of Dane County \$2031.00 Funds will be used to purchase chest waders, trash pickers, and wader, tool, and debris caddies assisting with clean up for Renew the Blue Volunteer days.

Friends of Brooklyn Wildlife Area \$2380 Funds will be used to purchase 34 inch brush mower to maintain the wildlife area's trails and fire breaks. Funds are also being provided through the Community Partners program for this mower.

Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy \$590.00 Funds will be used to hire professional services for controlled burns and invasive weed control. Funds are also being provided through the Community Partners program for these professional services.

Ice Age Trail Alliance \$2499.00 Funds will be used to purchase a 30" wide brush mower to maintain the 35.5 miles of trails for hikers in Dane County. With 30 more miles yet to be developed in the county.

Total amount awarded for the 2017 Capital Equipment grants: \$10,000.00

2016 Awarded Grants in both programs = \$17, 082.00

Revisions for 2018 Grant Process and Guidelines

The Council discussed revisions for the 2018 Grant Process and Guidelines. They noted that volunteer hours need to be the county's living wage amount and not other rates unless the volunteer is offering professional or skilled assistance that would deem a higher value per hour. Suggested that Habecker amend the example budget sheet to reflect current volunteer hourly rate and a sample professional rate with explanation.

Council will discuss use of funds for food. Should there be a cap on this amount or cap on per person attending? Additionally more thought and discussion is needed on use of funds for rental fees for tables, chairs, buses, facilities, portable toilets, etc to host events.

Another issue is timing of purchases. Some groups want to purchase equipment during sales times so can get more for their money. Sometimes as this year, this is problematic for especially Capital Equipment grants where they must wait until contracts are developed, and routed through county departments for approvals before funds can be used, often meaning a delay of two months. Another delay issue is for professional services, especially prairie burns that frequently need to take place when conditions are correct with small windows of time. This timeframe usually falls in March and April. Capital Equipment grants for professional services time delay in final approval makes this difficult if not impossible. Soellner who oversees DNR grant programs suggested using a "letter of retroactivity" for this cases where applicants could make purchases as needed and then get reimbursed if awards are made. This does not put the burden of payment on the county if the grants are not awarded or are only partially awarded, the non-profit would be responsible for the full payment. Soellner will send Habecker the letter the WDNR uses.

This discussion of revisions to the process and guidelines will be continued at the April 2017 meeting.

D. Presentations

Announcements

Habecker announced that the Nelson Institute Conference is on Tuesday, April 18th at Monona Terrace all day.

Pollinator Protection Update

Habecker stated that the Pollinator brochure is completed and 10,000 copies should be back from the printer tomorrow. Habecker got bids from 4 county printers. Wells was the only unionized print shop in the county. A bid was received from them but went with Park Printing Solutions in Verona with a bid that saved \$400 when compared with the next lowest printer. Habecker is working on the display board design now that the display boards are purchased. Seed packet making kits are also being developed for check out. One kit is presently checked out. Habecker has begun contacting county parks about field demonstrations and signage and training opportunities and events. The project is steadily moving ahead. We will not be exhibiting this year at the Earth Day Conference, but this is a possibility for 2018 when all out materials are developed and check out systems are ready to go.

[2016
PRES-148](#)

DRAFT 2017 POLLINATOR PROTECTION WORK PLAN

Attachments: [Pollinator Protection 2017 Work Plan draft](#)

E. Reports to Committee - none

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday, April 18th at 5pm in room 321, City County Building. Tentative agenda items include Pollinator Protection and Revisions for 2018 Grant Process and Guidelines.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda - none

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - none

I. Adjourn

Allness made and Jacobson seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. Unanimously passed. Downing not present for vote.

**Allness made and Jacobson seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.
Unanimously passed. Downing not present for vote.**

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