



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?

Friday, September 6, 2019

2:30 PM Festge County Park Pavilion, 4894 Scherbel Rd, Cross
Plains

Festge County Park Pavilion, 4894 Scherbel Rd, Cross Plains

A. Call To Order

Present 5 - LAKSHMI SRIDHARAN, JEFFREY SOELLNER, NATALIE EISNER, THOMAS
EGGERT, and JULIE SCHWELLENBACH
Excused 1 - TEAGUE MAWER

Soellner called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. Habecker also present.

B. Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of August 19, 2019 were unanimously approved.

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[2019](#)
[MIN-180](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 19 2019

Attachments: [Minutes August 19 2019](#)

C. Action Items

1. Grant Program Items Needing Attention

The 2020 grant application guidelines are on the Council's website. Council members will begin doing some contacting for private fundraising. Soellner will contact ATC, Sridharan and Eisner will contact MG&E, and Eggert will contact American Family Insurance. Habecker will send out support materials for the fundraising effort.

2. Pollinator Protection Initiatives

Eggert and Eisner meet to discuss revisions to the Community and School Pollinator Incentive program. Eisner also met with a teacher to better ground the program in what they may be looking for and concerns they may have. Using these insights the program was revised and detailed in areas where it was vague. The Council is leaning towards piloting the program with schools who may have existing gardens and wish to enhance what they have.

D. Presentations

1. Announcements

Habecker announced that the Aldo Leopold Nature Center provide the Council with an invitation to join them for Pipers in the Prairie. Schwellenbach said that she may be able to attend.

2. Field Review of Grants and Pollinator Educational Garden

The Council meet with Gary Nelson, Bill Carlson, and Janette Hoard, president and members of the Board of Friends of Festge Park to take a tour of the conservation work being done in the park. This 160 acre park also includes Salmo Pond. Restoration of the overlook began in 2010 and 120 acres have been cleared of buckthorn and native plants are now part of the wooded understory. Using the brush cutters the Council has provided to work on the steep slopes of the park where can clear about 4-5 acres per year. The Friends groups are working with volunteers including school groups - Edgewood High School and Chicago Lab School out of Chicago who are long-term volunteer contributors. Have \$750,000 in volunteer contributed time so far in their restoration efforts. Monarch butterflies now more numerous and also working on bluebird restoration.

The Council then traveled to Zander Park along the Black Earth Creek that runs through the Village of Cross Plains and met with Dain Zeigler who is the Village's Park Staff. After walking through Zander Park and learning some about the creek resource and the 2019 flooding after over 15" of rain on August 20, 2019, Dain showed the pollinator educational garden and sign that was installed this spring. He used no herbicides to get the grass and weedy site established. He instead placed large sheets of corrugated cardboard, used sod staples to fasten them in place and then immediately woodchipped over the site. After waiting about a month, he then had local youth and seniors help plant the garden, The softened cardboard with sliced into and the plants set into the ground at the designated spacing and design. The garden has flourished and the sign looked great. Dain manages over 100 acres of land for the Village as well as many other jobs. The tour ended at 5:30 pm.

E. Reports to Committee - none

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meetings of the Council are Wednesday, Oct 23, 2019 and Wednesday, December 4, 2019. Both meetings begin at 5pm and will be located 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. Adjourn

This was adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 and was followed by a tour of grant sites at Festge County Park and Zander Village Park, Cross Plains.

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