



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?

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

3:00 PM

Virtual Zoom Meeting: See top of agenda for
instructions on how to join the webinar or call in by
phone.

The October 14th, 2020 Environmental Council meeting is being held virtually. The public can access the meeting with the Zoom application or by telephone.

To join the meeting in Zoom, click the following link (after you fill out the form, the meeting link and access information will be emailed to you):

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tsaOXGF_Tq6yiARoePr9dQ

This link will be active until the end of the meeting.

To join the meeting by phone, dial-in using one of the following three phone numbers:

1-833-548-0276

1-833-548-0282

1-888-788-0099

When prompted, enter the following Webinar ID: 881 9547 2202

If you want to submit a written comment for this meeting, or send handouts for committee members, please send them to habecker@countyofdane.com

PROCESS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: ANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO REGISTER TO SPEAK ON/SUPPORT/OPPOSE AN AGENDA ITEM MUST REGISTER USING THE LINK ABOVE (even if you plan to attend using your phone).

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

If you join the meeting with Zoom, when the item you have registered for is before the board/committee, you will be promoted to a panelist. Once a panelist, you can turn on your webcam and you will be able to unmute yourself.

If you join the meeting with your phone, when the item you have registered for is before the board/committee, you will be unmuted and hear, "the host would like you to unmute your microphone, you can press *6 to unmute." Please press *6.

If you indicated that you would like to be called if you aren't attending the Zoom meeting when the item you have registered for is before the board/committee, you will be called. Please answer your phone. You will be directed to press 1 to join the meeting and then *6 to unmute yourself.

A. Call To Order

Others present: Mindy Habecker and Claudia Wiederholt

Chair EISNER called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and reviewed the announcements for virtual meetings.

SRIDHARAN joined at 3:10 pm

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

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020
MIN-203](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MINUTES 16. SEP. 2020

Attachments: [2020 MIN-203](#)

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

C. Action Items

1. 2020 Grant revision request

Habecker will notify Clean Lakes Alliance of this approval.

A motion was made by SCHWELLENBACH, seconded by SEEL, that the grant revision to the Clean Lake Alliance grant to allow purchase of turbidity tubes from a different company be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

2. Pollinator Protection Initiatives

Habecker reviewed a document outlining the original Dane County Pollinator Protection Plan's goals and objectives with how the Council has addressed each over the past five years in an effort to see what still needs to be completed in the plan. The Council discussed this and will review it again once new permanent staff is on board for the Council to see where the new person's interests and talents align, and where more attention may be needed.

Council noted that there is still work to be done and that the process is not completed yet. The Council will brainstorm new ideas to be possibly pursued in the future such as working with the highway department, rural landowners, the private sector and businesses. The Council wishes to continue to build their partnership with the UW in this project and to look for new partners too such as the American Farmland Trust and USDA. In urban areas Green Roofs may be a place to encourage pollinator habitat. Habecker will develop a progress report for the 2020 work. Habecker is also checking to make sure that the 2020 pollinator garden work gets completed and interpretive signs are installed prior to the ground freezing. She noted that post Covid-19 Council will want to evaluate the educational outreach of the pollinator garden network and other efforts made by the Council regarding pollinators.

3. Revisions for 2021 Grant Process and Guidelines

The Council reviewed progress made on the suggested changes

A motion was made by SCHWELLENBACH, seconded by SEEL, to complete the grant application guideline process as soon as possible with the contact information given staff transition. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

The Council discussed multiple application periods in a year but chose to keep with one application deadline for 2021. Will have both print and fillable form versions for the application. Habecker was asked to develop a task timeline for administering the grant program and share that with the Council.

Still need to:

Clarify matching funding wording.

Separate out timeline and location in the narrative section

Add an addendum document that clarifies for Council grant reviewers what are Capital items (get language from Department of Administration)

Finalize contacts for applicants

Develop outline of timeline for administering the grant program

4. Maintenance of Prairie Heritage Trail prairies

The larger triangular area at the far end of the Prairie Heritage bike trail is maintained by no one except the highway department. Habecker contacted Supervisor PATRICK DOWNING, who represents this area and will ask him how would like to see it maintained and how might we proceed to do this. He provided her with a contact name.

Habecker suggested purchasing one flat of prairie plants to plant around the site's signage and leave the rest of the triangle area mowed, non-prairie.

Council also stated that they might be interested in planting this small prairie as a spring outing.

A motion was made by EGGERT, seconded by SEEL, to have Habecker contact the person suggested by Supervisor DOWNING to see if he/she is willing to plant and maintain a small prairie garden at the base of the signage. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

5. Website redesign

Habecker noted that the county will be redesigning the Council's website. Council members should review all the web pages of our site and decide what they would like to keep, discard or modify. Habecker will set up folders on a Google Drive so that members can share their comments and suggestions for these three categories. The county website staff have not gotten back to Habecker on suggestions. Dane Arts is still a prototype for Council members to refer to in thinking about the redesign.

D. Presentations

1. Announcements

Habecker announced that she is planning a statewide virtual conference for private woodland owners in cooperation with a statewide team. She will let the Council know when the schedule and agenda is set for the program.

E. Reports to Committee

None

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 3:00 pm

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

SCHWELLENBACH and EISNER will contact the Executive's Office to check on the status of the vacancy replacement for the Council.

I. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm

A motion was made by EGGERT, seconded by SCHWELLENBACH, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mindy Habecker, pending committee approval.