



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, November 18, 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 November 18th, 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_CV7j3ArZQduQadbInIvwEw

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 3780 1448

If you want to submit a written comment for this meeting, or send handouts for board 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).

In order to testify (provide public comment), you must be in attendance at the meeting via Zoom or phone, you will then either be unmuted or promoted to a panelist and provided time to speak to the body.

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

A. Call To Order

Others Present: Mindy Habecker, Carrie Edgar, Laura Hicklin, and Claudia Wiederholt

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

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

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020](#)
[MIN-256](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MINUTES 14.OCT. 2020

Attachments: [2020 MIN-256](#)

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

C. Action Items

1. Pollinator Protection Initiatives

Habecker reviewed all the 2020 pollinator educator gardens to check if the work was completed. Three sites still have to install their interpretive signage, McCarthy Youth and Conservation Park, Lake View Hill Park and Henry Vilas Zoo. All the groups have their signage in their possession. The remaining three site groups will be installing them either later this fall or next spring. Follow up checks need be done to ensure that the work is completed. Habecker is currently working on the 2020 Progress Report for pollinator work.

2. Revisions for 2021 Grant Process and Guidelines

Habecker has developed and sent to the Council a task timeline for administering the grant programs. This document will be posted in the Google document of grant reviewer resources folder for 2021 grants.

The council then discussed progress on the following:

- Clarify matching funding wording – SEEL will provide language to clarify any volunteer professional services groups use as matching to their grants
- Separate out timeline and location in the narrative section – Habecker will make this change
- Add an addendum document that clarifies for Council grant reviewers what are Capital items (get language from Department of Administration) Habecker contacted County Controller and got brief language which will be added along with more examples of what does not fit in this category that is often mistakenly requested

—Finalize contacts for applicants – Extension Department head, Carrie Edgar helped clarify what will happen upon Habecker's pending retirement. She will most likely be the temporary staff for the Council until the position is rehired and will do her best to provide staff support. Council should be aware that level of staff assistance will not be at the same level as Habecker provided during this interim period. Edgar also encouraged the Council to delay the grant application process due to Covid-19 and staffing changes and to place a notification of delay on the Council's website. Council agreed to this and would like Edgar to develop a plan on when and how the grant program will be administered for 2021. This will be presented to the Council on their January 13, 2021 meeting. Edgar also mentioned that a systematic review is being done of all Dane County's many grant programs and that there may be a coordination and consolidation of these programs making it easier for citizens and groups to know the breath of what is available and to aid the county's management of these many and sometimes overlapping grant programs. This may eventually impact the Council's grant programs' administration.

A motion was made by EGGERT, seconded by SCHWELLENBACH, to approve to delay the 2021 Environmental Council grant programs and to set a new date after it receives recommendations from Carrie Edgar at its January 13, 2021 meeting. . The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

—Develop outline of timeline for administering the grant program – Habecker completed this document and provided it to the Council. The grant timeline document will be posted to the Google Drive for Council reviewer resources for the 2021 program.

3. Maintenance of Prairie Heritage Trail prairies

Habecker has contacted two local people concerning caring for the large triangular area at the far end of the Prairie Heritage bike trail that is currently maintained by the highway department. One has volunteered to assist, the second has not yet gotten back to Habecker.

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 and seeing if burning could be a possibility. Laura Hicklin stated that she will contact the highway department and staff in her department about this possibility.

Website Redesign

Habecker provided Council with a link to a draft new website design for the Council's website for review. Suggestions for the new website were provided by Council members including reducing the width of the title banner, adding return tabs at bottom of each page, add 2021 grants delayed and check back on January 15, 2021 and other changes detailed in an e-mail from EGGERT. Habecker will contact the county IT staff about implementing all the changes prior to them making it live. A Support the Council tab may have to be added later when details of language are figured out and its content fully thought through.

A motion was made by EISNER, seconded by SCHWELLENBACH, to approved to incorporate discussed changed into the new website and make it live as soon as possible. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

D. Presentations*Announcements*

Habecker announced that the statewide virtual conference for private woodland owners is scheduled for the last Saturday of January 2021 and the first two Saturdays of February 2021. The conference will run from 9:00 am – noon each of those days. The agenda will be available sometime in December. EISNER announced that the Council would be getting a new member in 2021 to fill out the membership. EISNER and EGGERT announced that they have renewed their terms.

E. Reports to Committee

None

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

I. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mindy Habecker, pending committee approval.