



# 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, January 13, 2021

3:00 PM

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

---

The January 13th, 2021 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\\_yiAgZj\\_fTQ6g59F7mbqOPg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yiAgZj_fTQ6g59F7mbqOPg)

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: 865 5325 0825

If you want to submit a written comment for this meeting, or send handouts for board members, please send them to [habecker@countyofdane.com](mailto: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, and Claudia Wiederholt*

*Chair Eisner called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and reviewed the announcements for virtual meetings. New member Josh Knackert introduced himself.*

**Present** 5 - THOMAS EGGERT, Chair NATALIE EISNER, Supervisor JULIE  
SCHWELLENBACH, Vice Chair PETER SEEL, and JOSHUA KNACKERT  
**Excused** 1 - LAKSHMI SRIDHARAN

## B. Consideration of Minutes

[2020](#)  
[MIN-352](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MINUTES 18.NOV. 2020

Attachments: [2020 MIN-352](#)

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

## C. Action Items

### 1. Pollinator Protection Initiatives

*Habecker noted that the Council provided the UW Entomology Department, Insect Ambassador Club \$2000 for \$50 stipends to students who give presentations related to pollinators to school groups or other youth groups in Dane County. This program agreement should be followed up on as Covid-19 has delayed this project in 2020 and 2021. The funds are to carry over and reports to the Council are to be provided at the end of each semester. Habecker will provide the chair and new staff with the department contacts and forms on the stipend program. The UW Entomology Gratton Lab is sending regular reports on the pollinator habitat assessment usage. Habecker will let the lab know of her retirement and transfer this reporting to Carrie Edgar. Habecker has the 2020 Progress Report for pollinator work out for review by cooperating county departments. It will be finalized and sent out to county departments and posted to the website on January 15th*

### 2. Revisions for 2021 Grant Process and Guidelines

*Habecker has updated the grant guidelines with all but the dates and contact information. Only the capital items language needs to be settled by the county and provided to the Council.*

*Edgar then briefed the Council on a new proposal developed by Laura Hicklin, Director of Dane County Land and Water Resource Department, to coordinate multiple small grants provided by the county concerning park or environmental projects. A small committee made up of representatives or staff from the groups involved in managing these programs would do the work. Two members of the Council were proposed as the Council's two grant programs and the Community and School Pollinator Incentive Program would all be discussed in this process. EGGERT and KNACKERT volunteered to be involved in this committee with SIDHARAN as an alternate.*

*Habecker noted that the existing grant program should be updated with contact information in case it is still used in 2021. Additionally notification of the delayed process needs to be posted to the Council's website to alert applicants.*

**A motion was made by EGGERT, seconded by SCHWELLENBACH, to approve the delay of the 2021 Environmental Council grant programs until March 31, 2021 in hopes that the joint committee can complete its work by that date. . The motion carried by voice vote 5-0.**

### 3. Maintenance of Prairie Heritage Trail prairies

*Habecker will purchase one flat of 32 prairie plants to plant around the far end of the 10-mile trail's triangular field site. Plants will be ordered from Agrecol and delivered to either the SCHELLENBACH or KNACKERT home so they can be cared for prior to planning. Delivery should be mid-May in 2021. Laura Hicklin has stated in the November 2020 Council meeting that she will contact the highway department and staff in her department about the possibility of periodic burning of this site to enhance the prairie plants. Mound Vue Garden Club who cares for the small prairie at the other end of the trail received the \$500 check for their care of this garden over the past 10 years and future care. They sent a thank you to the Council for this check.*

### Website Redesign

*Habecker contacted the IT staff and noted that A Support the Council tab will have to be added later when details of language are figured out and its content fully thought through. EGGERT, SEEL and SCHWELLENBACH agreed to form a workgroup to undertake this task. The green banner width is pre-set by county uniformity guidelines and cannot be changed. Edgar will get access so that she can make updates to the website in the future.*

## D. Presentations

### Announcements

*Habecker announced that the Council has funds to reprint the Yahara Waterways Water Trail Guide that was produced in 2007 and is still being purchased by Rutabaga and others. Sales go into this reprint fund. Habecker puts out the guides for the Bike Tour of The Prairie Heritage Trail at the Military Ridge trail center in Mount Horeb near the trail's start. The Council owns two plexiglass and wood double holders for these guides that are located at this center. She restocks about 200 each time and does this in April, June/July and September of each year for bikers and hikers. Habecker also thanked the Council and said it has been a pleasure to work with them over the past few decades. This is Habecker's final Council meeting with Edgar now replacing her. EISNER announced that another person has requested joining the Council.*

## E. Reports to Committee

NONE

## F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

*The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday, February 10, 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 4:45 PM*

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

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Mindy Habecker pending committee approval.*