



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final

### 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 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.

---

#### A. Call To Order

**Present** 5 - Chair NATALIE EISNER, THOMAS EGGERT, PHILLIP GRUPE, JOSHUA KNACKERT, and LAKSHMI SRIDHARAN

*Chair Eisner called the meeting to order at 3:02pm*

*Others present: Jason Behrends, Jeanne Burns-Frank, Dan Clausen, Javiera Morales and Michelle Probst*

#### B. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

#### C. Consideration of Minutes

[2021](#) MINUTES 09.08.2021  
[MIN-355](#)

Attachments: [2021 MIN-355](#)

A motion was made by EISNER, seconded by EGGERT, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 3-0.

#### D. Reports to Committee

- *Notification of Grant Awardees*

*Probst reported that all awardees were notified, press release was sent out, and payments/contracts have been issued. Probst will send a report with updates from the applicants who were asked to provide more information, and forward the press release*

*Sridharan joined the meeting at 3:05pm*

*Grupe joined the meeting at 3:07pm*

## E. Presentations

*Dan Clausen and Jeanne Burns-Frank from MG&E, and Jason Behrends from Heartland Ecological presented on the solar farms around Dane county, and how they are establishing pollinator habitat within the solar farm. They specifically discussed the O'Brian Solar Farm in Fitchburg as it is their largest at 145 acres. MG&E is looking to partner with US Fish & Wildlife Service or UW Solar-Pollinator project to evaluate success of pollinators. Currently, MG&E does not have an educational & outreach component to native plantings and solar. Two signs will be going in near the O Brian solar farm which is right off the bike path.*

[2021  
PRES-176](#)

DANE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Attachments: [2021 PRES-176](#)

## F. Discussion Items

- *Grant program- Feedback for next year*  
*Council members identified that it may have been difficult for applicants to identify whether they were applying as capital or community. Probst will look into groups that had to fix applications to see how to make the process more clear. The Council would like the 2022 Grant Program to be back on normal schedule for Spring of 2022. Probst will discuss with Plant Dane and Friends Capital Improvement to see how to best coordinate grant programs.*
- *Communication of future Grant Program Announcements*  
*Probst will start a newsletter sign up on the Environmental Council Website so organizations can sign up to receive notifications of the grant program.*
- *Pollinator Garden maintenance at Lake View Hill Park*  
*Probst shared that the friends group who have agreed to maintain the pollinator garden at Lake View Hill Park are not a group anymore. The pollinator garden needs maintenance. Probst will reach out to Master Gardeners to see if this could be a volunteer opportunity*
  - o *New council members*  
*Eisner will reach out to Executive's office on confirmation of new council member and county board member.*

*Discussion during next meeting:*

- *Role for Council on pollinator establishment under solar or helping develop recommendations for pollinator mixes.*

## G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

- *Nov 10th –Discussion of program priorities*
- *Dec 8th – Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change*

## H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

## I. Adjourn

**A motion was made by EISNER, seconded by SRIDHARAN, that the be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Probst, pending council approval.*