

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

*Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13.D.021, Public Works, Environment
and Transportation Commission members, City Staff, and members of the
public participated in this meeting electronically due to the
COVID-19 pandemic.*

1. Introduction / Roll Call

Chair Wozniak called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at his request, Public Works Director Marc Culver called the roll.

Present: Chair Joe Wozniak; and Members Michael Joyce, Jarrod Cicha, Shane Spencer, and Youth Member Jana Lynch

Absent: Member Nancy Misra, Karen Huiett, and Stephanie Hammer (Excused)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Marc Culver; City Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; and Assistant Civil Engineer Stephanie Smith

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approval of February 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions incorporated into the draft presented in meeting materials.

Motion

Member Joyce moved, Member Cicha seconded, approval of the February 23, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

City Engineer Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated March 23, 2021. He introduced Assistant City Engineer Stephanie Smith who is replacing City Engineer Luke Sandstrom.

Assistant City Engineer Smith introduced herself and provided the Commission with her background history.

Public Works Director Culver updated the Commission on the Climate Change and Forests in Minnesota presentation and noted the Commission can view the presentation at the link shown and indicated the link will be added to the online packet.

Chair Wozniak indicated he joined in the presentation on Climate Change and Forests in Minnesota several weeks ago and this is basically looking at what changes could be in store for the three different biomes in Minnesota, grassland, forest, and boreal forest due to rising temperatures and other changes in weather patterns over the next thirty to forty years.

Mr. Culver continued with his update on the Zoning Code.

Member Joyce asked in regard to the RFP for Recycling Services, he wondered if the eval. Panels for the RFP's strictly Roseville staff or are there other stakeholders that are in attendance on those.

Mr. Culver indicated the City just hired a new Equity and Inclusion Manager, but he has not started yet, but it may be possible to have him serve on the review panel to help, particularly with the DEI scoring. He did not recall if staff invited someone from Ramsey County to sit on the scoring panel or not. There will be a consultant to help with some analysis and maybe some financial analysis, but the consultant will not be a part of the scoring panel. It will be mostly staff.

Chair Wozniak indicated one concern related to stormwater projects, the St. Rose of Lima project is going to be a fairly sizeable one and this Commission has heard of and been briefed on a number of stormwater projects over the last several years and the necessity for them and the hoped effects they will have along with the impacts they will have on water quality but it seemed to him that it is pretty rare that they hear of any follow up on these projects in terms of if it did what the City wanted it to do, what it was expected to do.

Mr. Culver thought it was a good question and for some of the BMP's, such as what is being used at St. Rose of Lima, where it is mostly underground storage, there

will be some immediate and hopefully, at least noticeable, if not measurable benefits of that from a localized flooding perspective. There are some areas that have experienced localized flooding and staff is hoping and expecting that the underground storage will help with some of that. As far as water quality downstream, it is a little more difficult to perhaps measure that directly and from these types of devices. He indicated staff is hoping that a large number of these projects will have a measurable impact going into the ultimate water lines.

Chair Wozniak wondered if there will be a connection at any time from the B2 Pathway project to Lexington.

Mr. Freihammer indicated in the short term the answer is no. The connection will go from the northbound ramp to the west to the southbound ramp which is pretty much the connection. It does provide a pretty good connection to transit. One of the bus stop currently stops at the ramp.

Chair Wozniak noted the Snelling signals, it seemed to him that many years ago there was discussion about some requirements that adjacent signals have some synchronicity in their timing. He wondered if this was correct and was there some requirement that links consecutive signals together.

Mr. Culver was not sure there was a requirement for that. Certainly, the signals on Snelling are coordinated, probably from at least Larpenteur through County Road B, would be a coordinated system of signals and then County Road C through Lydia would be a separate system, just because of distance.

Chair Wozniak indicated another question he had was in regard to the Benchmark Study. There was a recent benchmarking event a couple of weeks ago, March 8th, and he wondered what participation and interest there has been so far.

Mr. Culver thought there were two events so far with a third scheduled for April 8th. He indicated there is some mild interest in it.

Member Spencer explained on the western side of Lake McCarrons where the water comes through the different step-down ponds to drop the contaminants before it enters Lake McCarrons, and it looks like someone cleared out a bunch of trees and other stuff and he wondered what that was for.

Mr. Freihammer indicated in Villa Park that series of wetlands and weirs is in the City and staff does work a lot of that with Capital Region Watershed. He noted he was not aware of any clearing that happened other than if there are fallen trees built up on the weir, the City maintenance staff does remove those but in terms of standing trees, if those are cleared then he did not know if that would be a parks thing or not.

5. Ramsey County Ditch 4 Project Overview

Mr. Freihammer provided a presentation of the Ramsey County Ditch 4 Project, its challenges, and its benefits.

Member Spencer thought this is one of the better projects seen in a while. Being able to take something that, at this time, completely useless, other than carrying water downstream and make it into something that is useful to the public. He thought this was great for the City.

Chair Wozniak thought the City was getting a lot of bang for the buck. He thought that was pretty amazing and was looking forward to seeing how this develops and integrates with the new apartment buildings and other properties in the area and how it links to other roads and trails.

Mr. Culver reviewed with the Commission the costs for the project and where the money was coming from to do the project.

6. Railroad Quiet Zone Study

Mr. Culver presented the Railroad Quiet Zone Study.

Member Cicha asked if staff had any information on spatial distribution of noise complaints for the trains. Is there a particular hot spot where people are finding the rail to be noisy.

Mr. Culver explained staff has not mapped the complaints. He noted it has been a while since staff has received specific complaints. The ones he recalled are generally focused on the east side of Lake Owasso, where the trains run very close to a number of homes in the area and the train noise travels across the lake.

Chair Wozniak asked if the study was City initiated.

Mr. Culver explained it was.

Chair Wozniak asked what the City paid for the Bollig report.

Mr. Culver believed it was in the twenty-thousand-dollar range.

Chair Wozniak indicated he had a lot of issues with that report. There is a lot of missing information and a lot of unexplained things. There were some intersections that were evaluated and did not indicate who the road authority was, even though it is obvious to them, but he assumed the Roadway Authority would have some responsibility for maybe contributing money toward this or is it all City funding if the City decides to go for a quiet zone.

Mr. Culver explained several of the crossings are County Roads and Snelling is a trunk highway and would be MNDot roadway. The City would be responsible for some of the costs of the crossings to meet the standards necessary just to operate

traffic through there. They would not necessarily be responsible for any additional standard to meet the quiet zone standard. It is something that would need to be negotiated with the different agencies.

Chair Wozniak indicated this is a lot of money to spend for not frequent train trips and he would have a hard time giving his approval on this. He indicated he was not a big fan of the study because there is a lot of mistakes. He wondered what the next steps are.

Mr. Culver reviewed possible next steps with the Commission.

7. Items for Next Meeting – April through July 2021

Discussion ensued regarding the April PWETC agenda:

- Chair and Vice Chair selections
- May Update on Recycling Proposals
- May MS4 report
- June prep for Joint meeting with City Council
- July Joint Meeting with City Council
- Future Field Trips

Mr. Culver indicated staff could organize a tour of the St. Paul Regional Water System Water Treatment Plant. He noted this is an impressive site. He thought the tour might be able to be done in April.

The Commission was interested in touring the water treatment plant.

Mr. Culver reviewed some other walking tours that the Commission could take.

Member Joyce suggested touring the Maintenance Facility for newer members.

8. Adjourn

Motion

Member Spencer moved, Member Joyce seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:29 p.m.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.