

# Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

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## 1. Introduction / Roll Call

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

**Present:** Chair Brian Cihacek; Vice Chair Joe Wozniak; and Members Michael Joyce, Michael Kruse, Nancy Misra, and Thomas Trainor

**Absent:** Member Martin Kors

**Staff Present:** Environmental Specialist Ryan Johnson, and City Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer

## 2. Public Comments

Chair Cihacek noted that this was for public comments for any of the general agenda items only and stated that there would be a separate public comment period held for the Lake Bennett item.

There were no public comments.

## 3. Approval of April 24, 2018 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 Trainor moved, Member Kruse seconded, approval of the April 24, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**

## 4. Communication Items

City Engineer Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated May 22, 2018.

Member Trainor inquired about the construction signs at the intersection of Dale Street and County Road C.

Mr. Freihammer replied that was listed under Community Development projects and stated that it was a proposed senior housing facility.

**5. Bennett Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Presentation**

Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering Company, defined an impaired waterbody and explained that the Total Maximum Daily Load Study (TMDL) is required to be performed on all impaired water bodies by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). She explained how TMDL studies are consistent across all water bodies regardless of the cause of impairment for the water body. The presentation she gave summarized the TMDL that was performed on Lake Bennett. Lake Bennett has been classified as an “Impaired” water body since 2006. The presentation explained the various sources of phosphorous and how the levels of phosphorous affect the quality of the lake. One of the main goals would be to reduce the phosphorous level of Lake Bennett by 78 percent. Ms. Anderson Wenz explained that the watershed would first begin by focusing on reducing the external phosphorous loads and then later the watershed would address the internal loads. The presentation summarized that the RWMWD has been taking the lead on some of these efforts as there are several other impaired water bodies within the district. The watershed has been partnering with cities to accomplish cleaning the impaired bodies. The presentation then summarized a few implementation strategies for reducing the external and internal phosphorous loads. The presentation showed plans for an infiltration system to be installed near Willow Pond.

Paige Ahlborg, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, explained a little bit about the RWMWD’s cost sharing program available to residents for assistance with projects that are geared towards improving water quality.

Chair Cihacek opened the floor for public comment.

Gordon Thoely 911 Transit Avenue

Mr. Thoely stated that he has lived at his residence for about 45 years prior to the creation of Frog Pond. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the time that it has taken to even start addressing the water quality problems. He also stated that the pond is dirty and smells and that he does not understand why the efforts to clean up the pond would take so long.

Joe Smith 895 Transit Avenue

Mr. Smith questioned if the commission has ever reached out to any private corporations to address any of the issues. He stated that he independently reached out to three companies to see if they had any solutions. He stated that two

companies have a three-step treatment process for killing the algae and explained that the costs varied from \$1,500-3,000 dollars. He stated that he would want to ensure that the treatments were safe and not going to cause problems in other nearby water bodies. He stated that he felt these treatments would be a good short-term solution to implement in conjunction with the overall long-term mitigation plans.

Kendra Godine 905 Transit Avenue

Ms. Godine stated that she has been a resident in her home for 24 years. She stated that the pond was consistent with clarity up until 2015. She expressed her concern that Frog Pond is losing its appeal to surrounding residents. She stated that she feels that the City should be more active in budgeting monies for solutions to the water quality problems.

Cynthia White 2489 Churchill Street

Ms. White stated that she does not live on the pond but that she walks in that area daily and stated that she has lived in her home for 22 years. She expressed that Frog Pond has showed significant decline in the past couple years. She stated that she understands funding is an issue but stated that she feels that water quality needs to be high on the priority list.

Joe Inensen 875 Transit Avenue

Mr. Inensen stated that he is a new resident to the area and stated that he used to live by Como Park and stated that water body was at one time very dirty and was eventually cleaned up. He suggested that might be a good comparison to look at to see what was done to clean up the water.

Chair Cihacek asked if there were any short-term solutions to improving the water quality and asked what the appropriate steps would be.

Ms. Anderson Wenz questioned whether Chair Cihacek was asking about Frog Pond or Lake Bennett.

Chair Cihacek replied that it seemed like more people were concerned with Frog Pond but he would like to hear solutions for both water bodies.

Ms. Anderson Wenz stated that Frog Pond is not the focus of the TMDL for Lake Bennett but all solutions mentioned in the presentation could also be applied to Frog Pond. She stated that improving the water quality of Lake Bennett would in turn improve the water quality of Frog Pond. She clarified that the TMDL study although conducted in 2005 is only one piece of the many years of data that have been conducted over years regarding the Lake Bennett Study. Ms. Anderson Wenz explained that solutions, which are aimed at the source, take time to implement and stated that things put into Frog Pond may end up getting flushed out. She stated that the watershed aims at targeting the source of impairment, it does not focus on short-term solutions that target internal loads.

Ms. Ahlborg asked Ms. Anderson Wenz to talk about Kohlman Lake as it was similar to the Como Lake situation that was brought up earlier by one resident.

Ms. Anderson Wenz stated that Kohlman Lake was listed as impaired prior to Lake Bennett and stated that the external load has been managed for the past ten years and that it is close to being complete. She explained that the management, even though good for the waterbody, sometimes still does not satisfy the displeased homeowners.

Chair Cihacek questioned how many homeowners present had rain gardens on their property and asked how many people are picking up their pet and yard waste consistently.

Many residents replied yes, they do these things.

Ms. Anderson Wenz stated that the watershed offers a feature on the website where residents can see what district they are in and encouraged residents to use that to gain a better understanding of where the runoff water is coming from.

Environmental Specialist Johnson stated that aerators can be ran and this might be a good option for Frog Pond. He stated that he was skeptical of the use of any chemicals to treat the water.

Chair Cihacek questioned if there were other odor control options for Frog Pond.

Mr. Johnson replied there were none that he was aware of.

Chair Cihacek asked Mr. Johnson to look into that and report back to the commission.

Member Misra stated the presentation indicated that impervious services are the largest contributor and asked that Ms. Anderson Wenz further explain this aspect.

Ms. Anderson Wenz stated that all the impervious surfaces greatly increase the mobility of water and help it move around rather than filtrate into the ground where it gets cleaned.

Member Misra questioned how the impervious surface is being addressed through the various agencies.

Mr. Johnson stated the programs and permitting aim to reduce the amount of impervious surface or at least incorporate mitigation efforts to address the runoff created by added impervious surface.

Member Misra asked if design was considered and questioned whether trails and sidewalks could be designed to use less impervious materials.

City Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director Freihammer explained that such efforts are considered with all the new development and permitting but pointed out that all existing development is difficult to go back and try to correct or change.

Chair Cihacek inquired about the school project and questioned if these efforts were being included in the early development stages of the project.

Ms. Anderson Wenz replied yes and stated that the watershed is meeting with the developer and the school to provide input on the site.

Member Wozniak pointed out the many residents stated that the changes to the pond were noticed in the past few years. He questioned if the City had made any changes to the pond in the past 3-4 years.

Mr. Johnson stated no and explained that in 2014 the rain patterns shifted to include quicker and heavier rain falls which could have been a contributor.

Member Wozniak further inquired about the plantings around the pond.

Mr. Johnson stated that the plantings were done prior to his arrival but stated that the decline of the pond was more likely due to the increased rains and not the plantings.

Ms. Anderson Wenz stated that the internal load could have been a factor in the decline of Frog Pond as well. She explained that there are many many factors that can contribute to internal loads for which a whole separate study could be conducted.

Member Joyce questioned if phosphorous bans in fertilizers have increased.

Ms. Anderson Wenz stated that fertilizes are only one of the many many factors contributing to the increased phosphorus levels.

Member Joyce asked if rain barrels could be a solution to help with runoff.

Ms. Anderson Wenz stated that rain barrels are great for water conservation but that in terms of water quality, the polluted water comes more from the streets and less from the rooftops.

Member Kruse asked about storm sectors and if they are effective.

Ms. Anderson Wenz rippled that they are used and can be effective if they are not being overloaded. She stated that the type of phosphorous being targeted also makes a difference. She also stated that all infrastructure solutions have to be maintained.

Chair Cihacek thanked everyone for coming out and stated that they would have to move on the next item of business. He stated that the watershed would be able to answer more questions and that Mr. Johnson would follow up regarding odor control options.

#### **6. MS4 Annual Meeting**

Mr. Johnson summarized the MS4 report. The presentation pointed out that the current permit expires this year. The presentation went through a series of goals for the upcoming year. The presentation outlined the Best Management Practices (BMP) inventory and also the TMDLs. One goal would be to take portions of the City and systematically implement best practices for storm water. Another goal was to reach out the businesses to educate them on these practices and code requirements.

Member Joyce asked about the City's Ordinances.

Mr. Freihammer stated that was addressed under 10.17 of the City code and explained that that section of the code was currently being updated and was just recently presented to the City Council.

Mr. Johnson stated that the updated code would do a better job of addressing BMP's for privately owned infiltration systems. He detailed the City's ongoing efforts to educate and assist with it. The presentation summarized the TMDL for Lake Como and the increase of water quality with the decrease of pollutants. The presentation detailed Lake Bennett and stated that lake would be more difficult to reduce due to its existing and different conditions from Lake Como. The presentation showed another major update that the surface water management plan is at the watershed for approval.

Member Joyce asked if the City owned Harriet-Alexander.

Mr. Johnson replied yes and stated the area was good for flood storage efforts but not so good for water quality efforts. Mr. Johnson stated that the parking lot was redone and that the annual clean-up day went very well.

Chair Cihacek questioned if there was any consideration in separating the areas where items can be brought for the clean-up day to reduce wait times.

Mr. Johnson stated that separate drop off areas have been considered but that people have multiple items and want to get rid of everything in one trip. He stated that staffing becomes an important factor.

Member Wozniak stated that he did not have to wait long, but that he knew others that waited over an hour.

Mr. Johnson stated that a lot of people always get there early, and it can create a backup.

Chair Cihacek stated that he felt it would be beneficial to continue investing in the event if it continues to grow

Member Wozniak asked if the contractor was notified of the parking lot changes prior to the event.

Mr. Johnson replied yes and commented that it is the busy time of year for Nitty, the contractor.

Member Misra asked if this event was only held once a year and asked if hosting more than one per year would be beneficial.

Mr. Johnson stated that prior to his arrival the event was done twice a year and stated that they could look at doing one in the spring and one in the fall.

Mr. Johnson summarized the outcome of shredding day. He stated that he feels that people are more thankful for shredding day.

Member Wozniak stated that this type of event is much better for actually recycling shredded paper because it does better in bulk.

Mr. Johnson wrapped up the MS4 annual report by detailing tips for residents.

**7. Items for Next Meeting –June 26, 2017**

Discussion ensued regarding the June PWETC agenda:

- Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Study Update
- Joint meeting with the City Council in July

Chair Cihacek recommended that the council make a utility recommendation to send a memo to the finance department prior to finance coming to talk with the commission in September.

Member Wozniak suggested that the council look at organics collection in a future meeting

Chair Cihacek suggested that they set up a joint meeting with parks

Member Trainor voiced his opinion that the Lake Bennett discussion felt like more of a watershed issue and he was not sure why the public hearing was held before their commission.

Mr. Johnson explained that the hearing was a joint effort between the city and the watershed due to the City receiving a number of complaints from residents.

Member Trainor stated that he felt it was a dissatisfaction to the residents because now they are expecting the commission and or city to take actions that they cannot.

Chair Cihacek stated that in the future they should collaborate prior to setting up a similar meeting and could agree to adjourn a meeting early to set time for such a presentation.

Member Kruse stated that it might have been better if the watershed first explained their role and how it differs from the City's role.

Member Wozniak stated that he felt it was a positive meeting and appreciate the resident turn out, but agreed that the meeting should have provided more clear guidance on which agencies are responsible for what roles.

## **8. Adjourn**

### **Motion**

**Member Misra moved, Member Trainor seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:31 p.m.**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**