



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
ci.northfield.mn.us

Meeting Minutes - Final Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

7:00 PM

City Hall 2nd Floor Training Room

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and took Roll Call.

Also Present: Justin Wagner - City of Northfield Utilities Manager, Cindy Stock - Recording Secretary.

Not Present: Commissioner Mateo Trujillo, Youth Representative Lucy Menssen, City of Northfield Program Coordinator Beth Kallestad

Present: 6 - Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner Mika Turner, Commissioner Bruce Anderson, Commissioner Daniel Jones, Commissioner Evan Pak and Commissioner Michael Zenner

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Petri, seconded by Commissioner Pak, to approve the July 21, 2021 Meeting Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Pak and Commissioner Zenner

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Pak, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to approve the June 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Pak and Commissioner Zenner

1. [21-416](#) June 16, 2021 EQC Meeting Minutes.

Attachments: [6-16-21 Minutes](#)

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

V. NEW BUSINESS

2. [21-417](#) Presentation Regarding City's Wastewater Treatment Plant's Facility Plan Update.

Attachments: [1 - Final WWTP Facility Plan Update](#)
[2 - WWTP Facility Plan Update Presentation](#)

Justin Wagner presented to EQC the City of Northfield's Wastewater Treatment Plant's Facility Plan Update by Jacobs Engineering Group. June 8, 2021 this plan was presented to the City Council, and on June 15, 2021, City Council passed a motion adopting the WWTP Facility Plan Update.

Approximate general age range of majority of WWTP equipment in 2018 was 1999-2001. A few pieces 2015-2017. Wastewater pieces of equipment generally lasts about 20 years, which obviously Northfield's facility is 20 years old.

Breakdown of loads commercial/industrial vs. residential: (when you compare the city itself)

Post is using about 20% of WWTP

Sheldahl is using about 15-20% of WWTP

2 largest users. Each company have separate permits, so they are given max allocation, and will use to the top of their capacity that they are allowed within their permit. So the majority growth is residential from 2025-2040.

Incidents prompting review of the WWTP:

1) January 2018 Flooding of the Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) in building basement due to a pipe plug failure which resulted in 5 feet of water in basement and 200 gallons released to ground.

2) May 2018 Fire in the biosolids handling facility which resulted in significant damage, emergency biosolids hauling, temporary treatment system and repair and rebuild of the permanent facility.

3) July 2018 Pipe failure in the Sludge Pump Room resulting in 6 feet of wastewater in basement and 1 MG discharged into Cannon River

This Plan Update consists of 3 sections:

1) Phase 1 - Operations Assessment

2) Phase 2 - Condition Assessment

3) Phase 3 - Facility Plan

As part of the Facility Plan, Jacobs Engineering Group updated the Wastewater Treatment Plant's Facility Plan from 2016. The objectives of this Facility Study update included:

1) Review and update projected flows and loads to 2040.

2) Review the 2016 Facility Plan improvements, document the updated status of improvements that have already been completed, and identify additional improvement alternatives that were uncovered as part of the Operational Assessment and Condition Assessment. Provide updated cost estimates for updates and revisions that are identified.

3) Review the 2016 Facility Plan project costs and provide updated cost summaries based on the status of improvements that are already completed and the updates and revisions identified for this Facility Plan Update.

Recommendations that have been completed:

- 1) UV Disinfection
- 2) Biosolids Processing Facility
- 3) BAF Gate Replacement

Implementation and Spending Plan

Item	2022-2025	2026-2030
Liquid Sludge Storage	\$3,820,313	
Biosolids Cake Storage		\$3,945,875
Influent Lift Pumps	\$720,000	
Preliminary Treatment		\$300,000
Primary Clarification	\$354,000	
Process Lift Pumps		\$210,000
BAF Blower Replacement	\$1,901,600	
Control & Card Access System Upgrades	\$864,000	
HVAC Equipment Replacement	\$215,568	
Water Supply System		\$1,000,000
Roof Replacement	\$763,000	
Standby Generator		\$600,000
TOTAL	\$8,638,481	\$6,055,875

Chair Anderson: what happens to all the biosolids?

Generally goes to farm fields/spreaders (brownish white color) (i.e. Peterson's). Being it has lime to it, it can only be applied to farms every 3 years because of the PH adjustment in there. City of Northfield pays for them to haul away (more of a subsidy).

VI. OLD BUSINESS

3. [21-418](#)

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Work Group Updates.

Members of the EQC shared updates on community efforts and plans around CAP work group areas.

Water Group - Commissioner Turner - looked at Rochester Water Utility Rebate Program - preliminary stages - modify for something Northfield can potential do. Similar to the rain barrel program - it wouldn't be cutting direct rebate/check but more like a credit back. Possibly use some funds from the Carbon Reduction Fund.

Tree Group - Commissioner Jones - the goal of having a draft tree maintenance plan for the city by late August/early September, to help us be better compliant with the grant.

Transportation Group - Chair Anderson - (1) MPC Grant for diesel vehicles - what vehicles are eligible (shuttles, heavy duty trucks, diesel vehicles)? Beth Kallestad said no city vehicles eligible. Hiawathaland Transit uses gasoline powered vehicles so don't qualify. Informed Benjamin Bus/Northfield Line of grant and encouraged them to apply (2) Hope to work with the City with Safe Walk to School as a demonstration project this Fall.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Chair Anderson opened up conversation to group regarding any questions/comments in regards to the Kraewood (Paulson) Addition Project.

Commissioner Turner attended the July 15, 2021 Planning Commission meeting, and stated all public present at this public hearing except the developers were strongly against the project. Two hours of commentary why citizens were against it. PC tabled the proposal - having them look at some set backs - preserve some trees, road adjustments, zoning issues. She asked Planning Commission if this is the best use of this space, noting all the trees (forest area) being taken down, and to consider if this project aligns with the Climate Action Plan goals. Much of the trees are being removed - how much time do we have to build a forest??? Are there other locations to build such as farm fields with no trees? They did say they were going to apply for TIF funding - to meet some CAP goals.

Was noted that Commissioner Novak of Planning Commission stated he has a conflict of interest (architecturally) and will not participate on the Preliminary Plat Request for the Kraewood Addition item.

*There is a KYMN Radio interview with Steve Schmidt of Schmidt Homes and Brett Reese of Rebound Partners on the Schmidt Homes website
<https://schmidthomes.com/homestyles/kraewood/>*

The preliminary plat was sent back to the developers for revisions. The Planning Commission added additional conditions, but didn't make a final motion with a recommendation to City Council. Instead, they tabled the motion until their August 19th meeting to prepare a memo to Council and then finalize their recommendation. Rezoning the main home site parcel and a silver parcel on the north side of the property is planned for the Planning Commission's August 19th meeting.

Chair Anderson: What role should EQC play between now and the next Planning Commission meeting (August 19th)?

Commissioner Turner: Felt like the PC members in general at least acknowledged CAP, but some of the staff members who are involved with the planning aspect were and/or hostile to CAP. Not just this project, but a bigger question of can we help staff get more aligned with CAP?

Commissioner Pak: Is there any data on trends of tree coverage in Northfield? Since moved here in 2003, he feels Northfield has lost a decent amount of large tree coverage. While our total tree inventory may not have decreased, feels that tree quality should be considered as well, not just quantity.

Chair Anderson: Willing to request a meeting with Beth Kallestad, Mikayla Schmidt and Planning Commission Chair to re-emphasize the points that EQC made and the resolution we passed several months ago. For the CAP to be taken seriously it has to be taken in consideration in all City deliberations.

Commissioner Pak: This is the chance to show the City's commitment and responsibility to the CAP.

Commissioner Zenner: Northfield's goals and strategies with Xcel. Need community and all the players on board with what everyone realistically wants to see, goals, strategies and timetable. City needs to review the CAP to see how it aligns up with all the other

things they are doing.

Chair Anderson: Next August meeting, EQC to revisit the CAP specifically about larger focus on the electricity part of CAP, how to reach carbon free electricity by 2030 when Xcel isn't on the same timetable.

Chair Anderson: Beth Kallestad, Commissioner Turner and Chair Anderson to set up meeting to laser focus on the electricity piece of CAP. Also, how can EQC engage most effectively in the Kraewood project process?

VIII. STAFF UPDATES

4. [21-419](#) Staff Update.

On behalf of Beth Kallestad, Justin Wagner reviewed with EQC members the Staff Update included in the Meeting Agenda Packet. The EQC group photo will be taken, for the City website, at the beginning of the next meeting, August 18, 2021. This photo follows the tour of the Faribault Energy Park 4:30 - 6:00 PM.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Pak, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Pak and Commissioner Zenner