



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Vice Chair Michael Provancha, Commissioner Janet Petri, Chair Rob Hanson and Commissioner Kimberly Haroldson

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Susannah Shmurak, Commissioner Simon Pryor and Commissioner Ava Podracky

Also present: Sara Pabich, Sustainability Coordinator; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Alex Halverson, Youth Representative (voting)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Petri, seconded by Vice Chair Provancha, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Petri, Vice Chair Provancha, Chair Hanson, Commissioner Haroldson, and Youth Representative Halverson

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Chair Provancha, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to approve the consent agenda containing the June 17, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Petri, Vice Chair Provancha, Chair Hanson, Commissioner Haroldson, and Youth Representative Halverson

1. [26-377](#) June 17, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Provancha reported on the continued operation of federal weather buoys and on the passage of legislation in some states mandating that electric vehicle manufacturers provide recycling operations to EV batteries.

Commissioner Petri reported on the Citizens Climate Lobby national meeting on Zoom which highlighted ongoing reductions in emissions.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [26-378](#)

Xcel Energy Conversation and Optimization Program Triannual Plan

Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich delivered a presentation on Xcel Energy's Conservation Improvement Program and asked the EQC to consider approval of a comment letter for submission to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's eDockets system. Pabich responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

Commissioner Haroldson left the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

3. [26-379](#)

2026-2027 Work Plan and Commission Priorities

- Energy Efficiency Education for Residents: Commissioner Petri reported on the abundance of material this subcommittee has for distribution to the public. At Commissioner Provancha's request, Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich provided an update on the tabling opportunity at this coming weekend's Riverwalk Market Fair.
- Electric Vehicle Community Showcase: Chair Hanson reminded the EQC of this event occurring on September 26, 2026.
- Active Transportation Awareness Campaign: Chair Hanson reported that there are no new updates on this initiative.
- Landscaping & Native Planting Research: Petri reported that the work of this subcommittee continues.
- Waste Reduction Library Research: Vice Chair Provancha reiterated that work on this initiative is complete.

STAFF UPDATES4. [26-380](#)

Staff Update

Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich provided updates from City Staff. Pabich responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chair Provancha, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Petri, Vice Chair Provancha, Chair Hanson, and Youth Representative Halverson