



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Thursday, October 12, 2017

7:00 PM

City Hall 2nd Floor Training Room

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chairman George Kinney called the October EQC meeting to order at 7:02pm.

A motion was made by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Miller, to approve the October 12, 2017 EQC agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

1. [17-1040](#)

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes Sep-2017](#)

A motion was made by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Rohn, to approve the September 2017 minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Unfinished Business

2. [17-1041](#)

Discussion about Climate Action Plan and Engagement other Boards and Commissions.

Kim attended the September Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting where she introduced the climate action plan (CAP). She feels it is important for EQC members to reach out to other boards and commissions to inform as well as involve them in the CAP. Matt felt it was important for EQC members to have enough background information to know what is happening with the CAP before going forward to other boards and commissions. After being invited back to PRAB, Kim has put together a presentation explaining the beginning steps to organize a CAP which she will give at the October PRAB meeting. EQC members discussed what additional boards and commissions to share the presentation, which included EDA, HRA, Human Rights, PRAB, and Planning Commission. The GNSC would like to organize an educational community event for the CAP in the first quarter of 2018. CERTS grant money is available with an October 20, 2017 application deadline. GNSC will apply for the grant.

A motion was made by Board Member Miller, seconded by Board Member Rohn.

The City of Northfield Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) requests that the Greater Northfield Sustainability Collaborative design and implement an educational event for the City's Climate Action Planning process with the following action items:

Organize a public summit to bring together community members. This summit's goals should be to educate about local climate change impacts and provide space for dialogue.

Gather and organize public input from summit into a report for the EQC.

The GNSC consists of staff, faculty, and students from both St. Olaf and Carleton, in addition to community members. The City will assist this group by advising the GNSC and publicize the event. The GNSC will report updates at the monthly EQC meetings. The EQC will provide feedback and communicate information gained from the event and names of people interested in being involved in climate action planning.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. New Business Items

3. [17-1042](#) Discussion of the "1 Watershed 1 Plan" effort by Cannon River Watershed Partnership.

Matt Rohn attended and reported back on a Cannon River Watershed Partnership program entitled "1 Watershed 1 Plan". EQC members felt it was important to support the work they are doing to move together to develop a regional plan. Discussion was held on appointing a "watershed champion". Youth member, Katie will share more about the program at the November EQC meeting.

4. [17-1043](#) Discussion on Xcel Energy's Street Light Conversion

Attachments: [LED Conversion Savings Sheet](#)
[LED Street Lighting Info. Sheet](#)

Staff updated EQC members on Xcel Energy's street light conversion project. All cobra style lights will be converted to LED fixtures. The conversion will save the City \$276 a month.

5. [17-1044](#) Discussion on Minnesota Technical Assistance Program Wastewater Treatment Plant efficiency findings.

Attachments: [Northfield Report Final](#)
[Wastewater Treatment Efficiency - Northfield MN](#)

Justin Wagner shared the MnTAP WWTP efficiency findings with EQC members. From the findings in this report, staff has adjusted operations of the BAF blowers to optimize plant operations while reducing its energy demand. Staff will continue to implement energy efficiency initiatives outlined within the report. EQC members encouraged the City to repeat the same MnTAP report again in 5 years.

VI. Adjournment

Items for the November EQC agenda:

** Update on 1 Watershed 1 Plan*

** CAP presentation to City boards and commissions*

A motion was made by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Culbreth, to adjourn the October 2017 EQC meeting at 7:59pm. The motion carried unanimously.