



Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM
8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: Individuals may submit written public comments in advance of the meeting by emailing comments to Rebecca Kiernan (rkiernan@ighmn.gov). Comments received prior to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2023, will be provided to the Council at or before the August 24, 2023 meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Presentations**
 - A. Operational and Gas Migration Updates at Pine Bend Landfill
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the Thursday, July 27, 2023, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting
5. **Regular Agenda**
 - A. 2024 Environmental Advisory Commission Work Plan
 - B. Comments on Draft Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042
6. **Public Comment**

Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.
7. **Commission Comments**
8. **Adjourn**

This document is available upon a three (3) business day request in alternate formats such as braille, large print, audio recording, etc. Please contact Rebecca Kiernan, City Clerk, at 651.450.2513 or rkiernan@ighmn.gov.



Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: **Operational and Gas Migration Updates at Pine Bend Landfill**

MEETING DATE: August 24, 2023

ITEM TYPE: Presentations

CONTACT: Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, 651.604.8511

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Pine Bend Landfill will present an informational presentation on updates related to operations and gas management.

BACKGROUND

Solid Waste Permitting

Pine Bend Landfill, operated by Republic Services, is a Municipal Solid Waste Landfill located at 2495 117th St E in Inver Grove Heights. The landfill is currently operating under existing permits received through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, Dakota County and the City of Inver Grove Heights. City approvals include a Non-Conforming Use Certificate, Host Community Agreement and a Conditional Use Permit. The landfill most recently received city approvals in 2018 for a side-slope expansion and is permitted to operate through December 31, 2030, or when the permitted airspace capacity of 32.13 million cubic yards is reached (whichever occurs first).

Annual Reporting

In the first quarter of the year, Pine Bend Landfill submits an Annual Report to the MPCA to show compliance with their MPCA Solid Waste Permit. Barr Engineering completes a technical review of the MPCA Annual Report on the behalf of the City for compliance with the following items:

- Conditional Use Permit
- Non-Conforming Use Certificate
- Gas/Leachate Dual Extraction System
- Landfill Gas
- Surface Water
- Financial Assurance
- Contingency Action and Closure Plans
- Groundwater Quality

The City of Inver Grove Heights review of Pine Bend Landfill's 2022 Annual Report concluded that compliance of Minnesota Rule 7035.2815 Subpart 11, related to gas management at landfills, was not achieved. Per Pine Bend Landfill's Conditional Use Permit (CUP), the landfill must present progress to City's Environmental Advisory Commission annually and report progress in their annual

report until compliance is achieved. Pine Bend Landfill will present progress to achieve compliance and operation updates at the August 24, 2023 EAC Meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

None

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, July 27, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Environmental Advisory Commission of Inver Grove Heights met in City Council Chambers on Thursday, July 27, 2023. Chair Boehmke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Nichole Boehmke, Commissioners Sara Goodman, Nick Ruiz, Ted Trenzeluk, George Fell, Marjorie Savage, Kevin Sethre, Patti Mikulski.

Absent: Brian Barner (excused)

3. Presentations

A. New Commissioner Introductions and Oath of Office

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Thursday, May 18, 2023, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Sethre to approve the minutes from Thursday, May 18, 2023 as submitted.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

B. Minutes of Thursday, June 22, 2023, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Sethre, seconded by Commissioner Savage to approve the minutes from Thursday, June 22, 2023 as submitted.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. Regular Agenda

A. Commissioner Appointments for Chair & Vice Chair

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Fell to appoint Commissioner Goodman as Chair.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Fell, seconded by Commissioner Trenzeluk to appoint Commissioner Ruiz as Vice Chair.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

B. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the following PowerPoint slides on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to the Commission:

EECBG

- Reviewed EECBG Grant Program

EECBG

- IGH: Non-Competitive Grant of \$76,160.
- No match required
- Apply by Jan 2024
- Spend funds within 2 years

Eligible Project Categories

- Variety of eligible activities
- Reviewed internally to discuss project ideas
- Staff created 3 project ideas for the city to choose from which fall into the 2 red categories

Project Options

- Lighting Upgrade (planned project)
- Electric Vehicle for City Fleet
- Electric Vehicle Charger at VMCC

Lighting Update - Questions

- 1) Dark Sky Complaint? All lighting is indoor lighting.
- 2) Project Outcomes for the LED upgrade?
 - Energy cost savings: \$6,830/year
 - Energy kWh savings: 68,300 kWh/year
 - GHG savings: 48.4 mt/CO2
 - Equivalent to
 - 9.4 homes' electricity for one year
 - 10.8 gas powered vehicles driven for one year

Fleet EV - Questions

- 3) EV vehicle range in cold weather?
 - Conventional Gas
 - City driving: 10-20%
 - Short trips: 15-33%

- Hybrid
 - City driving: 20-40%
 - Short trips: 25-45%
- Electric Vehicle
 - Mixed city & hwy driving: 41% (range at 20°F)
 - Mixed city & hwy driving: 17% (range at 95°F)
- AAA study

EV Market Review

City Fleet Utilization

- Daily mileage:
 - Police (leased): 80-100 miles/day
 - Building Inspections & Fire : 20-55 miles/day

Public EV Charger - Questions

- 4) Different charger levels:
 - Level 1
 - 120v, 2-5 miles/hour (<50 miles/day)
 - Homes, workplace
 - Level 2
 - 240v, 10-50 miles/hour (>50 miles/day)
 - Most common public charger
 - Households, workplaces
 - Level 3, Direct Circuit Fast Charger "DCFC"
 - Varying charging speeds, roughly full charge in 30 mins
 - Infrastructure is significantly more expensive
 - Along highways for long distance driving
 - Cost of Level 2 vs Level 3 chargers
 - Level 2, dual port = ~\$46k
 - Level 3, dual port = ~\$90k
- 5) Example of revenue structures:
 - No fee
 - Per kWh
 - Hourly rate
 - Connection fee
 - Flat rate
 - Private vs. Government
 - Total cost to charge: \$5-\$30. Average is around ~\$10 for full charge.

Public EV Charger - Questions

- Cost of solar EV charger vs grid EV charger?
 - Example: St. Paul
 - 25 units, 6 solar-powered stations (\$286k)
 - Unit cost \$35,000 vs \$6,700
 - Utility rebates
 - Example: Duluth

- First regional solar EV station, 9 solar-powered stations (\$378k)
- Solar carport, 7-8 homes per year
- Net zero - electricity feeds into grid when unused

Staff Recommendations

- LED lighting project (~\$105,000)
 - Planned expense + Existing Council Support/Funding
 - Significant kWh and cost savings
 - Lays groundwork for additional energy projects onsite (solar, EV charger, etc.)
- Other thoughts
 - More EV funding coming
 - 2024+ work plan priorities

Commissioner Ruiz asked if a charger would be included in the EV fleet vehicle project costs and Mrs. Sutherland responded in the affirmative, that a quote would need to be received to council directed staff to research this project.

Commissioner Sethre reminded the Commission of the additional expenses associated with a fleet vehicle at the previous meeting, include training and maintenance. Mrs. Sutherland stated this is correct and that the fleet budgeting process would need to be reviewed and revised.

Commissioner Sethre asked if peak charging costs are reflected in the fee charged to the customer. Mrs. Sutherland stated most utilities have special charging rates that can be factored into customer fees.

Commissioner Fell is in favor of the public electric vehicle charging station at the VMCC for the return on investment (ROI).

Commissioner Trenzeluk is in favor of the EV fleet vehicle as it saves money and energy and sends a strong sustainability message. He and Commissioner Ruiz attended the Metro Environmental Conference and saw the cost savings the City of Eden Prairie has seen experienced with a transition to EV fleet vehicles. He still has questions about battery disposal and lifecycle analysis. He stated the LED project is already planned and doesn't send a strong sustainability message.

Commissioner Goodman is in favor of the EV fleet vehicle for the ROI and climate impact. She stated the LED project is already planned and prefers using the grant to start the transition to electric vehicles.

Commissioner Sethre is in favor of the LED project for the ROI. He is concerned about how lithium-ion batteries are sourced.

Commissioner Mikulski is in favor of the LED project for the ROI. She is also concerned about how lithium-ion batteries are sourced.

Commissioner Bohemke is in favor of the public EV charger project as it produces the least amount of waste.

Commissioner Ruiz asked where the money saved on the LED project goes if the grant was applied to that. Mrs. Sutherland stated this would remain in the capital improvement fund for future projects.

Commissioner Savage stated she is in favor of the EV vehicle for the fleet vehicle replacement. She stated the LED project is already planned and would recommend the commission selects a project the commission is proud of and that leads to change.

Commissioner Ruiz is in favor of the public EV charger project.

Motion by Commissioner Fell, seconded by Commissioner Ruiz to recommend the EECBG funds be used towards purchase and installation of an electric vehicle public charging station at the VMCC.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 4 Motion fails.

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Sethre to recommend the EECBG funds be used towards replacing a fleet vehicle with an electric vehicle.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 3 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Commissioner Fell asked if there are any updates on the death and contamination of the bald eagles in Inver Grove Heights. Mrs. Sutherland stated the matter is still under investigation by the US Fish and Wildlife service and a Department of Justice trial attorney. Once the city receives an update from the investigation the city will determine how to respond. The MPCA has deferred the investigation to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Commissioner Sethre shared that Commissioner Savage has blog posts available at www.minnpost.com/author/marjorie-savage/ and has published two books. He is thankful to have her as part of the commission.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Fell, seconded by Commissioner Trenzeluk to adjourn at 8:35p.m.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0 Motion carried.



Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: **2024 Environmental Advisory Commission Work Plan**

MEETING DATE: August 24, 2023

ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda

CONTACT: Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, 651.604.8511

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) is asked to provide feedback on draft 2024 EAC Work Plan attached.

BACKGROUND

The duties and functions of the City's Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) are defined by City Code 2-4-2. These include advising the City Council on environmental issues including local landfill matters, wetland replacement applications and aircraft noise, and promoting public awareness of local environmental issues. The EAC, City Council and Staff found the first annual work plan developed in 2023 to be a helpful guiding document. Staff has prepared an updated work plan to define 2024 environmental priorities.

The work plan includes goals developed by staff. These goals were based on the 2023 work plan progress, regional trends, community requests, and existing city environmental programming. Staff believes the proposed work plan is achievable by December 2024 with support from the city's Environmental Specialist, EAC and technical assistance identified in the plan.

Upon Council approval of the work plan, staff and the EAC will initiate implementation of work plan action items, which will include some future requests for City Council approvals pertaining to each goal. It is expected that the time needed to support implementation of this work plan will not exceed staff time already budgeted for environmental programming within the Community Development Department. The vast majority of staff time spent on plan implementation will fall into the existing work plan of the Environmental Specialist, whose job duties include coordinating the development and implementation of sustainability projects with the Environmental Advisory Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT

The requested action is budget neutral.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) is asked to provide feedback on draft 2024 EAC Work Plan attached.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft 2024 EAC Work Plan

[DRAFT] 2024 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Duties and functions of the City of Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) are defined by City Code 2-4-2, which include reviewing and advising the City Council on environmental issues and promoting public awareness and understanding of local environmental issues. In 2023, the EAC will work on the following work plan actions with support from the city's Environmental Specialist.

- 1. Extend Xcel Energy Partners in Energy MOU through 2024 to assist with implementation of the [Energy Action Plan](#).**
- 2. Support Sustainable IGH.** Sustainable IGH will be launched in Spring 2024. The EAC will help promote the program and select awardees.
- 3. Support Pollinator Lawns/Native Landscaping Ordinance Updates & Education Plans.** [Effective July 1, 2023](#), municipalities are required to allow property owners and occupants to install and maintain managed natural landscapes. The city will be reviewing the city code to determine if city code updates are needed. The EAC can assist with ordinance changes and community education plans as needed.
- 4. Develop and support an annual litter clean-up event beginning in 2025.** Various cities organize city-wide litter clean-up events in Spring or Fall. Picking up trash, litter, and other debris protects water quality by preventing pollutants from entering the storm water system. Volunteers are typically organized into groups and designated to sites around the city such as parks, streets and school grounds. Examples of existing events/programs include [St. Paul](#), [Minneapolis](#), [Lakeville](#), [Dakota County](#), [Champlin](#), [Duluth](#), [Vadnais Heights](#), [Roseville](#) and more. Research and develop an event plan and request City Council funding in the 2025 budget.
- 5. Explore community and municipal electric vehicle readiness options.**
- 6. Review items related to the [anticipated Pine Bend Landfill expansion request](#).**
- 7. Process other business-as-usual items related to landfills, wetlands, airport noise, and other assigned duties of the Environmental Advisory Commission.**

Last updated 08/24/2023.



Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Report

**SUBJECT: Comments on Draft Metropolitan Solid Waste
Management Policy Plan 2022-2042**

MEETING DATE: August 24, 2023

ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda

CONTACT:

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) is asked to recommend approval of the City Comments on the draft Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042.

BACKGROUND

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), a department of the State of Minnesota, prepares the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan every six years with input from state agencies, county staff, and representatives of the waste industry, environmental groups, businesses, and citizens. The plan establishes a framework for managing waste in the seven-county metro area over a 20-year period.

The plan describes broad regional objectives and potential strategies for solid waste management that counties can select from to meet the region's needs. It also sets goals for source reduction, recycling, and organics recovery; utilizing existing resource recovery facility capacity; and minimizing land disposal. The plan and public comments submission page can be found at www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/solid-waste-planning.

The City has reviewed the MPCA Plan and has developed draft public comments for EAC and City Council review and approval. Upon approval of the MPCA Plan, Dakota County must update the Dakota County Solid Waste Plan within 9 months. The City will have an opportunity to provide comments on the county plan during that stakeholder engagement period.

FISCAL IMPACT

The requested action is budget neutral.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) is asked to recommend approval of the City Comments on the draft Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Comments



8150 Barbara Avenue
Inver Grove Heights
Minnesota 55077

651-450-2500

www.ighmn.gov

September XX, 2023

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
c/o Peter Sandhei
520 Lafayette Road N.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: City of Inver Grove Heights Public Comments on draft Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042

Dear Peter,

The City of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota is the host community of three permitted landfills: Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill SW-45, Dawnway Demolition Landfill SW-303 and SKB Rich Valley Landfill SW-343. Per Table 11 of the draft Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan (MPP), Pine Bend Landfill remains one of the largest mixed municipal solid waste landfills within the Twin Cities Metro Area, resulting in disposal of several hundred thousand tons of regional waste in Inver Grove Heights annually. Although landfilling is designated as the least favorable solid waste disposal method, the draft MPP confirms that landfilling will remain a necessary form of disposal for TCMA waste. In 2021, Pine Bend Landfill received the largest allocation of TCMA certificate of need (CON), in the amount of 2,398,746 tons, for additional MSW disposal capacity. Acceptance of this additional CON would require Pine Bend Landfill to vertically expand and significantly extend the landfill's approved duration to operate.

As the host community of three landfills, the City of Inver Grove Heights has the following comments on the draft MPP:

1. Required strategy #34 states, "Establish mandatory pre-processing of waste at resource recovery facilities and landfills by 2025". The City of Inver Grove Heights requests the MPCA provides a definition for "mandatory pre-processing" at landfills. This will allow the city to determine any potential conflicts with existing local ordinances, impacts on our community and if the implementation timeline is achievable.
2. Removing PFAS at wastewater treatment facilities has been proven to be cost prohibitive (*Evaluation of Current Alternatives and Estimated Cost Curves for PFAS Removal and Destruction from Municipal Wastewater, Biosolids, Landfill Leachate, and Compost Contact Water, May 2023*). Instead, the best strategy to minimize PFAS entering MCES facilities from landfill leachate is to treat the leachate at the landfill where the source of PFAS is concentrated. The City of Inver Grove Heights strongly encourages the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to prioritize research and development of treatment and/or removal options for PFAS in leachate at landfills. The City encourages the MPCA to incorporate PFAS treatment and/or removal requirements into MPCA landfill solid waste permits as soon as possible.

3. To minimize future PFAS from ending up in landfills, MPCA should require landfills to address PFAS in their industrial solid waste management plans so that PFAS-containing wastes can be identified and rejected as appropriate.
4. The City encourages the MPCA to update the CON review and issuance process so that it is streamlined and consistent year-over-year.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important local and regional matter.

Sincerely,

Ally Sutherland