



Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
Thursday, February 22, 2024 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, February 22, 2024, will be provided to the Council at or before the February 22, 2024 meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Presentations**
 - A. Metropolitan Airports Commission Noise Oversight Committee Update
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the Thursday, October 26, 2023, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting
 - B. Approval of Minutes from the Thursday, November 16, 2023, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting
5. **Regular Agenda**
 - A. 2024 EAC Agenda Calendar Discussion
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. **Commissioner and Staff 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.

February 22, 2024 - Environmental Commission Agenda



Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: **Metropolitan Airports Commission Noise Oversight Committee Update**

MEETING DATE: February 22, 2024

ITEM TYPE: Presentations

CONTACT: Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, 651.604.8511

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Metropolitan Airports Commission Noise Oversight Committee will present an update to the Environmental Advisory Commission.

BACKGROUND

Michele Ross, Community Relations Manager of Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), will present MAC and Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) updates, flight trends in Inver Grove Heights area, and MAC NOC work plan updates including any anticipated impacts for the Inver Grove Heights area. More information on MAC and NOC can be found at www.macroise.com.

FISCAL IMPACT

This item has no financial cost.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

None

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, October 26, 2023 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, October 26, 2023. Chair Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Sara Goodman; Commissioners: Nichole Boehmke, Ted Trenzeluk, Patti Mikulski, Marjorie Savage

Absent: Nick Ruiz, Kevin Sethre, Brian Barner, Vacancy

3. Presentations

A. Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting Guidance

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented a new EAC Commissioner Guidance document. The PowerPoint presentation reviewed the following topics:

- Commissioner appointment process
- Purpose of Robert's Rules of Order and Commissioner guidelines
- Duties and expectations of the Chair
- Duties and expectations of Commissioners

Commissioner Boehmke asked if Commissioner's need to explain why they are abstaining from a vote. Mrs. Sutherland stated she has received confirmation that is it not required, it is helpful for Commissioners to share their position on a topic and why to inform the applicant, staff and other commissioners.

4. Approval of Minutes

5. Regular Agenda

A. Submittal of City of Inver Grove Heights' Review of Pine Bend Landfill's 2022 Request for Major Modification of Permit to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the City's review of Pine Bend Landfill's 2022 Request for Major Modification of Permit to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The PowerPoint presentation reviewed the following topics:

Pine Bend Landfill Background

- Located at 2495 117th Street East
- One of the largest municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills within the Twin Cities

- 400,000+ tons of waste annually. Includes garbage, non-hazardous waste, and construction debris
- Landfilling is the least preferred way of managing waste within the metro area
- In 2021, 33.4% of waste in the Twin Cities is being landfilled
- By 2042, expected to be 5%
- The state issues a Certificate of Need (CON), which gives a limited quantity of ability to dispose of waste at landfills to landfill operators.
- In 2021, Pine Bend Landfill (PBL) received additional CON.
- In order to landfill the material, PBL would need to expand.

Proposed Expansion

- In 2022, PBL submitted a request for Major Modification of Permit to the MPCA
- Proposed vertical expansion over the existing footprint
- Extending the existing slopes at the landfill, raise the peak elevation
- Requesting an additional 8.2 million cubic yards of airspace
 - Additional 10-12 years of capacity
 - Additional 85 feet at the highest point

Pine Bend Landfill - Permits & Approvals

- MPCA Solid Waste Permit (main Permit to operate as a landfill)
 - Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)
 - Waste capacity and elevations
 - Annual reporting
 - Groundwater monitoring
 - Leachate monitoring
 - Stormwater monitoring
- MPCA Air Quality Permit
- MPCA Industrial Stormwater Permit
- MCES Industrial Discharge Permit
- City of Inver Grove Heights Non-Conforming Use Certificate (NCUC), Conditional Use Permit (CUP), Ordinance, and Host Community Agreement
- Dakota County license and Host Community Agreement

Proposed Expansion Task

- Mrs. Sutherland reviewed the 16 different tasks Pine Bend Landfill must complete to request a vertical expansion, which includes multiple public meetings, multiple public comment periods, and multiple submittals and approvals from the State of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, State of Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, City of Inver Grove Heights, and Dakota County.
- A complete list of tasks and status is available at www.ighmn.gov/landfills.

Major Modification Request

- 2021, PBL received additional CON
- 2022, application submitted to the state

Reviewed site plan designs

PBL Application to the MPCA

- Application to the MPCA includes groundwater monitoring; leachate monitoring; solid waste composting; groundwater quality; surface water management; waste capacity, liner, and leachate collection system design; gas monitoring and gas extraction/treatment systems; final cover design; closure, post closure, contingency action, and operations and maintenance plans; financial assurance cost estimates.

PBL Application to the MPCA - City's Review

- The city hires Barr Engineering (technical advisors) to review the landfill documents.
- Barr Engineering has reviewed the entire application.
- 32 recommendations from Barr to be sent to the MPCA to incorporate into the solid waste permitting process. Recommendations include:
 - Fix discrepancies or errors
 - Provide clarification or supplemental documentation
 - Revise technical analyses
 - Complete additional technical analyses
- Additional opportunity for City recommendations:
 - Requesting responses from the MPCA and PBL
 - EAW and AQP public comment
 - City application process
 - MPCA application public comment

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked if the request was to submit the Barr report directly to the state or if Pine Bend gets the chance to see it first. Mrs. Sutherland replied the Commission is being asked to recommend submittal of Barr Engineering's review to the state. Pine Bend would also be included. Responses will be requested from both the MPCA and Pine Bend.

Commissioner Trenzeluk questioned if 10-12 years would take the landfill to 2036 or 2037. Mrs. Sutherland stated approximately 2040. This is approximately 12 years past the City's existing agreements with PBL.

Commissioner Trenzeluk said he would favor submitting the review. He asked if by staff recommending submittal of the review, if staff was saying they approve of the project at a high level. He questioned if at this point, if staff didn't want this they would have said no. Mrs. Sutherland responded no. Currently this is only Barr's review of the application. The City will review the expansion request through applicant planning application at a series of multiple city public meetings.

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked when the last time an expansion was done. Aaron Janusz, Pine Bend Landfill, replied the last expansion application was in 2015. 2018 was when they received their permit from the state.

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked if there were any issues that slowed things down during the process. Mrs. Sutherland responded this follows a similar process that has been done with other expansion requests, which is dependent on application submittals, the state's process and city's process.

Commissioner Trenzeluk referenced the potential closing of HERC (burn facility) in Minneapolis and asked if that comes into this equation. He questioned if that closes if some of their things would come to this facility. Mr. Janusz replied there have been recent developments with HERC and what would happen with that facility. Things take time to move, Pine Bend wanted the CON. He said if HERC does shut down they want to be ready to take some of the excess.

Commissioner Savage mentioned this was new to her, she is trying to get this from the simplest point possible. She said what they are saying is that they approve of the Barr report as written with things that need to be fixed. The MPCA looks at it and states what needs to be fixed and what doesn't. She questioned if the MPCA makes sure that whatever fixing is needed takes place. Mrs. Sutherland replied that the landfill has submitted an application to the state to modify their existing permit. Because the landfill is in the city, the city has interest in participating in the process and offers additional comments that may be missed. This is why Barr Engineering looks at the application and suggests the MPCA considers the recommendations.

Commissioner Boehmke commented that much of the focus was from the MPCA. She said she is in favor of moving forward with this. She mentioned she did not capture a lot about safety in the report from the OSHA perspective of going that high. She asked if it was a safe process to go to this height. Mr. Janusz replied a lot of technical work has been done to make sure it is safe. There is a section in the application that looks at that analysis.

Commissioner Mikulski was comfortable with what was presented and is in favor.

Commissioner Savage referenced storms and the 100 year rainstorm. She asked if that has been updated to take into account the weather issues the country has seen in the past couple of years. Mr. Janusz replied it is a challenge. A 100 year storm seems to happen every 5-10 years now. Data is put into the models they are using. They rely on history and try to predict what will happen. They also over engineer to be ready.

Commissioner Savage asked if they have made any changes on the basis of what could happen as opposed to what has happened. Mr. Janusz responded that they have done a little of both. He said he does not work on the models himself, consultants are working on them, but they do have conversations regarding them. In his 15 years of landfill, he said they are ready for that, he believes this application will help them get ready for the future too.

Commissioner Savage stated she is in favor of moving it forward.

Commissioner Boehmke said she is in favor of moving it forward. She mentioned that she was on the Commission with the previous expansion.

Commissioner Trenzeluk said historically Pine Bend has been a good corporate citizen. They have tried to resolve any issues in good faith. He suggested keeping things moving.

Chair Goodman said she is in favor of submitting and keeping the process going.

Motion by Commissioner Boehmke, second by Commissioner Mikulski, to submit Barr Engineering's review to the State of Minnesota.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Commissioner Boehmke mentioned there was a comment on Facebook about eagles dying in the local area. It was kept vague and didn't point to a reason why. She said eagles can die for all reasons, cars, age, pesticides, herbicides, and poisons. Eagles can get into some bad things. Because it was a public comment on a social media forum she thought it would be a good thing to bring up. She said there have been comments before about what environmental impacts may be hitting natural habitat in the city. Because this was on an Inver Grove Heights Facebook forum, it is being recognized by some people in the city. People were wondering who was responsible for the carcasses. Mrs. Sutherland replied she was unsure about the post but said there have been questions about the bald eagle incident from last year. The State of Minnesota and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife were still looking into it. She reached out to them this week for an update. The last update received state the USFWS was working with a Department of Justice Trial Attorney to investigate the matter. Mrs. Sutherland stated she will continue to inform the Commission on updates received.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Savage, second by Commissioner Mikulski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, November 16, 2023 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, November 16, 2023. Chair Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Sara Goodman; Commissioners: Nick Ruiz, Nichole Boehmke, Ted Trenzeluk, Marjorie Savage, Kevin Sathre

Absent: Patti Mikulski, Brian Barner, Vacancy

3. Presentations

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes from the Thursday, August 24, 2023, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Boehmke, second by Commissioner Savage, to approve the minutes from Thursday, August 24, 2023, as submitted.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. Regular Agenda

A. Robert Curve 4th & 5th Additions Wetland Replacement Plan

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the Wetland Replacement Application for Robert Curve 4th and 5th Additions development. The PowerPoint presentation reviewed the following topics:

Project Background

- 15.48-acre multifamily development, South Robert Trail, south of Jefferson Trail West
 - 4th Addition: multiple townhome buildings, parking, stormwater features
 - 5th Addition: townhome building, apartment complex, parking, stormwater features
- Final development plans approved by City Council, contingent on Wetland Replacement Plan approval

Proposed Wetland Replacement Plan:

- Wetlands #1 and #3 are considered incidental. Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) does not regulate these wetlands.

- Wetland #2 is WCA regulated and a Wetland Replacement Plan is required to fill or drain the wetland.
 - Existing size is .085 acres.
 - Proposed impact is .0649 acres.
 - Proposed mitigation is to purchase 0.1388 acres of standard wetland credits from a wetland in Dodge County, Major Watershed #41 (Zumbro), and Bank Service Area 8. Proposed mitigation is 2x the amount of the proposed impact.

Proposed Wetland Replacement Plan:

- Wetland Replacement Plan is required before impacting a WCA regulated wetland.
- Applicant must have exhausted all possibilities to avoid and minimize wetland impacts according to MN Rule 8420

Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) Review:

- Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is hired by the city to review the Wetland Replacement Plan on behalf of the city
- Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) includes the city (soil and water), SWCD, and the State of Minnesota Board of Soil and Water (BWSR).
- TEP reviews all Wetland Replacement Plans against the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) rules defined by MN Rule Chapter 8420:
 - Follow rules that they cannot impact wetlands if they are going to accomplish this project
 - Will minimize or avoid wetland impacts
 - Replacement at 2:1 ratio within the same minor, major, or service bank area
- TEP supports approval of the revised Wetland Replacement Plan application dated October 23, 2023

Staff Recommendation:

- Per TEP panel review, recommend approval of a Wetland Replacement Application for Robert Curve 4th & 5th Additions.

Commissioner Ruiz questioned how the proposed purchase works. Mrs. Sutherland replied the applicant would purchase wetland credits to protect a wetland within the same major, minor, and service bank area as the impacted wetland. When wetland credits are not available in those areas, they go to the closest available.

Chair Goodman asked what the service bank area was. Melissa Barrett, Kjolhaug Environmental Services, the bank service area is broad and encompasses many major watersheds. This project spanned two different bank service areas.

Commissioner Ruiz asked if there were guidelines for size and if the city has ever gone through this process with larger wetland areas. Mrs. Sutherland replied that any proposed wetland impacts must go

through the Wetland Replacement Plan process, regardless of size, unless the wetland is determined to be incidental.

Commissioner Savage said she has reservations. She is not convinced that wetland replacement in Dodge County makes up for destroying natural wetlands in our own county. The designation of a small wetland does not mean it is not important. She noted requirements have been met.

Chair Goodman said everything appears to be in order and properly reviewed by the TEP, but the location does seem far away when losing habitat for plants and animals.

Commissioner Trenzeluk said he would support for all reasons stated. He addressed Commissioner Ruiz's question stating in his time on the commission, the wetland have always been less than an acre or two, and that he has never seen a large wetland proposed to be impacted. He said the proposed mitigation follows the state statute. Dodge County is getting 2x the land, which is a plus. He supports this request.

Motion by Commissioner Ruiz, second by Commissioner Sethre, to recommend approval of the Wetland Replacement Plan for Robert Curve 4th & 5th Additions Wetland Replacement Plan.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

B. City Comments on Pine Bend Landfill's Environmental Assessment Worksheet and Air Quality permit for 2022 Request for Major Modification of Permit #SW-45.

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the City Comments on Pine Bend Landfill's Environmental Assessment Worksheet and Air Quality permit for 2022 Request for Major Modification of Permit #SW-45. The PowerPoint presentation reviewed the following topics:

Pine Bend Landfill Background:

- Pine Bend Landfill is located at 2495 117th Street East, Inver Grove Heights
- One of the largest municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills within the Twin Cities
- 400,000+ tons of waste annually. Includes garbage, non-hazardous waste, and construction debris
- Landfilling is the least preferred way of managing waste within the metro area
- In 2021, 33.4% of waste in the Twin Cities is being landfilled
- By 2042, expected to be 5%
- The state issues a Certificate of Need (CON), which gives a limited quantity of ability to dispose of waste at landfills to landfill operators.
- In 2021, Pine Bend Landfill (PBL) received additional CON.
- In order to landfill the material, PBL would need to expand.

Pine Bend Landfill - Permits & Approvals

- MPCA Solid Waste Permit (main Permit to operate as a landfill)
 - Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)

- Waste capacity and elevations
- Annual reporting
- Groundwater monitoring
- Leachate monitoring
- Stormwater monitoring
- MCPA Air Quality Permit
- MPCA Industrial Stormwater Permit
- MCEC Industrial Discharge Permit
- City of Inver Grove Heights Non-Conforming Use Certificate (NCUC), Conditional Use Permit (CUP), Ordinance, and Host Community Agreement
- Dakota County license and Host Community Agreement

Proposed Expansion

- In 2022, PBL submitted a request for Major Modification of Permit to the MPCA
- Proposed vertical expansion over the existing footprint
- Extending the existing slopes at the landfill, raise the peak elevation
- Requesting an additional 8.2 million cubic yards of airspace
 - Additional 10-12 years of capacity
 - Additional 85 feet at the highest point

Proposed Expansion Tasks:

- Pine Bend Landfill will need to complete 13 steps (tasks) in order to request a vertical expansion. This discussion relates to items #3, 4, and 5, which are related to the Pine Bend Landfill's Environmental Assessment Worksheet and Air Quality Permit.

State of Minnesota Public Meeting Pine Bend Landfill expansion project

- Anyone interested in learning more about the project and providing comments is encouraged to attend the MPCA public meeting on November 30, 2023 at Woodcrest Church, 525 Cliff Road, Eagan, MN from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- City Administrator Wilson has also invited the Commission to attend.

Pine Bend Landfill Items - Noticed October 31, 2023:

- Air Quality Permit
- Environmental Assessment Worksheet

MPCA Air Quality Permit (AQP):

- Air Quality Permit: 3 minor and 1 administrative amendment:
 - Installation of a diesel fired tipper
 - RNG treatment systems, thermal oxidizer, and open flare
 - Increased the landfills capacity
 - Facility's name changed from Pine Bend Energy, LLC, to Pine Bend RNG, LLC.

Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW):

- EAW Document:
 - Basic facts of the project
 - Permit information, informs the public, identifies ways to protect the environment

- Does not approve or deny a project
 - Guides other approvals and permitting decisions
 - Determination for Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- EAW Process:
 - Applicant prepares EAW and submits to Responsible Government Unit (RGU)
 - RGU (In this case, the Pollution Control Agency) reviews and supplements EAW
 - Public notice of the EAW
 - RGU responds to comments, requests modifications, and makes a decision on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
 - If an EIS is needed, helps identify the extent of the impacts, alternatives, and methods to reduce impacts. Does not approve or deny. Informational only.

Pine Bend Landfill's EAW

- Includes, to name a few: land use, water resources, wildlife, visual impacts, air.

Pine Bend Landfill AQP & EAW – City's Review:

- Barr Engineering was hired as the city technical advisors
- 33 recommendations for the Air Quality Permit:
 - These were to fix discrepancies or errors
 - Provide clarification or supplemental documentation
- 41 recommendations for the EAW:
 - 5 significant environmental impacts to address:
 1. Subsurface gas migration
 2. Groundwater impacts
 3. Visual impacts
 4. Wildlife impacts
 5. Public nuisance
 - 36 technical recommendations:
 1. Fix discrepancies or errors
 2. Provide clarification or supplemental documentation
 3. Revise technical analyses
 4. Complete additional technical analyses

Staff Recommendation

- Recommend City Council approval to submit the City's comments to the MPCA.

Commissioner Savage asked if the November 30th meeting in Eagan would be broadcast via community TV or webcast. Aaron Janusz, Environmental Manager, Pine Bend Landfill, responded no. It is in person only.

Commissioner Sethre asked if it was possible to quantify the amount of Leachate generated with an increased volume of refuse. Mr. Janusz replied it should be included in the analysis. It is surface area. The surface area is not changing that much.

Commissioner Sethre asked if the MPCA was waiting on city approval before they move forward with other substantial plans. Mrs. Sutherland replied per State Law, local governments are required to act on an application like this prior to state action.

Commissioner Ruiz asked if there was concern about the base level receiving the additional load and what would happen if there were a 100-year rain. Mr. Janusz replied they design for 100-year rains. It is modeled to give confidence that it will be ok. Brian Theerly, Barr Engineering, mentioned comment #18 in the EAW addresses this. Commissioner Sethre shared that the United State Geological Survey provides explanation of a 100 year flood and how it is determined. Information can be found at: [USGS.gov/specialtopics](https://www.usgs.gov/specialtopics).

Commissioner Sethre asked who is driving the city review of the state application. Mrs. Sutherland replied the city chooses to review and comment on the application. It is not required, the city takes it upon themselves to do this preliminary review.

Commissioner Trenzeluk supports moving this request forward. There are many steps in the process.

Commissioner Boehmke appreciated the edits and corrections. She is in support of moving forward.

Motion by Commissioner Savage, second by Commissioner Boehmke, to recommend City Council approval of submission of the city's comments to the MPCA for Pine Bend Landfill's Environmental Assessment Worksheet and Air Quality Permit for 2022 Request for Major Modification of Permit #SW-45.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

C. 2024 Environmental Advisory Commission Work Plan

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the 2024 Environmental Advisory Commission Work Plan. The PowerPoint presentation reviewed the following topics:

City Code

- City Code states the EAC advises the City Council on environmental issues, land alteration permits, wetland replacement plans, landfill matters, aircraft noise, and promoting public awareness and understanding of environmental issues.

Draft 2024 Work Plan defines the 2024 environmental priorities.

- Define 2024 environmental priorities.
- Goals developed by staff based on:
 - Feedback from Aug 2023 EAC meeting
 - 2023 work plan progress, regional trends, community requests, existing city environmental programming, achievable by December 2024 with Environmental Specialist, EAC and technical assistance

Draft 2024 Work Plan includes:

- Support the City's Energy Action Plan.
- Support the City's Solid Waste Abatement Program as related items arise.
- Support the new Sustainable IGH Recognition Program.
- Support SolSmart as related items arise. (Joined in 2023).
- Review landfill expansion applications related to the anticipated Pine Bend Landfill proposed expansion.
- Incorporate stormwater and groundwater educational items into the EAC agendas.
- Incorporate natural resource related educational items into the EAC agendas.
- Process other business-as-usual items related to landfills, wetlands, airport noise, and other assigned duties of the Environmental Advisory Commission per City Code 2-4-2.

Staff Recommendation

- Recommend City Council approval of the 2024 EAC Work Plan.

Commissioner Boehmke questioned if they were still developing the Sustainable IGH Recognition Program. Mrs. Sutherland replied the Commission reviewed the list in Summer 2023, and the application will be live in March/April 2024.

Commissioner Savage asked how the Commission would be made aware goals were met at the end. Mrs. Sutherland stated she can provide an annual update to the Commission after the year end.

Commissioner Savage said her concern that the goals are too high-level and should be more specific. Mrs. Sutherland stated the work plan is meant to provide City Council and the EAC a high-level overview of what the EAC will be supporting and reviewing throughout the year. This ensure City Council supports what the EAC is spending time on. This is the second year of developing a work plan. In time, if the EAC would like to make more specific and measurable goals, that can be considered by the Commission.

Commissioner Trenzeluk said he looks at it more as a roadmap than a scorecard.

Commissioner Ruiz mentioned that Commissioner's volunteered in different areas of the work plan last year. He asked if that was something they would do this year. Mrs. Sutherland replied after trying this last year, she did not see a resulting benefit. It was removed this time but is something that could still be considered again in the future by the Commission.

Chair Goodman mentioned she appreciates having this be high level. She suggested having this in a grid with details added, such as Soil and Water Conservation coming in and talking or the City Planner. She suggested slating a topic for each month as an option. Mrs. Sutherland replied the work plan details can be discussed future by the Commission at a future meeting, such as speaker info. Once the Council approves the Commission could create an annual schedule. Specific recommendations could be added into this draft work plan, or discussed at a future meeting.

Chair Goodman liked the idea of including it at a future meeting where they could set up a calendar.

Commissioner Ruiz agreed discussion at a future meeting would be useful. If a Commissioner would like to look into something and use staff as the clearing house for it, it would be of interest to him.

Commissioner Boehmke supports this at a high level so they can continue to become more specific.

Commissioner Trenzeluk liked it at the high level because for years there was nothing resembling this for this Commission.

Mrs. Sutherland stated she will bring a 2024 calendar discussion to a future meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Sethre, second by Commissioner Ruiz, to recommend City Council approval for the 2024 Environmental Advisory Commission Work Plan.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Commissioner Trenzeluk said he would like to know more about how EV batteries are created and what happens with batteries after they are done. He supports their benefits. He asked if anyone knows what happens with them to share it with the Ally so she can share it with the Commission. He would like to see the whole picture regarding EV's. Mrs. Sutherland replied she could look into different educational options, such as requesting a speaker who is an expert on this.

Commissioner Boehmke was thankful for having the webinar shared for Minnesota's PFAS that is coming up from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. She looks forward to listening in.

Commissioner Sethre said he drove an electric vehicle. The first one he drove was a magnificent piece of engineering. The storage concerns him. He is not against electric vehicles, he wants to make sure everything is considered.

Commissioner Sethre referenced water quality stating it was in the news regarding a study in Las Vegas last year. There were two large events held, Southern Nevada University tested the water after the events and found 28 compounds in the wash including opioids, antidepressants, and various medications, to name a few. What people are doing can affect the natural environment of the food web.

Commissioner Savage liked the idea of an EV speaker. Since part of their mission is to promote public awareness and understanding of local issues, she questioned if an invitation could be extended to the community to attend. Mrs. Sutherland replied yes.

Mrs. Sutherland mentioned the public open house for the Pine Bend Landfill expansion takes place on November 30th, and asked if one to three Commissioners were interested in attending. Commissioners Sethre, Savage, and Trenzeluk expressed interest in attending.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Savage, second by Commissioner Boehmke, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

DRAFT



Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: 2024 EAC Agenda Calendar Discussion

MEETING DATE: February 22, 2024

ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda

CONTACT: Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, 651.604.8511

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Environmental Advisory Commission is asked to make comments and recommendations for the 2024 EAC Agenda Calendar.

BACKGROUND

In November 2023, the Environmental Advisory Commission recommended City Council approval of the 2024 EAC Work Plan. The City Council approve the 2024 EAC Work Plan on February 12, 2024. The EAC expressed interest in discussing an annual calendar to tentatively schedule agenda items for the year that can be pre-scheduled. Staff has drafted a calendar for EAC consideration, and requests that the EAC makes comments and recommendations based on EAC priorities identified in the 2024 EAC Work Plan. Staff also requests the EAC discuss which speakers to invite for work plan items 6 and 7 related to groundwater and natural resources.

This calendar does not include items noted in the 2024 EAC Work Plan that may arise throughout the year, such as items related to solid waste programming, landfills, wetlands, land alteration permits, and SolSmart. These items will be added to meeting agendas during the year as they arise and the time potentially needed to review these items should be taken into account when developing the calendar.

FISCAL IMPACT

This item has no financial cost.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the EAC makes comments and recommendations for the 2024 EAC Agenda Calendar.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023 EAC Work Plan Progress
2. 2024 EAC Work Plan
3. 2024 EAC Agenda Calendar

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION WORK PLAN PROGRESS

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 worked on the following work plan actions with support from the city's Environmental Specialist.

1. (COMPLETE) Extend Xcel Energy Partners in Energy MOU through 2023 to assist with energy related 2023 EAC Work Plan goals.

- 01/2023: EAC recommended City Council approval.
- 02/2023: City Council approved MOU.
- 01/2023-12/2023: Partners In Energy continued to assist the city in Energy Action Plan implementation: developed energy efficiency communication materials for in-person, newsletter articles and electronic media; assisted with research and development of the Sustainable IGH Community Recognition Program; provided 50 free or discounted Home Energy Squad visits; hosted Home Energy information table and presentation; developed Renewable Energy Challenge for earth day, etc.

2. (COMPLETE) Support development of a Dakota County Organics Drop-Off located in IGH.

- 05/2023: City Council approved JPA for Inver Glen Library Organics Drop-Off.
- 09/2023: Inver Glen Library Organics Drop-Off opened.
- 07/2023-09/2023: County promoted site via direct mailer to IGH households. City promoted the drop off in the Q3 Insights newsletter and at five in-person events.
- Participation rates: 10,481 registered households in Dakota County (6% of all households). IGH registration rates have exceeded the County's expectations.
 - Eagan, 1,798 registered household, 6% of household
 - Burnsville, 944, 4%
 - IGH, 934, 6%
 - Mendota Heights, 817, 17%
 - Apple Valley 6%, Farmington 7%, Hastings 8%, Lakeville 5%, Rosemount 10%. WSP 8%

3. (IN PROGRESS) Support solar development in IGH by joining SolSmart.

- 04/2023: EAC recommended City Council approval of SolSmart.
- 05/2023: City Council approved resolution to join SolSmart.
- 07/2023: Program liaison assigned to the city.
- Present: City is continuing to work towards reaching bronze certification in 2024.

4. (IN PROGRESS) Recognize IGH residents and businesses taking environmentally friendly actions by developing a recognition program.

- 06/2023: EAC recommended City Council approval of Sustainable IGH and reviewed application materials.
- 07/2023: City Council approved resolution to develop Sustainable IGH and reviewed application materials.

- Present: Final application and communications materials are under development. Program will launch in mid-March. Applications will be due April 31. EAC will review applications in May 2024. City Council and EAC will recognize awardees in June 2024.

5. (IN PROGRESS) Explore how the city can support electric vehicle readiness.

- 02/2023: City Council approved resolution to join EV Smart.
- 07/2023: EAC recommended EECBG be used towards a fleet electric vehicle.
- 08/2023: City Council selected different use for EECBG funds.
- Present: Working towards EV Smart program goals, including developing public education materials to encourage electric vehicle adoption.

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 2024, the EAC will work on the following work plan actions with support from the city's Environmental Specialist.

- 1. Support the City's Energy Action Plan.** Extend the Xcel Energy Partners in Energy MOU through 2024 to assist with implementation of the Energy Action Plan.
- 2. Support the City's Solid Waste Abatement Program as related items arise.**
- 3. Support the new Sustainable IGH recognition program.** Sustainable IGH will be launched in Spring 2024. The EAC will help promote the program, review applications, and select awardees.
- 4. Support SolSmart implementation as related items arise.**
- 5. Review landfill expansion applications related to the anticipated Pine Bend Landfill proposed expansion.**
- 6. Incorporate stormwater and groundwater educational items into the EAC agendas.** Invite internal and/or external speakers to educate the EAC on priority topics.
- 7. Incorporate natural resources related educational items into the EAC agendas.** Invite internal and/or external speakers to educate the EAC on priority topics.
- 8. Process other business-as-usual items related to landfills, wetlands, airport noise, and other assigned duties of the Environmental Advisory Commission per City Code 2-4-2.**

2024 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION AGENDA CALENDAR

This calendar seeks to tentatively schedule EAC agenda items for the year that can be pre-scheduled. The calendar is drafted based on EAC priorities identified in the 2024 EAC Work Plan. This calendar does not include items noted in the 2024 EAC Work Plan that may arise throughout the year, such as items related to solid waste programming, landfills, wetlands, land alteration permits, and SolSmart. These items will be added to meeting agendas during the year as they arise.

Month	Items
January	• <i>(Meeting cancelled)</i>
February	• Discuss 2024 calendar • Metropolitan Airport Commission Noise Oversight Committee Update
March	•
April	• Annual Stormwater Impacts Presentation
May	• Sustainable IGH applications review • Energy Action Plan 2023 Data Review
June	• Commissioner Appointments • 2024 EAC Work Plan Discussion
July	• 2024 EAC Work Plan Approval • Pine Bend Landfill Annual Gas Migration and Operations Update
August	•
September	•
October	•
November	•
December	•