

Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. Introduction / Roll Call

Chair Ficek called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at his request, Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer called the roll.

Present: Chair Bryant Ficek; Vice Chair Edwin Hodder; and Members Jarrod Cicha, Daniel Fergus, Des Mueller, and Sarah Rudolf

Absent: Member Allison Luongo (Excused), Youth Commissioners Alexi Jendro, and Carson Bauer

Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer; and Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson

2. Public Comments

3. Approval of April 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions were incorporated into the draft presented in meeting materials.

Motion

Member Fergus moved, Member Cicha seconded approval of the April 23, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Communication Items

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated May 28, 2024.

Member Mueller was curious regarding Less Mow May, and what information was provided to the residents, and she wondered if there was a way to increase outreach and education regarding how people mow. She thought a lot of times people let their lawns grow out and then basically mow hay and mow it into the street and the storm drains.

Mr. Freihammer indicated in the past the City has done articles on this and could expand on that later this summer as well as in the future.

Member Mueller thought with the U of M extension and turf care and all of that it is recommended to raise the deck as high as possible, cut the grass, and then let it sit for a day before lowering the deck and cutting the grass again. She noted it bothers her to see yard waste blown into the street.

Commissioner Rudolph arrived at 6:46 p.m.

5. Trout Brook Interceptor Flood Analysis

Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson introduced Mr. Nate Zwanitser from the Capital Region Watershed District.

Mr. Zwanitser presented the Trout Brook Interceptor Flood Analysis to the Commission.

Chair Ficek thanked Mr. Zwanitser for the presentation.

Member Fergus appreciated they were looking at the social vulnerability index. He wondered if there was any effort to look at the neighborhood that is getting flooded because the social vulnerability of this neighborhood next to another neighborhood could be quite different.

Mr. Zwanitser indicated these areas blend a little bit but the information it is built on is based on census tracts and blocks. For now, at least, this is the best information Capital Region Watershed District has for this type of analysis. There is a lot of work being done to refine and go in the direction Member Fergus is talking about, getting more resolution, and classifying the different areas.

Chair Ficek indicated the grant helped to create the model and he wondered if there was any money for upkeep or if something else needed to go after.

Mr. Zwanitser thought this would be a worthwhile investment. He thought it would be a modest investment to keep it up to date.

Chair Ficek asked if the Capital Region Watershed District is looking at other agencies CIP's and looking ahead.

Mr. Zwanitser indicated they are doing that and, on the flip side, their partnering agencies, when they have things coming up, they know about this and are on the technical advisory committee.

Chair Ficek asked if there are connections outside of the watershed District and if so, if there is any way to connect outside of the boundaries to connect to bigger areas.

Mr. Zwanitser indicated in an urban area like this it can be pretty isolated and each of the storm sewer systems is pretty independent and there are clear break lines in them. The boundaries do not always reflect that, so the Watershed District frequently partners with other districts.

Member Mueller explained she was curious how much the Watershed District partners with the Met Council.

Mr. Zwanitser indicated the Met Council has very little to do with what the Watershed District does, and they do not dictate the work done.

Member Mueller thought this was a great presentation and exciting to see the model and how it was laid out.

6. MSA Annual Meeting

Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson indicated this is a required public information meeting where city residents are encouraged to share their comments and feedback regarding the City's proposed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and the implementation of the past year's report.

Mr. Johnson presented the 2023 City's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program report.

Member Fergus asked what happens to what is collected after sweeping the streets.

Mr. Johnson reviewed with the Commission how the street sweeping works in the City. He noted the sediments go to Elk River and get reused after testing.

Chair Ficek thanked Mr. Johnson for the presentation.

7. Forestry/EAB Update

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer presented the Forestry/EAB update to the Commission.

Member Fergus thought it would be a good idea if someone could incentivize privately owned trees with EAB to remove them because it is expensive to remove them.

Vice Chair Hodder asked what kind of replacement trees there would be.

Mr. Freihammer explained there will be a variety of trees and following the Master Plan, the City has in place. He noted there are twelve or fourteen different varieties that will be replacement trees.

8. Future Agenda Items

Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming PWETC agendas:

June 25 meeting

- Prep for the Joint Council Meeting
- Public Safety Update
- Pavement Management Funding – Asset Management
- Civic Campus Master Plan Update

July 23 meeting

- Joint Council Meeting Follow-up/Update Work Plan

Future meetings

- Transit/Micro Transit Update
- Tour – SPRWS Water Plant – July 1 @ 1:00 p.m.

9. Adjourn

Motion

Member Fergus moved, Member Cicha seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:32 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.