

**North Oaks Natural Resources Commission**  
**NRC Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting via Teleconference or Electronic Means Only**  
**March 14, 2022 at 6 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dunn called the meeting of March 14, 2022 to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

NRC members participated **by telephone or other electronic means** pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

Present: Chair Shannon Dunn, Commissioners Andrew Hawkins, Penny Kianian, Damien LePoutre, Addison Motta, City Council Liaisons James Hara and Tom Watson, City Administrator Kevin Kress

Absent: Paul Ellis, David White, Bob Larson

A quorum was declared present.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Hara requested to add 6d. as Deer Management to the agenda to provide an update. It was also requested to remove “Winsor” from reference under outreach report.

**MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by LePoutre, to approve the agenda as amended.**

**MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

**4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH’S MINUTES**

**MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by Motta, to approve the February 17, 2022 meeting minutes and March 3, 2022 Special Meeting minutes.**

**MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

**6. BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS**

**6a. VLAWMO Long-range Plan**

- VLAWMO contacted Commissioner Hawkins to share their 5-year plan of items to be addressed and in what year. This is the first pass of the list in order to get feedback from each of the partner communities.

- Hawkins referenced the spreadsheet (located in the meeting packet) detailing VLAWMO priority areas, the estimated cost and potential partners for implementation. In the summer, VLAWMO will circle back to attend a NRC meeting to communicate the feedback they have gotten regarding the long range plan. This will be shared with all partners of the projects.
- Hawkins asked VLAWMO how they prioritize what can be tackled in a given year. They indicated they tackle those that deem priority that using the funds they have with feedback from the community.
- There will be aquatic invasive water species pilot program that will be recorded, and then prioritize which invasive species by water body to target.
- VLAWMO is working with Minnesota Pollution control to help educate and certify people on good water management practices and use of salt.
- TMDL (total maximum daily load) partnership project listed under pleasant/Charley/Deep Lake - they've started gathering data on what is being found in our chain of lakes and other areas.
- Commissioner LePoutre is looking for a clearer definition of how these priority items were originally identified, which turned into the action item on the shared spreadsheet.
- Watson noted that surface water and ground water were identified as key areas by VLAWMO. He stated that the priorities North Oaks listed was different than what the other 5 communities listed. He will share that list, but invasive species was #6 on most communities list, whereas it is a priority for North Oaks. Other communities put ditches and surface water as of most important.
- Hawkins mentioned they are planning on going out in field with VLAWMO to discuss invasive species.
- Kianian stated she believed at this point that we were supposed to provide feedback at this time, and at some point, step in to provide volunteer hours. Hawkins confirmed this is the case.
- Watson noted at some point there may be an ask for funding, but not at this point.
- Watson will distribute the 6 priority strategies for inclusion in the minutes.

## **6b. Discussion and possible action on climate emergency proclamation**

- Hara provided an update on the Council discussion on this Climate Emergency Proclamation and why it has come back to NRC for further review. As part of the website where the template originated, there is a 30-point step by step process for passing a Climate Emergency fund. Some of the excerpts in that webinar were far more reaching than just climate change and project political and social initiatives that would likely not be supported by our community. He asked if North Oaks can just focus on our own initiatives as it is redrafted to include our forests, mature trees, wetlands, and little industrial space. Going forward, it would be helpful to keep in mind climate change and do new neighborhoods in such a way to minimize cutting of trees that can reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere.
- Resident Bob Mackie, 15 Pine Road, agreed that the initiative linked in the video did seem radical and believes that North Oaks could focus on our own initiative.
- Lepoutre feels the Resolution itself doesn't link us to the group.
- Hara noted that we definitely could do our own verbiage.

- Watson mentioned the verbiage in the Resolution could be tailored down to 1 page to make it applicable to North Oaks Community and specific project initiatives we can take. Minimize the number of “whereas” in the document, to only North Oaks focus.
- Remove an inadequate response to climate crisis is starkly felt by marginalized and underserved communities. Condense international statistics. Bi partisan next generation Paladium Act doesn’t seem to add value.
- LePoutre recommended we tweak the Whereas: “We recognize that Climate the City of North Oaks recognizes excess greenhouse gas are the #1 cause of climate change “ to “The City of North Oaks recognizes that excess greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide produced by human activity produce climate change.”
- Hawkins feels it would be open to making another edit in order to bring it back to a future NRC meeting.
- Dunn will provide feedback from discussion to Kate, and take another crack at revising with a North Oaks focus.
- Watson noted in April NRC takes place a few days before the next Council meeting, so it may be possible to redraft and review prior to the April Council.
- Kress suggested that the title be changed to Climate Action Plan to make it more tailored to our goal.
- Bob Mackie referenced the State of Minnesota drafted document of the Climate Action framework that Governor Walz put together to attack climate change. The link for this is in the packet and is a well-planned out document for Minnesota specific action items and steps to address this.

#### **6c. Pesticide Door Hanger Discussion**

- Dunn shared a picture of pesticide door hangers that can be purchased and possibly put in the North Oaks welcome packets for new residents to help educate them to the impact of pesticides.
- Kress mentioned that he can take lead on making this purchase, and believe it would be under \$100. Kress will work Kate to reimburse her for the purchase.
- Hawkins mentioned in past NOHOA sent about 200 new residents packets each year. We had previously included information on Pollinators in the packet.
- Herbicide plan is phase 2 of pesticide plan and feels these ties together nicely. Lepoutre mentioned that Pesticide, herbicide and fungicides are all important.

#### **6d. Deer Management Update**

- Hara stated that he has been in consistent contact with Ramsey County Park District coordinator Mike Goodnature, who mentioned that 10-12 inches of snow is needed for an aerial deer survey. Each follow up with him over the winter indicated there was not enough snow to take this survey. He feels it would be useful to share with community information regarding status of deer management goals and objectives, and how it ties in with tick management to help share the comprehensive program. Hara mentioned they would do an educational article in the fall regarding the plan.
- Hawkins attended an EPA webinar on integrated tick management. Dr. Kirby Stanford stated the current thinking in this field of research for Integrated Tick management is that the threshold for tick borne illness is 13 deer per square mile.
- Hawkins will share key notes from that webinar with the Commissioners.

- Watson noted his experience from University of Minnesota was 11-15 deer, the less number was where the land was developed vs. higher number for less populated. In North Oaks, that number would vary based on the zone of North Oaks and the housing density and open space.
- He also noted that when they do aerial counts, they would be counted within the zone. They would also know how many were taken from each zone, which is helpful to know the overall population density.
- Lepoutre noted that it is good to have a quantifiable measurement.
- Hara noted that does and fawns travel 50-100 acres. Bucks will go twice farther than that within a 2-3 miles radius. They tend to stay put in the general area.
- Hara will work with Hawkins, Chair of TTF, on best method for sharing information for residents.

## **7. COMMISSIONER / STAFF REPORTS**

### **7a. Tick Task Force Reports**

- The first Tick Task force meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday 3/29. Looking for new members. They meet by zoom, and links are on the city website calendar. TTF will also publish information in eblast and other in other resources.
- Hawkins also has all the educational materials to put on NRC table at next event. Send any information or questions regarding TTF to him for discussion at the next meeting.

### **7b. Community Outreach/Education**

- Kianian is putting together an article on pesticide use for resident consideration as start signing up for summer lawncare and being thoughtful with their use of pesticide. What is the active ingredient in what they using, when are they applied, who will apply, frequency of application, and what is the reentry period into that area to avoid animal exposure.
- Lepoutre mentioned it would be important to ask lawncare service what is in their fertilizer. Kianian mentioned that they have outlawed MPK phosphates in fertilizer in the State of Minnesota.

### **7c. NOHOA Nest**

- Nest met in March and developed 2022 work plan. It is focused on areas such as: Seed collection event on 4/16 from 10 a.m.– Noon to collect seeds from Mary Hill Park to use in other areas. May 14<sup>th</sup> will be an Arbor Day event at Mary Hill Park. There may be room for an NRC informational table at that event. Nest committee meets during the day, but are scheduling an evening meeting in June as a member invite. There will be paddling tour of Pleasant Lake in June to help identify native and invasive species.

### **7d. City Forester Report**

- Forester not in attendance. Monthly report will be circulated to NRC members.

### **7e. VLAWMO Tech Report**

- Hawkins shared NOHOA Board member Orud's report in which she noted VLAWMO is in strategic planning progress. NOHOA is participating in some projects such as TMDL, carp, water and nutrient studies on waters within our boundaries. The North

Oaks Golf club is working on a gray water reuse project within the course. There are also a series of workshops being held in the near future – participants can sign up via the VLAWMO website. The Wilkinson 219 project is on schedule for 2024-2025.

7f. City Report

- Watson noted the City has hired a new city planner Kendra Lindahl from Landform.
- There are 6 VLAWMO projects identified:
  - i. Surface water and natural resource,
  - ii. Groundwater quality and quantity, data analysis capacity
  - iii. Education and involvement
  - iv. Localized Flooding
  - v. AIS Management
- Watson wondered how VLAWMO staff priorities and efforts will align with the priorities.
- Hara mentioned there are some pockets of North Oaks that are not covered by sirens.
- Watson mentioned that Deputy Burrell is out on medical leave. There remain concerns about speed, pedestrians/bike safety as the weather gets nicer.
- Winsor inquired about approval of the Phase 2 of the Pesticide plan. Kress noted it will be on the April Council agenda.
- It was asked if NRC will meet in person in April. Administrator Kress mentioned that it works better if all members are either in person, or all zoom as it is difficult when it is split due to technology. It was suggested that at least a few meetings a year are in person. Kress will ask members that are not in attendance if they are open to meeting in person next meeting.
- Dunn mentioned that Earth day is coming next month. The topic will be put on the Agenda to discuss ways to celebrate at the April meeting.

**8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6 p.m.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

**MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by Dunn, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.**

**MOTION carried unanimously by roll call.**

*Kevin Kress*

Kevin Kress, City Administrator

*Shannon Dunn*

Chair, Shannon Dunn

Date approved: 4/11/2022