



CITY OF NORTH OAKS

Regular Natural Resources Commission Meeting
Thursday, December 16, 2021
7 PM, Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive
MEETING AGENDA

Remote Access - *Natural Resource Commission members will participate by telephone or other electronic means pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.021. Any person wishing to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location may do so by calling the following Zoom meeting videoconference number: 1-312-626-6799, Webinar ID: 842 4393 9056 or by joining the meeting via the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84243939056>. Due to the existing COVID-19 Health Pandemic, no more than five (5) members of the public may be in Council Chambers (Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive, MN) during the meeting. Once room capacity is met, anyone wishing to attend the meeting above the five (5) members of the public who may be present in the room during the meeting will be required to monitor the meeting remotely.*

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Citizen Comments - *Members of the public are invited to make comments to the Commission during the public comments section. Up to four minutes shall be allowed for each speaker. No action will be taken by the Commission on items raised during the public comment period unless the item appears as an agenda item for action.*

5. Approval of Previous Month's Minutes

5a. Approval of November 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes
[11.18.21 NRC Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

6. Business Action Items

6a. Meet and greet candidates for NRC openings

6b. Update on Wetland Ordinance

6c. Update on deer management

6d. Discussion and possible action on internships

6e. Presentation on pesticides

7. Commissioner / Staff Reports -

- *Tick Task Force Report*
- *Community Outreach: Winsor Report*
- *NOHOA/ NEST Report*
- *City Forester Report*
- *VLAWMO Tech Report*
- *City Report*

7a. reports

[Pesticide Education Plan, Annual Report - 2021.pdf](#)

[November in Review.pdf](#)

8. Next Meeting:

9. Adjourn

North Oaks Natural Resources Commission
NRC Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Teleconference or Electronic Means Only
November 18, 2021 at 7 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hawkins called the meeting of November 18, 2021 to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Present: Chair Andrew Hawkins, Commissioners Shannon Dunn, Penny Kianian, Bob Larson, Damien Lepoutre, David White, Kate Winsor, City Council Liaisons James Hara, Tom Watson, NOHOA Liaison Patricia Orud

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Kevin Kress, City Forester Mark Rehder

A quorum was declared present.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by White, seconded by Dunn, to approve the agenda.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

Council Watson noted minor corrections to the October 21st minutes including: page 4, history of deer management a) There was always a “pilot and observer” (not photographer) and b) In reference to deer population – the largest part of the population was in the northeast, and only came to the southwest part of the city in the 2000 period in the Raven Road area.

MOTION by Winsor, seconded by Kianian, to approve the October 21, 2021 minutes as amended.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

6a. Discussion on Deer Management and Aerial Studies

- Chair Hawkins mentioned there is information in the packet from Councilor Hara for review of NRC.
- Councilor Hara welcomes any comments on the information. He has researched deer management throughout the area and other cities. At one time 25,000 deer in US, now in 25 million. A common issue for many cities. Watson ran the program through 2015. 233 deer taken out at that time. Since that time average of 35. The program was terminated early in 2021 due to expense of checking empty traps.
- The deer pellet count is a NOHOA responsibility. Northeast and work Northwest. ☺ He recommends aerial survey out of Blaine that does Ramsey County and adjacent areas. He thought it would take about 3 hours, and would need a good layer of snow on the ground to see them. He typically gets within 3-5 deer accuracy in his count. Due to differing views on deer management, he recommends an independent from City Council/Staff decision on how many deer should be in our area such as DNR.
- Different ways to manage include sharp shooting, trapping, and supervised archery by issuing a limited number of tags. Quotes are in the materials and includes twelve nights of trapping.
- Councilor Watson mentioned that the deer traps are very large and typically come into eat and lie down. And overnight they are taken out. The last trappers from last year were: \$460 was the cost per visit + \$160 per deer. The quote amount for the 12 night event seems very high.
- Administrator Kress stated that he spoke with DNR today and they will allow North Oaks 100 permits this year, and requested we let them know what vendor we will be using if we decide to move forward.
- Both Councilor Hara and Watson mentioned they believe the herd side is likely to be low this year. Based on snowfall, Watson believe it would likely be January before any removal would take place if the aerial count was deemed justified. He suggests we determine what removal vendors are still in the business just in case it is needed.
- NOHOA liaison inquired whether the presence of Chronic Wasting disease (CWD) may impact our initiative. It will be noted on the DNR permit if they require CWD testing if it is in this area.
- Commissioner Lepoutre wants to be sure that a professional is doing the aerial counts, and DNR are the experts are making the recommendation on what is the ideal healthy ratio of deer per square mile.
- Dunn agreed that having DNR set the number, and wondering if it's a set number that periodically reevaluates based on development.
- Watson recommended they do aerial survey for ¼ mile past our City border, as many deer travel between borders.
- Chair Hawkins shared the Tick Task force finding that zones 5, 6, 11 have historically have the highest deer population and highest report of Lyme disease. In the past, 8-10 per square mile was the recommended number based on scientific studies, and it has helped reduced the Lyme disease. He mentioned when TTF was formed there was a strong sense of public health and that there was good feedback for having a deer management program.
- White noted that public health is important to our residents, and reduction of Lyme disease is an important factor for many.
- Hara wanted to make sure that the needs are balanced with preservation of our wildlife. If there is any further feedback, pass them along to him.

6b. Discussion on lakes in North Oaks

- Commissioner Dunn introduced the spreadsheet on water. Per information from VLAWMO and St. Paul Regional water authority, the tables are a summary of samples taken from those lakes and when. This includes lakes that have been sampled, who sampled, and what year. St. Paul only Pleasant Lake, VLAWMO sampled the other lakes. The results of what was tested for is on the 2nd tab.
- Other sources of information may be the highway 96 superfund site as associated with the contamination. She will look into this information. Watson noted the contamination in the aquifer 200 feet underground in 1991.
- Watson noted he's examined many testing around the lakes. He believes the trophic index is a good simplest measurement of the overall water quality. VLAWMO's annual report shows some of this information. Suggested the City put this link into the minutes and shared with the Natural Resource Commission.
- She will pull some additional information suggested, and then combine the datasets and make a graph to more easily review the information.

6c. Discussion on Wetland Ordinance

- Councilor Watson noted it is difficult to locate wetland data within our ordinance in a logical manner. He feels this review process could occur in 3 phases: 1) inventory and compile all references to wetland within our current ordinances. 2) a small group review and evaluate the information for completeness and accuracy and timelines to state standards 3) recommend an ordinance to the City Council.
- Watson recommends talking to City Administrator Shermer to see if existing information out there, and not recreate the wheel.
- Hara asked if City Administrator and City Engineer could begin the process of isolating references to the ordinances. Then bring back to the NRC.
- Administrator Kress feels that the shoreland ordinance is the larger piece to review. Would like to reorganize the wetland ordinance more clearly for understanding. Kress noted that Municode and GovHR, and the league may also have recommendations on how to codify our ordinances to incorporate updated amendments in real time.
- Lepoutre would like VLAWMO and DNR to be invited to provide science backing as we review our wetland ordinances.
- Dunn noted it would be very helpful for everyone to consolidate this information.
- Hara asked for the action plan and timing.
- Watson indicated he will meet with Kress over the next 2 weeks to discuss and get the project rolling.
- Kress mentioned a subcommittee to pull the information out of ordinance and create a table would be helpful.

MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by White, to create a subcommittee to gather information from current ordinances related to wetlands, create an outline of tasks, and present whether a future ordinance should be drafted.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call vote.

7. COMMISSIONER / STAFF REPORTS

7a. Tick Task Force Reports

- Chair Hawkins noted the Tick Task force survey is still open. They've received 27 responses. In the past they've received up to 500, however this survey is to be filled out after exposure to a deer tick. Whereas the others were directed to everyone. They will advertise again in the Spring.

7b. Community Outreach

- Commissioner Winsor shared an outreach report. Winsor again reminded Commissioners to share any topic suggestions for future issues of North Oaks news.
- Lepoutre noted that some residents are throwing leaves in wetlands. He has reached out to VLAWMO and they have submitted article to North Oaks News December issue.
- Liaison Orud confirmed that VLAWMO has written article, and asked people to advise NOHOA if reports of illicit dumping.

7c. NOHOA Nest Report

- NOHOA liaison Orud encouraged everyone to vote in the NOHOA election. Less than 10% decided the election – about 500 people voted in total. Electronic voting is now also available.
- Winsor also recommended everyone watch the League of Women voters NOHOA board candidate forum.

7d. City Forester Report:

- City Forester Report was included in the November City Council meeting packet.
- He mentioned can safely start pruning oaks trees since the bugs
- There's been uptick in Emerald Ash borer reports. Can easily see that going on and will continue those inspection efforts throughout the winter.
- Rehder welcomes questions on the monthly report.

7e. VLAWMO Tech Committee Report:

- NOHOA Liaison Orud shared that VLAWMO Tech is in the midst of strategic 5 year planning. They have more money for grants, and NOHOA is working with the VLAWMO engineer to improve drainage at the front entrance related to the 2 ponds.
- VLAWMO has also started to talk about aquatic invasive species management in lakes and wetlands.
- Chair Hawkins noted that the MN DNR is seeking applicants to serve on aquatic invasive species committee. Applications are due 12/15 at 4:30pm

7f. City Report:

- Councilor Watson mentioned the legal dispute between North Oaks Company and the City. An attorney has been assigned by the League of Minnesota Cities and a first response has been crafted.
- Commissioner White asked if the news article on this topic could be republished locally. Watson didn't feel the content was accurate enough to reshare.
- Orud mentioned that the St. Paul Water Authority is responsible for setting the water level. She was unsure why the level is lower at this time, however the carp harvest is

supposed to happen at first ice, which would be beneficial if the water level is still lower.

- White asked about the sale of carp and if there were being tested for health. Orud mentioned the fish harvester works with the water authority and purchasers of the carp, and is responsible for the health of the fish. NOHOA does not contribute any money to this project. The DNR permit goes to the fisher and is organized by VLAWMO and Water Authority, so they have responsibility to follow procedures.
- Lepoutre mentioned our water comes from the Mississippi and asked if the City or NOHOA has any say on the water level. NOHOA has an agreement with them to limit the water level range to 2 feet.
- Lepoutre suggested that water quality as it relates to Septic systems be raised again. Orud mentioned the septic subcommittee issued a report for their prior review of this topic.
- Watson stated the septic regulations have changed to increase the soil separation requirement which may now cause drainfields to be out of compliance. He noted the Septic inspector stated there are functional issues with some systems due to the layout of a particular lot. If there unhealthy or unsafe properties, they are currently being addressed right away. He believes they are not “failed” systems but ones with design issues. Lepoutre clarified that they require pumping every 2 years, but do not receive a compliance inspection every 2 years. It was agreed that tank integrity is reported during pumpings, but not this is not a full inspection.
- Chair Hawkins mentioned it might be good to have a general “get to know your Ordinance” section of the eblast.

8. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

MOTION by Hawkins, seconded by Lepoutre, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

MOTION carried unanimously by roll call.

Kevin Kress, City Administrator

Chair, Andrew Hawkins

Date approved: _____

Annual Report - December 2021

Pesticide Education Plan - Phase 1 - Mosquito and Tick Control

Submitted by the Natural Resources Commission, Pesticide Committee

Background

A plan titled, "Pesticide Education Plan for North Oaks Residents: Working to Change the Way People View the Use of Pesticides" was approved by the City Council on February 11, 2021. The plan was written by a committee consisting of city residents and several North Oaks Natural Resources Commission members, as well as representatives from NOHOA, the North Oaks Golf Club, and the North Oaks Company.

Phase 1 of the plan specifically addresses mosquito and tick control. The plan dovetails nicely with the City's Pollinator Resolution that was passed in July of 2019.

Tasks and Timeline

Task	Timing	Accomplishment
Submit educational articles to the North Oaks News	Quarterly; starting January 2021	Articles were printed in the North Oaks News in February, March, May, July
Submit an article to the North Oaks Living Magazine	Annually	Article printed in July
Submit an article to the North Oaks Golf Club newsletter/magazine	Annually	Submitted, but not printed
Write and send email blasts	Quarterly; starting ASAP	Blasts sent in February, April, June
Create posters/flyers containing information and statistics	By March 2021	Not accomplished
Create a fact sheet to be included in NOHOA new member packet	By March 2021	Ordered and delivered (to NOHOA) door knob hangers from Beyond Pesticides
Provide information on City and NOHOA websites	By March 2021; then ongoing	Accomplished
Post information on City and NOHOA Facebook pages	By March 2021; then ongoing	Accomplished
Display information at community events	Ongoing	Farm Fest (other venues were canceled, due to Covid concerns)
Host events with speakers or films	Annually	Not accomplished
Create public service announcements for airing on CTV	Summer 2021	Idea submitted, but not aired
Give presentations at City Council and NOHOA meetings	Annually	Annual report

Accomplishment Details**January**

- Pesticide Education Plan approved by NRC

February

- Pesticide Education Plan approved by the City Council

- Pesticide Education Plan shared with community via email blasts
- North Oaks News Article about use of adulticides

March

- North Oaks News Article about reducing mosquito bites and cautions about adulticides
- North Oaks Facebook group included information about the Pesticide Education Plan

April

- Several email blasts were sent with links to the pesticide information tab on the City's website.
- Posted National Wildlife Magazine article about mosquito spraying on North Oaks Residents Facebook group.
- Mosquito door knob hangers ordered (to be given to NOHOA for new members packets)

May

- Submitted article and graphic to North Oaks Living Magazine - for July issue
- North Oaks News article re: mosquito control and human and pet health

June

- Article with graphic about backyard mosquito sources printed in July issue of North Oaks Living magazine
- National Mosquito Control Awareness Week - forwarded information to be included in City and NOHOA email blast and posted on North Oaks Residents Facebook page.

July

- North Oaks News article about impacts of mosquito control on wildlife and the environment.

August

- Plants That Repel Mosquitoes submitted for August issue of North Oaks News (printing postponed until Spring, 2022)
- Posted video "15 Natural Ways to Repel Mosquitoes in Your Yard" on the North Oaks Residents FB page.

The Pesticide Committee will begin work on Phase 2 of the plan by January 2022. Phase 2 will address herbicide applications.

November Month in Review



Rehder Forestry Consulting

November 2021

- Preparing for Arborist workshop which will be held in person and on Zoom on December 15th; re-licensing tree care companies that work within North Oaks.
- Homeowner calls at @ 61 EPLR, 27 Mallard, 18 Island, 3 Goldfinch, and 3 Sumac
- Sent out notices with regards to Operation Clearview. Will stop by and visit with homeowners if possible/necessary.
- We have provided copies to City Hall and NOHOA of the spreadsheets we use to document diseased trees so that they are available to staff as needed.
- Ash tree inspections are in full effect and we are working with residents to educate and inform on their options as EAB continues to impact the community.
- Attended Natural Resource Meeting on November 18th.