

**REGULAR MEETING
OAKDALE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
February 8, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The Oakdale Environmental Management Commission (EMC) held a virtual meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021. The meeting began at 7:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chairperson: Keith Miller, Chairperson

Commissioners: Noah Gerding, Vice Chair
Connor Brown
Gretel Drainville
Nick Kantola
Bonnie Wilson

Also Present: Shannon Reidlinger, Sr. Community Development Specialist
Kevin Zabel, City Council Liaison

Absent: Karen Jackson

Quorum Present: YES NO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER KANTOLA MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GERDING, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2021, AS WRITTEN.

6 AYES

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. 2020 Washington County Recycling Grant report

Chair Miller opened the discussion by noting every year the City receives a grant from Washington County to promote recycling in Oakdale. Over the years, the City has had education, events stressing recycling, and visited multi-family housing to conduct surveys on recycling.

Ms. Reidlinger provided a summary of the four projects supported by the 2020 Recycling Grant. She prefaced this discussion by noting that COVID-19 had a significant impact on what was achieved in 2020.

1. Promote the Environmental Center
Ads went out in the three 2020 Oakdale Update Newsletters to 12,983 households.
2. Promote BizRecycling to business community
Ad emailed out to 52 businesses eligible for COVID programs and postcard mailed to 393 eligible businesses.
3. Promote recycling resources in multi-family housing development
Postcard mailed out to six eligible apartment buildings, two social media posts with over 2,300 users reached.
4. Promote organics drop-off program
Social media posts that reached 979 users and two EMC members interviewed regarding personal experience with the organics program.

Commissioner Gerding offered himself for more testimonials as this worked very well in his home.

Commissioner Drainville suggested doing a Facebook live with questions and answers.

Ms. Reidlinger questioned the commissioners regarding what priorities should be focused on when re-applying for this grant. She reminded the commission of the Oakdale Comprehensive Plan, specifically Chapter Eight, Goal Two, Policy Seven, where the City wants to reduce waste and increase recycling and also noted that there are five themed months in the editorial calendar that reference recycling, composting and beautification. She suggested carrying forward the 2020 goals into 2021. Ms. Reidlinger has consulted with Communications Specialist Alyssa MacLeod and would be building out social media.

In response to a question from Commissioner Drainville, Ms. Reidlinger reminded the commission that whatever is promoted has to be within Washington County as it is their grant. She acknowledged that application and ease of use is key and would utilize Mc. MacLeod to promote composting.

Commissioner Wilson suggested partnering with the Washington County Horticultural Society perhaps asking them to assist in mentioning the Washington County Environmental Center.

In response to a question from Commissioner Wilson, Commissioner Drainville shared that the environmental center does accept organics, and there is a large, no contact, organics dumpster bin.

In response to a question from Commissioner Drainville, Ms. Reidlinger stated she will research to see if there are metrics from previous years.

Commissioners made suggestions surrounding how to make sure residents understand what is and what is not recyclable.

Ms. Reidlinger summarized by sharing three buckets to address regarding the 2021 Washington county Recycling Grant:

- a. Organics drop-off and building this idea out more with Ms. MacLeod.
- b. Continuing to promote recycling practices in residential and multi-family could be an option if we can track behavior changes.
- c. General education on recycling behavior.

Ms. Reidlinger shared that she was wrapping up reporting for the 2020 grant cycle. The 2021 grant cycle is open and she would be working with Ms. MacLeod to prepare for 2021.

In response to a written question from Councilmember Zabel, Ms. Reidlinger shared that her goal is to understand how many multi-family complexes currently recycle, and how many more we can add, is a goal of this project. She will verify the actual number currently participating.

Commissioner Wilson mentioned that there will be a number of multi-family units built in the Willowbrooke development and now would be a good time to contact the developer to make a good recycling goal.

OTHER ITEMS

a. Editorial Calendar review

The Commission discussed best practices for using the Editorial Calendar. It was noted that Global Recycling Day is coming up on March 17 and discussion was held on when and how to highlight this date. Ms. Reidlinger asked the commission to send her ideas and she will pass along to Ms. MacLeod who manages this calendar. Chair Miller reminded all that this is a living document and will be revisited each month.

Chair Miller mentioned that he will reach out to Midwest Renewable Energy Association regarding the Solar Twin Cities 2021 program.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Council Member Kevin Zabel shared two updates:

- a) City Council reviewed the new Public Works preliminary site plans, West side of 32nd Street and Granada Ave North, which would include a brush drop off site. Staff and consultants recommended to Council after the move, the current PW site, 19th Street North and Hadley Avenue North, would add an organic drop off site.
- b) The Council would like the EMC to think about their 'budgetary asks', the commission's priorities, and bring them to the meeting that will be scheduled with all 5 commissions on one night in late spring.

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NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Miller reminded the Commission the next meeting would be Monday, March 15, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GERDING, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 08, 2021 REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAKDALE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AT 7:53 P.M.

6 AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Knutson
Recording Secretary