

**REGULAR MEETING  
OAKDALE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
MARCH 15, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Oakdale Environmental Management Commission (EMC) held a virtual meeting on Monday, March 15, 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  
Nick Kantola  
Bonnie Wilson

Absent: Gretel Drainville  
Karen Jackson

Also Present: Shannon Reidlinger, Sr. Community Development Specialist

Quorum Present: YES  NO

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONER KANTOLA MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2021, WITH CORRECTIONS AS FOLLOWS: PAGE 2, CORRECTION FROM CHAIR WILSON TO COMMISSIONER WILSON AND PAGE 1, CORRECTION FROM NICK KANTOLA, VICE CHAIR TO NOAH GERDING, VICE CHAIR.**

**VOTED IN FAVOR:**

<b>COMMISSIONER BROWN</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER GERDING</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER KANTOLA</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER WILSON</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>CHAIR MILLER</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**5 AYES**

**MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

**a. 2021 Washington County Recycling Grant draft projects**

Ms. Reidlinger shared three topics that would be included in the 2021 grant cycle and is looking for feedback prior to submitting the application.

1. Promote Washington County's organics composting program
2. Promote Washington County's BizRecycling program
3. Promote residential recycling through simple high-level education

In response to a question from Commissioner Wilson, Ms. Reidlinger shared the Edge Newsletter goes to a limited audience. The Oakdale Update would be used for broader messaging.

In response to a question from Chair Miller, Ms. Reidlinger noted the EMC would have a cross promotional opportunity at the Oakdale Farmer's Market to highlight the benefits of composting via a table with flyers which was to be discussed for finalization.

#### **b. 2021 renewable energy policy and implementation**

Chair Miller opened up the discussion by noting that renewable energy is in the Oakdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan; currently the City uses Solar for electricity.

Ms. Reidlinger shared her memorandum with the Commission regarding renewable energy and where to focus efforts in 2021. Solar is one area already discussed, and Ms. Reidlinger is looking for other priorities to address as well. She noted two specific 'call-outs' in the 2021 EMC Work Plan: host a Solar Twin Cities Power Hour and to host a Citizens Utility Board (Cub) Clinic for Utility Bills.

Commissioner Wilson mentioned promoting Wind Energy through the Wind Source by Xcel Energy.

Chair Miller shared that the Midwest Renewable Energy Association would be doing the Solar Twin Cities Program. He explained this program typically starts late May, early June and is wrapped up in October.

Chair Miller shared another suggestion regarding Community Solar Gardens that are taking subscriptions. This would allow residents without assessable personal solar use to participate. He suggested that if we find open subscriptions in surrounding areas, we make this a social media post to alert residents and businesses.

Chair Miller noted connecting with developers and businesses to educate about renewable energy financing options is another avenue.

Ms. Reidlinger summarized this discussion by noting four action items:

1. Participate in the Solar Twin Cities Programs
2. Obtain information on Solar Gardens available to Oakdale residents and promote.
3. Informing developers and business of opportunities to install solar equipment.
4. Research the Xcel Wind Source Program and promote.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **a. Editorial Calendar review**

The Commission discussed the Editorial Calendar.

Commissioner Wilson suggested noting environmental items on the front page of the Oakdale City webpage. She also wanted to highlight Earth Day.

Commissioner Gerding noted that April has national volunteering month and week. Adopt-A-Drain program would be one to promote from the EMC.

### **b. Willowbrooke Development**

Chair Miller contacted the Willowbrooke developer and was told that when a Property Manager has been assigned they would contact him to discuss EMC concerns.

## **CITY COUNCIL UPDATE**

Council Member Kevin Zabel electronically shared his updates:

- a) Council Member Zabel will discuss with Council a possible ordinance, if there is interest in multi-family units offering recycling for their residents
- b) The Council would like to remind the EMC to think about their 'budgetary asks' for 2022 and think about projects that will require funding.

Chair Miller shared ideas for funding for next year and asked the Commission to bring ideas to April's meeting.

Commissioner Kantola reminded the group about the Arbor Day Tree giveaway.

Commissioner Gerding thanked Commissioner Kantola for going on the broadcast of Oakdale Update to inform the public of not only the Arbor Day Tree giveaway, but also other City programs. He also shared that he was working on single-use plastics and discussing with other cities.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chair Miller reminded the Commission the next meeting would be Monday, April 19, 2021.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WILSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GERDING, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 15, 2021 REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAKDALE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AT 8:02 P.M.**

Environmental Management Commission Minutes  
March 15, 2021  
Page Four

COMMISSIONER BROWN	AYE
COMMISSIONER GERDING	AYE
COMMISSIONER KANTOLA	AYE
COMMISSIONER WILSON	AYE
CHAIR MILLER	AYE

5 AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Knutson  
Recording Secretary