

**REGULAR MEETING
OAKDALE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
APRIL 19, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The Oakdale Environmental Management Commission (EMC) held a virtual meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021. The meeting began at 7:05PM 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
Bonnie Wilson

Absent: Nick Kantola
Karen Jackson

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

Quorum Present: YES NO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER GERDING MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2021, WITH CORRECTIONS AS FOLLOWS: PAGE 2, BOTTOM OF PAGE, MEDIALU TO MEDIA.

VOTED IN FAVOR:

COMMISSIONER BROWN	AYE
COMMISSIONER DRAINVILLE	AYE
COMMISSIONER GERDING	AYE
COMMISSIONER WILSON	AYE
CHAIR MILLER	AYE

5 AYES

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. GreenStep Cities metrics

Ms. Reidlinger shared a PowerPoint presentation on Annual GreenStep Cities reporting summary.

The City of Oakdale was awarded Step 5 designation with the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. To maintain this designation the City was required to document and demonstrate improvement on GreenStep metrics

Metric category #1: City Buildings and Lighting

- The percentage in street lights owned by the City increased from 23% to 41.2%.
- Energy consumption/dollars spent in City buildings went down in 2020.

Metric category #11: Waste Water

- The ratio of Inflow and Infiltration volume to total volume entering the wastewater collection system was 1% in 2020, down from 1.19% in 2019.

Metric category #14: Renewable Energy

- According to Xcel Energy's 2019 community report for Oakdale, 122 businesses/residences were Solar Garden customers, 459 businesses/residences participated in the Windsource program, and 21 businesses/residences participated in the Renewable*Connect program.
- Well over half of the energy used for City operations was generated and purchased renewable energy.

Ms. Reidlinger shared that she believes we were able to produce enough data to retain our Step 5 Designation.

In response to a question from Commissioner Wilson, Ms. Reidlinger noted she will reach out to the Communications Specialist and discuss either more signage or Social Media Posts sharing how well Oakdale is doing on this initiative.

b. Multi-family dwelling recycling opportunity assessment

Ms. Reidlinger shared this discussion would be grounded in the Comprehensive plan. Chapter 8, Goal 1, Policy 7 talks about promoting options and opportunities in recycling for the City. The 2021 Work Plan also makes this a priority for the EMC. This opportunity assessment will focus on multi-family dwellings, and will be broken down into three phases:

1. Phase One: Evaluate current conditions and identify opportunities for improvement.

The goal of Phase one was that the EMC has a good understanding of what is currently happening when it comes to recycling in multi-family dwellings.

2. Phase Two: Create actionable goals and a policy to achieve those goals.

After a good understanding of current habits from Phase One, drafted goals will be developed and discussed to identify objectives and generate policy recommendations.

3. Phase Three: Implement developed policy and monitor effectiveness.

The policy that has been created from Phase Two on multi-family recycling has been implemented and then tracked.

In response to a question from Commissioner Wilson, Ms. Reidlinger explained in Chapter 6 of the Ordinances, multi-family dwellings are defined as having five or more units. They are not townhomes nor Condominiums.

OTHER ITEMS

a. Editorial Calendar review

The Commission discussed the monthly updates to the Editorial Calendar.

b. Commissioner updates:

i. Solar Twin Cities update from Chair Miller

Chair Miller noted that the first Solar Twin Cities meeting will be held April 21, 2021. He will provide updates.

ii. Single Use Plastics Project from Commissioner Gerding

Commissioner Gerding provided updates on the single use plastics project.

iii. Green Corps Introductions from Commissioner Gerding

Commissioner Gerding introduced Green Corps, a program where members were given a housing allowance and health care benefits. The host organization provided 0.08 FTE and office expenses of computer, email and other administrative infrastructure. This is an in-kind contribution for the host organization. The members work in four key areas:

- Reducing air pollutants
- Green infrastructure investments or improvements
- Waste reduction via recycling and organics
- Community Outreach

The investment asked of the host organization totals \$5,500.00 with 11 months of service.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Council Member Kevin Zabel shared his updates by noting that it was a busy season for the City with parks cleaning, street improvements, and mentioned that the City was awarded a grant from the MPCA to build a new temporary water treatment facility at Well 7 at no cost to the residents.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Miller reminded the Commission the next meeting would be Monday, May 17, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DRAINVILLE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GERDING, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 19, 2021 REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAKDALE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AT 8:03 P.M.

COMMISSIONER BROWN	AYE
COMMISSIONER GERDING	AYE
COMMISSIONER DRAINVILLE	AYE
COMMISSIONER WILSON	AYE
CHAIR MILLER	AYE

5 AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Knutson
Recording Secretary