

**City of Ramsey**  
**Agenda**  
**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**  
**Monday August 1, 2011**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Mississippi River Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Citizen Input**
3. **Approve Agenda**
4. **Approve Minutes**
  1. Approve Meeting Minutes Dated June 6, 2011
5. **Policy Board Business**
  1. Existing Recycling Opportunities in Public Buildings and Potential Enhancements
  2. Review Low Impact Development Concepts
6. **Board/Staff Input**

Update from Expo Subcommittee
7. **Adjournment**

**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**

**4. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 08/01/2011

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

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**Title:**

Approve Meeting Minutes Dated June 6, 2011

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**Attachments**

Draft Meeting Minutes Dated June 6, 2011

**Form Review**

**Inbox**  
Chris Anderson (Originator)  
Form Started By: Chris Anderson

**Reviewed By**  
Chris Anderson  
Final Approval Date: 07/29/2011

**Date**  
07/29/2011 02:20 PM  
Started On: 07/29/2011 02:19 PM

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

On Monday, June 6, 2011, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Mississippi River Conference Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Michael Max  
                          Board Member Trent Hassett  
                          Board Member Jennifer Carlson  
                          Board Member John Enstrom  
                          Board Member Bob Bentz  
                          Board Member Thomas Stodola

Members Absent:     None

Also Present:         Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Max called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Board Member Hassett and seconded by Board Member Carlson to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Carlson, Bentz, Hassett, Stodola and Enstrom. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

**APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD MINUTES**

Motion by Board Member Stodola and seconded by Board Member Bentz to approve the regular meeting minutes dated May 3, 2011.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Enstrom, Bentz, Hassett, Stodola and Carlson. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

## **POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

### **Case #1: Review and Consider 2011-2012 Work Plan**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Hassett stated that he'd like to add reviewing green building practices that could be incorporated or encouraged in The COR area and possibly ways to incentive them. He also stated that it may be helpful to research the return on investment with these practices.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that Low Impact Development practices could also be reviewed.

Board Member Bentz stated that he'd like to include better visibility on the website. Maybe a section entitled 'How green is Ramsey' or something along those lines.

Discussion ensued regarding how the website could be better utilized and other considerations for the work plan.

Consensus of the Board was to incorporate green building principles/low impact development concepts as well as enhanced website visibility on the draft work plan.

Motion by Board Member Stodola and seconded by Board Member Bentz to direct Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson update the draft work plan accordingly and forward to City Council for consideration at the June 14, 2011 Council meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Enstrom, Bentz, Hassett, Stodola and Carlson. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

### **Case #2: Environmental Expo Survey**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he worked at the Elk River Home Depot last weekend at the 'kids' workshop' and there were lots of very neat hands on activities for the kids to do. He suggested that it may be worthwhile to contact Home Depot to see about involvement with the expo event.

Chairperson Max stated that the minutes from last month's meeting mentioned the possibility of a regional type of expo event and asked if that was something in the works.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that that was just something that he and some fellow Anoka County municipal recycling coordinators had tossed around once or twice but nothing beyond that.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he did speak with two of the three tree sale vendors and they did confirm that the 2011 event was their last. Both of them are

nearing retirement and don't have the assistance they used to have to move the product back and forth and thought that now was simply the right time to move away from the event.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that this obviously will trigger the need to tweak/revamp the tree sale component.

Chairperson Max stated that he thought it would be good to have a speaker in to talk about green practices/concepts.

Board Member Carlson suggested having someone in to speak about native landscaping concepts.

Board Member Bentz suggested having a speaker from either the U of MN or the Arboretum in to speak about grass types.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he knows somebody at Specialty Seeds out of Albany, MN that could be contacted or possibly Mark Stennes with S & S Tree Specialists as a possible speaker.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that these all sound like good ideas but cautioned that without a well known name, they likely will not draw people in, at least based on past events. He went on to say that this would be a perfect task for an expo subcommittee should the Board choose to form one.

Motion by Board Member Hassett and seconded by Board Member Bentz to form a three person subcommittee to work on expo related tasks that will report back to the Board during regular monthly meetings with any pertinent updates.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Enstrom, Bentz, Hassett, Stodola and Carlson. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

Chairperson Max and Board Members Carlson and Bentz volunteered to serve on the expo subcommittee.

Board Member Enstrom suggested that it may be good to invite either a City Council member, an EDA member or some other advisory board member to also serve on the subcommittee.

## **BOARD/STAFF INPUT**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he and Parks Supervisor Riverblood discussed options for the tree planting activity in Rhinestone Commons Park and thought it may work well to conduct the planting on June 23, starting around 4:30 or 5:00pm and wrapping up just before 7:00pm. Not only will the Farmers Market be occurring that afternoon but it also will be the kick off of another summer of concerts in the amphitheater, so there should be a lot of action providing the Board with a lot of visibility for the planting activity. The Board still expressed an interest in participating in the planting activity.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that the regularly scheduled July meeting falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> and city offices are closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday so it either needs to be rescheduled or cancelled.

Motion by Board Member Enstrom and seconded by Board Member Stodola to cancel the July meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Max, Board Members Enstrom, Bentz, Hassett, Stodola and Carlson. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

Board Member Hassett announced he is resigning from the Board because he and his family are moving to Maryland. He stated that he has enjoyed his time on the Board and hopes that it continues to serve the community.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that over the weekend Board Member Riley-Daniels submitted her resignation as she has relocated to Minnetonka.

Board Member Enstrom stated that on Flag Day he will be hosting a flag retirement ceremony at his property and that June 19-24 he will be hosting the national remote control battle conference at his property as well.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Board Member Stodola and seconded by Board Member Hassett to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Anderson  
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator

**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)****5. 1.****Meeting Date:** 08/01/2011By: Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

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**Title:**

Existing Recycling Opportunities in Public Buildings and Potential Enhancements

**Background:**

State Statute 115A.151 requires public entities, including municipalities, to provide recycling containers for the collection of at least three (3) different materials in all facilities in which mixed municipal solid waste is collected. The recently approved EPB work plan included an action item to review the current recycling opportunities within the Municipal Center and other public facilities and look at ways to promote, enhance and expand on them.

**Observations:**

Recycling of paper (newspaper/magazines/office paper), plastic, metal and glass food/beverage containers is presently offered within the Municipal Center. However, the recycling containers for these materials are only found in the two larger conference rooms (Alexander Ramsey and Lake Itasca). It would be beneficial to provide recycling containers in the smaller, public conference rooms as well as the general lobby area.

There is also currently the opportunity to recycle cell phones, rechargeable batteries and ink jet cartridges at the Municipal Center. Again though, the collection boxes are not readily available and apparent to residents (they are kept in the work room next to the Planning Division). As stated above, it would be more beneficial (greater visibility) to locate these collection boxes somewhere in the main lobby/corridor so that the public sees them whenever they may be in the building.

Other opportunities for recycling more unique materials exist as well. Through the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM), there is a 'Recycle your Holidays' program in which people throughout the state can recycle their old holiday lights. RAM coordinates this program and offers periodic pick up of the lights collected from designated drop-off locations. Municipalities can participate in the program as a drop-off site and really the only cost would be staff time to promote the event and possibly calling to schedule pick-ups of the material.

Recycling opportunities also exist at other public facilities, such as the pavilion in Central Park, the skate park (Alpine Park) and the warming houses at Ramsey Elementary School and Central Park during the skating season. The 'pop bottle' shaped recycling containers are used at these sites; however, even with their distinct shape, there is, at least at times, quite a bit of contamination (garbage) that is deposited in them.

**Recommendation:**

Staff has coordinated with Building Maintenance to order some small recycling containers for the public conference rooms within the Municipal Center and is exploring possible options for locating the collection boxes for cell phones, rechargeable batteries and ink jet cartridges in a more visible, high traffic locale. The Board may wish to consider an educational campaign (use of posters/graphics) that could help promote and 'clean up' the recycling in the public facilities and as well as provide some direction about other potential recycling options that could be explored.

**EPB Action:**

Based on discussion.

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Attachments

State Statute 115A.151

## Form Review

**Inbox**

Chris Anderson (Originator)

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

**Reviewed By**

Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 07/29/2011

**Date**

07/29/2011 01:51 PM

Started On: 07/22/2011 10:44 AM

**115A.151 RECYCLABLE MATERIAL CONTAINER REQUIREMENTS; PUBLIC ENTITIES.**

(a) A public entity shall:

(1) ensure that facilities under its control, from which mixed municipal solid waste is collected, have containers for at least three recyclable materials, such as, but not limited to, paper, glass, plastic, and metal; and

(2) transfer all recyclable materials collected to a recycler.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "public entity" means the state, an office, agency, or institution of the state, the Metropolitan Council, a metropolitan agency, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission, the legislature, the courts, a county, a statutory or home rule charter city, a town, a school district, a special taxing district, or any entity that receives an appropriation from the state for a capital improvement project after August 1, 2002;

(2) "metropolitan agency" and "Metropolitan Council," have the meanings given them in section 473.121; and

(3) "Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission" means the commission created in section 473.702.

**History:** *1Sp1989 c 1 art 18 s 9; 1991 c 337 s 12; 1996 c 457 s 10; 2002 c 312 s 2*

**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**

**5. 2.**

**Meeting Date:** 08/01/2011

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

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**Title:**

Review Low Impact Development Concepts

**Background:**

One of the action items on the recently approved work plan is to review green building principles and low impact development (LID) practices that could be encouraged and/or incentivized within The COR. Staff intends to present a brief presentation highlighting LID concepts and then engage in discussion as to how the Board wishes to proceed in this process. Staff has had some internal discussions and have agreed that it may be beneficial at some point this fall to hold a joint meeting with the EPB and the Planning Commission to review development standards and discuss potential revisions to code that would encourage the implementation of certain LID practices.

**EPB Action:**

No action is necessary. This is for discussion purposes only at this time.

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**Form Review**

<b>Inbox</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chris Anderson (Originator)	Chris Anderson	07/29/2011 02:16 PM
Form Started By: Chris Anderson		Started On: 07/29/2011 01:52 PM
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