

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

On Monday, December 5, 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 Bob Bentz  
                            Board Member Thomas Stodola  
                            Board Member John Enstrom

Members Absent:     None.

Also Present:         Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Max called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Board Member Stodola and seconded by Board Member Bentz to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

**APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD MINUTES**

Motion by Board Member Stodola and seconded by Board Member Enstrom to approve the regular meeting minutes dated November 7, 2011.

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

**POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

**Case #1: 2012 Environmental Expo & Tree Sale**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Chairperson Max stated that he'd like to see Anoka Ramsey Farm and Garden participate in some capacity and offered to contact them to discuss their interest.

Board Member Stodola stated that he still is in favor of some sort of hands-on activity such as build your own birdhouse.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he knows the manager at Home Depot fairly well and will check with him about their possible involvement with this event.

Chairperson Max stated that the thought the Wood Carvers Association seemed to be a good attraction and would like to see them invited back.

Chairperson Max stated that he was not sure about Sartec, he tried to engage them in conversation about their product multiple times but they kept saying that the data was proprietary and they couldn't discuss it.

Board Member Bentz asked about bio-plastics and whether that was a topic that could be included. He stated that from what he's been reading, the western suburbs are some sort of hub for bio-plastics companies.

Chairperson Max asked about Anoka County's recycling program and whether they may be willing to participate.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he thought ACE Solid Waste does a really good job of promoting curbside recycling at the expo event. The County does have a mobile classroom and he could check with them about participating.

Chairperson Max stated that maybe they could provide more info about reducing and reusing materials and ACE could still focus on the recycling component.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated he would check with them.

General discussion ensued about potential speakers for the event.

Board Member Stodola offered to contact KARE 11 to check the availability/interest for one of their meteorologists to possibly speak.

Chairperson Max stated that he'd like to find a way to bring back the bird walk that used to be held at the elementary school site.

Board Member Enstrom offered his property for the bird walk. He said that there could be several areas for birding including shorelands and an inland walk. He also said that he could

check with Nikon to see about possibly getting some equipment donated for use that day such as scopes.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he'd also check to see if someone from Nikon would be willing to lead the bird walk and then possibly come back to the Municipal Center for a presentation on birding. If that were the case, they most likely would want the ability to have product displayed for sale.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he did not think that would be a problem.

Board Member Stodola stated that Jim Brandenburg may also be a good speaker to consider.

Chairperson Max stated that, while maybe not as well known a name, Carrol Henderson, a well respected birding authority, would also be a good speaker.

Board Member Enstrom asked about the possibility of bringing in someone from the state to do water tests.

Board Member Bentz asked if homeowners can drop chlorine tablets into their wells to address odor issues or is that something that only a licensed well digger could do.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he was not sure and that that would be a good question for the state's Department of Health.

Board Member Enstrom stated that E. H. Renner and Sons would be a good source of information on that and would be a good invite to participate at the expo event as well.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that in the past, the Minnesota Well Water Association has participated in the expo event and that last year an invite was sent to E. H. Renner and Sons to participate but that he never received any response.

Chairperson Max stated that there was at least one septic pumper at last year's Business Expo and he thought that that might also be a good fit for the Environmental Expo as well.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that may be a good fit especially considering that Ramsey still has over 4,000 individual sewage treatment systems.

Board Member Bentz asked if food was going to be offered again at the event.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that while nothing has been finalized yet, food would absolutely need to be a part of the event. The first year it was held at the Municipal Center, that was the biggest piece of feedback he received was that some type of refreshments needed to be available for the public and even more importantly for the vendors that would be there for 5-6 hours.

Chairperson Max suggested that 4-H might see that as an opportunity to raise money for their organization.

Board Member Enstrom suggested possibly using the newsletter as an avenue to solicit assistance with refreshments for the event.

Board Member Bentz asked if the conversion of the website had been completed yet.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that it had but that there has not been training yet for making modifications to individual pages.

Chairperson Max stated that it might be good for the Board over the next month to review the website and make note of any suggested revisions.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that would be fine but that he encouraged them to focus specifically on environmentally related pages. If they had suggestions for the website in general or areas other than the environment, those should be directed to the webmaster.

## **BOARD/STAFF INPUT**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that the January meeting would need to either be rescheduled or cancelled because the regular meeting date falls on January 2, 2012 but city offices will be closed that day due to the New Years Day holiday.

Consensus of the Board was to reschedule the meeting to January 9, 2012.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson referenced the Vibrant Cities report that he thought the Board might find interesting as it relates to community forestry and associated benefits.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson informed the Board that Ms. Carlson submitted her official resignation this morning.

Discussion ensued as to the possible reasons for her resignation.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that she indicated that she didn't think she necessarily had much to contribute to the Board.

Board Member Stodola stated that when his term is up, he is uncertain if he will reapply for his seat because of the ineffectiveness of the Board and maybe that played into her decision.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he thought it was a shame that this Board isn't put to better use and wondered what could be done to change that.

General discussion ensued about the effectiveness of the Board.

Chairperson Max stated that he would contact Councilmember Backous to discuss as he is the liaison to the EPB.

Board Member Enstrom inquired about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and wondered if it had been discovered in the northern suburbs yet.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that the most recent confirmed infestation was in Shoreview and that it had not been confirmed in or adjacent to Ramsey yet.

Board Member Enstrom stated that the WMO may start requiring a permit for utility work as a result of concerns raised about the clearing activities within transmission line easement areas. He stated that they will also start requiring not only seeding of disturbed areas but also actual establishment of the seed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Anderson  
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator