

**City of Ramsey**  
**Agenda**  
**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**  
**Monday September 10, 2012**  
**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 August 6, 2012
5. **Policy Board Business**
  1. Review and Consider Potential Icons or Symbols to Brand Environmental Information
  2. Article and Space Filler Discussion
6. **Board/Staff Input**
  - Community Parks Map
  - Fall Recycling Day
  - Shoreland Ordinance Amendment
  - Rain Garden Demonstration Project
7. **Adjournment**

**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**

**4. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 09/10/2012

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

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**Information**

**Title:**

Approve Meeting Minutes Dated August 6, 2012

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**Attachments**

Meeting Minutes Dated August 6, 2012

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**  
Chris Anderson (Originator)

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

**Reviewed By**  
Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 09/07/2012

**Date**  
09/07/2012 12:11 PM  
Started On: 09/06/2012 05:31 PM

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

On Monday, August 6, 2012, 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 John Enstrom  
                          Board Member Michael Hiatt  
                          Board Member Larry Lewis  
                          Board Member Thomas Stodola (arrived at 6:39 p.m.)  
                          Board Member Michael Valentine

Members Absent:     Board Member Bob Bentz

Also Present:         Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Max called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**2.     CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.     APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Valentine to approve the agenda as submitted.

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated July 2, 2012**

Motion by Board Member Valentine and seconded by Board Member Lewis to approve the regular meeting minutes dated July 2, 2012.

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

## **5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Consider Date for 2013 Environmental Expo Event**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Hiatt stated that he thought the Environmental Expo and Business Expo could still be held simultaneously but with improved coordination.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he had a conversation with the Management Analyst and the option of wrapping the Environmental Expo into Happy Days was suggested.

Chairperson Max was supportive of that idea as it would most certainly increase the amount of foot traffic for the expo event.

Board Member Stodola stated that it may even be preferable by the vendors due to the larger potential audience.

Board Member Lewis stated that he felt the tree sale could be coupled with the Business Expo in the spring and the Environmental Expo could be coupled with Happy Days in the fall.

Chairperson Max and Board Members Lewis and Hiatt all stated that they preferred to see the tree sale continue.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson clarified that the discussion regarding whether the tree sale should continue relates more to the declining sales than anything else.

Chairperson Max stated that historically families often would purchase multiple trees because they were in a new development and had no trees at all in their yards whereas now, they may purchase just one.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that one possible option might be to consider a gravel bed nursery in which the city could purchase bareroot tree stock from a wholesaler in the spring, line them out in a gravel bed over the summer where they can develop a more fibrous root system, and then pull them in the fall with very little, if any, root loss due to the gravel bed, and be available for pick up and/or be planted. This could allow the city to capitalize on the less expensive bareroot stock and provide residents a tree with a greater root mass, giving the trees a better chance of survival. He also stated that this would have some additional costs to the city because the trees would need to be handled at least twice and would require watering throughout the summer.

Board Member Valentine stated that he too would like to see the tree sale continue but that he thought it was a good point about diminishing sales and if that trend continues, the tree sale event should be reevaluated.

Discussion ensued about the benefits of hosting the Environmental Expo as a part of Happy Days. General consensus was that this would be a good move for the expo event and that it would add an educational component to Happy Days as well.

Motion by Board Member Lewis and seconded by Board Member Hiatt to tie the tree sale event with the Business Expo and the Environmental Expo with Happy Days.

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

Further discussion: The Board continued discussing some possibilities about the expo event in the fall and that it may provide an opportunity to highlight topics such as preparing a yard for winter. The Board in general also discussed how this new format would provide more concentrated marketing for the tree sale and the expo event and by splitting the two, also may provide the Board a bit more time to focus on the two demonstration projects on their work plan.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson did state that it might be nice to somehow tie in the picking up of trees from the tree sale with the spring recycling event since city staff would already be here for that event.

The Board really liked that idea and wanted to explore it more not only for the efficiencies of staff but also because people would already be coming to the event with trailers and after they dropped their stuff off at the recycling event, they could get their trees and be on their way.

## **5.02: Review Article for Ramsey Resident Newsletter**

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Lewis suggested that for the recycling component, that the funding of the program be mentioned.

Board Member Stodola stated that for him, that may lead to more questions about how that funding is utilized.

Consensus of the Board was that the inaugural article should simply be the introduction to the EPB and that the recycling article should be a separate column in a future newsletter.

Chairperson Max stated that he ran into Councilmember Strommen and she had mentioned that at the last WMO meeting, there was a request made that the EPB draft an article on water conservation that was generic enough that any of the four member communities could use in their newsletter.

General discussion ensued about a potential logo or icon that could be used in conjunction with this new column.

Board Member Lewis suggested that a number of space fillers be developed that could be inserted throughout the newsletter along with the logo or icon to indicate that the tidbit has to do

with the environment. The space fillers could just be little factoids about anything related to the environment.

Chairperson Max stated that he was fine with all of the edits that had been made but in the second paragraph he would like some sort of statement to inform the public that the EPB is made up of everyday people and not necessarily a bunch of 'environmentalists'.

Board Member Stodola volunteered to try and draft an article on water conservation.

## **6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT**

- September Meeting Date

Consensus of the Board was to reschedule the September meeting to September 10, 2012 due to the Labor Day holiday.

- Web Updates

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson informed the Board that he has been working on updates to the website and requested that the Board take a look at it in their spare time and let him know if there are other additions they'd like to see made.

- Updates on the Monarch Station/Prairie Creation Project

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson provided a handout showing a possible location for this demonstration project. He stated he chose this site because of two factors, it is a public park and it has a GRE transmission line running through it. However, the Board may want to consider another location that would likely benefit from much greater foot traffic. Consensus of the Board was that visibility is more critical than having a transmission line overhead. Wherever the project goes, there could be a kiosk explaining the purpose and illustrating how this type of project would be ideal under power lines.

Board Member Lewis requested a map of all community parks plus smaller maps of all the parks that are no longer being routinely maintained.

- Board Member Enstrom stated that at the last WMO meeting, there was discussion about a new federal agency that is reviewing the connection between a rise in E. Coli, West Nile Virus and rain gardens.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Anderson  
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator

ATTEST:

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JoAnn Shaw  
Community Development Secretary

**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**

**5. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 09/10/2012

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

**Information**

**Title:**

Review and Consider Potential Icons or Symbols to Brand Environmental Information

**Background:**

At the direction of the Board, Staff has crafted various iterations of a possible icon and/or symbol that could be used to 'brand' environmentally related information on the City's website as well as within the newsletter. The intent is to very easily (and visually) announce to the reader that the article or webpage or other forms of information has to do with the environment in some way. Attached are some drafts that the IT Intern has created for the Board to consider.

**Recommendation:**

The Board should review the draft graphics to see if anything 'hits the mark'.

**EPB Action:**

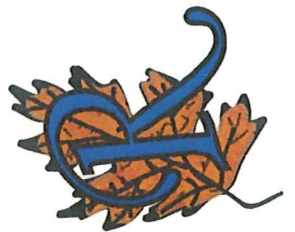
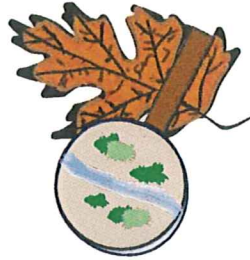
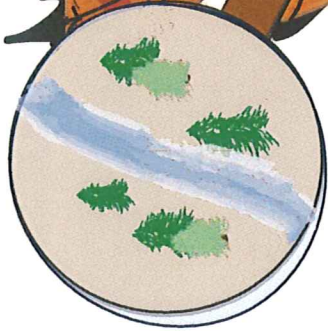
Based on discussion.

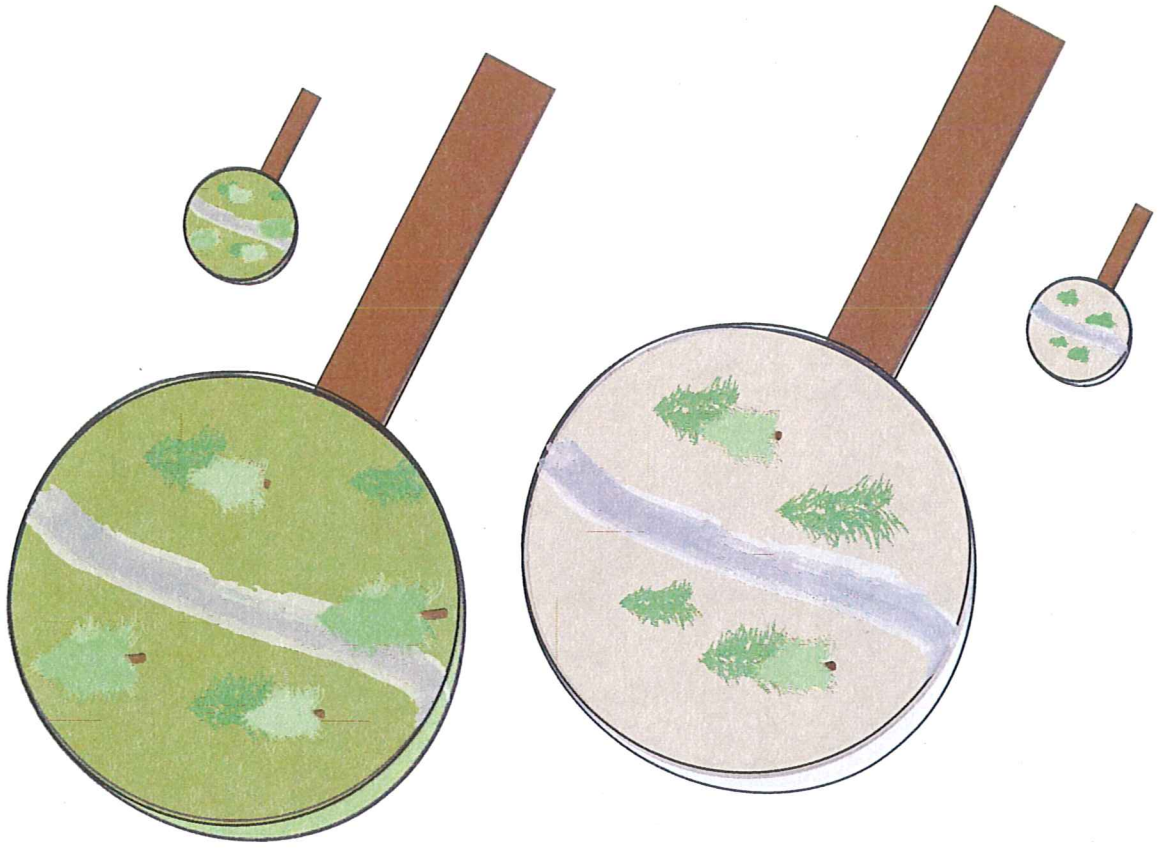
**Attachments**

Draft Logos

**Form Review**

<b>Inbox</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chris Anderson (Originator)	Chris Anderson	09/07/2012 12:11 PM
Form Started By: Chris Anderson	Final Approval Date: 09/07/2012	Started On: 09/06/2012 06:09 PM







**Environmental Policy Board (EPB)**

**5. 2.**

**Meeting Date:** 09/10/2012

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

**Information**

**Title:**

Article and Space Filler Discussion

**Background:**

At the August meeting, the Board was informed that the WMO had requested the EPB develop an article on water conservation that could be utilized by the four (4) member communities in their newsletters. This seemed to fit in both with the Board's goal of increasing awareness and communication with the public as well as better coordination between the Board and the WMO on educational efforts. The draft article is attached. Also, Staff has updated the article that had been prepared on recycling, which, at the Board's direction, was separated from the inaugural Focus on Environment column. That draft is also attached. Finally, at the August meeting, Board Members were asked to develop a couple 'space fillers', which could be used in the newsletter when needed.

**Recommendation:**

At the direction of the Board, this general topic, Focus on Environment articles will be included for review by the Board.

**EPB Action:**

No specific action is required, this is intended to let the Board see each of the articles being drafted.

**Attachments**

Water Conserveation Article

Recycling Article

Space Fillers

**Form Review**

<b>Inbox</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chris Anderson (Originator)	Chris Anderson	09/07/2012 12:11 PM
Form Started By: Chris Anderson		Started On: 09/06/2012 06:27 PM
	Final Approval Date: 09/07/2012	

The Lower Rum River Water Management Organization (LRRWMO), which includes all of Ramsey and Anoka, as well as portions of Andover and Coon Rapids, is an organization that seeks to improve and protect lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater and other water sources across municipal boundaries. The LRRWMO member communities are~~Ramsey is~~ located on the Anoka Sand Plain and, as the name implies, is dominated by mostly sandy soils. Sandy soils have low water holding capacity, so water used to irrigate yards moves down through soil and out of the root zone area quickly. Summer lawn watering ~~in Ramsey, especially on sandy soils,~~ increases the amount of water used per day (in Ramsey, water use ~~almost triples water use~~ to over 5 million gallons per day! This, ~~which~~ has contributed to Ramsey being identified as one of the largest users of non-consumptive water in the metro).

As ~~Ramsey's~~ populations continues to grow in the member communities, the demand for water will also grow. ~~Ramsey's~~ Cumulatively, the population of the member communities of the LRRWMO is forecasted to increase by roughly 123,000 people by the year 2020, putting tremendous pressure on the groundwater supply, or aquifer. As demand for water continues to rise, the aquifer, our current source of drinking water, will be depleted more and more. While groundwater is replenished by precipitation, activities such as pumping (wells), increasing impervious surfaces (roads, rooftops, driveways, etc.), and climatic changes alter recharge rates, and potentially diminish the recharge of aquifers. Continued depletion of the aquifers could result in the need for communities to explore alternative options for water, such as drawing from the Mississippi River, which would require the construction of water treatment facility.

Below are a few examples of is a list of quick and easy ideas to reduce water use inside and outside: you can use to reduce water use in your home.

#### Ideas for Conserving Water Indoors

- When upgrading appliances, consider air-cooled air conditioners, refrigerators, etc. for significant water savings.
- ~~Place a bucket in the shower or bath tub to collect the water while you wait for the water to get hot. Use this water to flush toilets or water plants and shrubs.~~
- Upgrade older toilets with low-flush (low-flow) models. If your toilet is older than 1995, you can retrofit it with a tank-based displacement device.
- ~~Compare resource savings among washing machines and dishwashers. Selecting the best model that includes load/water settings and only running them when full will help reduce water use.~~
- Obtain FREE dye strips from the City of Ramsey. Put them in your toilet to check for leaks into the toilet bowl. While you're at it, fix that leaky faucet. All those drips add up.
- Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- ~~Toss those used tissues rather than flushing them. Frequent flushers can kick this habit and save up to 600 gallons of water a month.~~
- ~~Water plants or shrubs with old pet water, nutrient rich aquarium waste water when it's cleaning time, and ice cubes you may have dropped on the floor by accident.~~

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### ~~Ideas for Conserving Water Outdoors~~

- ~~• Direct water onto plants and shrubs that need more water. When you wash your car, use a hose nozzle to turn off the water to save more than 100 gallons each washing.~~
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk between rain showers. Just sweep the dirt and spread over your lawn or toss in the trash. Doing this will not only conserve water but will also keep the dirt from entering storm sewers and catch basins.
- A sprinkler timer can be set to shut off your sprinkler after a set amount of time.
- ~~• Let Mother Nature do the watering for you. If you receive an inch or more of rain per week, you can skip your next watering.~~
- ~~• Nothing wastes water like sprinklers in the rain. Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.~~
- ~~• A soil aerator an inexpensive tool which will punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart to improve infiltration so that water seeps into the ground around the root zone rather than producing runoff.~~
- Put the water from your downspout to good use by catching it in a mosquito-proof rain barrel. Plants love rainwater because it doesn't contain chlorine and is warmer than tap water.
- ~~• Rain chains are designed to replace a downspout, and channel the water to a specific location, such as a basin or rain barrel. They're pleasing to look at and they slow water down, reducing splashing and erosion.~~
- ~~• Simply replacing a hose washer can often fix a leaking garden hose connection.~~

The City of Ramsey has developed a water conservation tool box that contains information and ideas that can be implemented on residential or commercial properties. The tool box can be found at [www.cityoframsey.com/environment-water-conservation](http://www.cityoframsey.com/environment-water-conservation).

## Recycling

Minnesota continues to be one of the national leaders in recycling. Annually, as a state, we recycle over 2 million tons of waste, which ranks us second in the country. One of the many benefits of recycling is a reduction of greenhouse gases. Last year's recycling efforts throughout the state was equivalent to taking about 2 million cars of the road!

Recently, the state of Minnesota increased its targeted goal for recycling and Anoka County's recently adopted Solid Waste Master Plan reflects these newly established goals (stated in tons) as follows:

Actual	Objectives			
2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
134,257	154,029	174,651	189,416	221,597

As you can see, the new goals are very aggressive. In order to achieve these new goals, we need to rethink what can be recycled. We all know that paper, cardboard, and glass, plastic and aluminum/steel containers can be recycled. But, we often don't associate that with items such as paper towel cores, shoe boxes, mail inserts and envelopes. We need to not only encourage everybody to recycle but also encourage everyone to recycle *more* material.

If you're not sure if a particular material or item is recyclable, you have many options to find out, such as contacting the City's Recycling Coordinator or ACE Solid Waste (763-427-3110), or visiting the City's website at [www.cityoframsey.com](http://www.cityoframsey.com) or Anoka County's website at [www.co.anoka.mn.us/v2\\_dept/iwm/index.aspx](http://www.co.anoka.mn.us/v2_dept/iwm/index.aspx).

Let's see what each one of us can do to help meet Ramsey's recycling goal for 2012 (2,130 tons) and beyond!

Two mature trees can produce enough oxygen for a family of four for an entire year (Environment Canada)

Recycling aluminum can save about 95% of the energy needed to make aluminum from raw materials (Recycling Association of MN)

The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for four (4) hours (Recycling Association of MN)

Recycling one ton (2000 lbs.) of paper saves 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4000 kilowatts of energy, and 7000 gallons of water. This represents a 64% energy savings, a 58% water savings, and 60 pounds less of air pollution! (Recycling Association of MN)

Five (5) PET bottles (# 1 plastic soda bottles) yield enough fiber to make one extra-large T-shirt, one square foot of carpet or enough fiber to fill one ski jacket. (Recycling Association of MN)

The Red Pine (aka Norway Pine) is the state tree.