

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Environmental Policy Board (EPB)
Tuesday, May 19, 2015
6:30 pm
The COR Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Citizen Input**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve Meeting Minutes Dated April 20, 2015
- 5. Policy Board Business**
 1. Review Framework for a Future Citizen Engagement Process Related to the Environmental Protection/Resource Management Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan
 2. Consider Topic and Process for Focused Education Campaign
- 6. Board/Staff Input**
- 7. Adjournment**

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

4. 1.

Meeting Date: 05/19/2015

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Information

Title:

Approve Meeting Minutes Dated April 20, 2015

Action:

Attachments

Meeting Minutes Dated April 20, 2015

Form Review

Inbox

Chris Anderson (Originator)
Form Started By: Chris Anderson
Final Approval Date: 05/14/2015

Reviewed By

Chris Anderson

Date

05/14/2015 04:33 PM
Started On: 05/12/2015 04:57 PM

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

On Monday, April 20, 2015, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) and Planning Commission held a joint meeting in the Lake Itasca Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

EPB Board Members Present: Chairperson Thomas Stodola
Board Member Bob Bentz
Board Member Reid Bernard
Board Member Jane Covart
Board Member Michael Hiatt
Board Member Larry Lewis
Board Member Michael Valentine

Planning Commission Members Present: Chairperson Gary Levine
Commissioner Andrew Andrusko
Commissioner Randy Bauer
Commissioner Ralph Brauer (arrived at 6:47 p.m.)
Commissioner Matthew Maul

Planning Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Cindy Nosan
Commissioner Gary VanScoy

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson
Development Services Manager Timothy Gladhill
City Council Liaison John LeTourneau

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Stodola, Board Member Valentine, Bernard, Bentz, Covart, Hiatt, and Lewis. Voting No: None. Absent: None

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated March 30, 2015

Motion by Board Member Lewis and seconded by Board Member Bentz to approve the regular meeting minutes dated March 30, 2015.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Stodola, Board Member Lewis, Bentz, Bernard, Covart, Hiatt, and Valentine. Voting No: None. Absent: None

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Review of Environmental Policy Board's Statement of Purpose

City Planner Anderson stated the one reason for the meeting tonight is to provide the Planning Commission with an update on the EPB's recently adopted Statement of Purpose. He stated that the Board worked with the City Council on their new Statement of Purpose. This was done in response to the need to determine the Board's relevance and to determine how they could better serve the City Council and the community. He stated that the biggest change is the Board is now actively participating in the review of land use applications for all major plats, site plans, variances for various overlay districts and Comprehensive Plan amendments. Their role will be to look at the natural resource aspect of projects and to provide feedback on storm water management. The Board will also be participating in the Comprehensive Plan update. The Board will take the lead on environmental protection and natural resources management chapter of the Comprehensive Plan update. Their previous roles with education, looking at ordinances within the zoning code and seeing where there might be room for improvement will carry forward. City Planner Anderson stated that the EPB has been instrumental in the environmental protection ordinances that the City currently has and that getting them involved in the overview process closes the loop. He stated that the City Council will be looking at how the two Boards interact and see how their involvement in the City's land use application review benefits the Planning Commission and their review. He noted that the EPB has changed their regular meeting to the third Monday of the month because the Board did not want to interfere with the land use application process. They wanted the opportunity to get involved in the overall review without disrupting the process.

Chairperson Stodola stated that the Board felt like they were floundering and needed guidance and more to do and that is how they got to the Statement of Purpose.

City Planner Anderson stated that this organizational change was approved by the City Council on a trial basis for a year. After a year, they will look at memorializing the new organizational structure with a code amendment.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that this meeting is at the request of the Planning Commission to better understand what types of land use applications the EPB would look at and ways to collaborate on the Comprehensive Plan.

Planning Chairperson Levine stated that having the EPB involved is important because the Planning Commission looks at a lot of stuff. They try to look at environmental issues, but are

also looking at a lot of other things. He thinks input from the EPB will be very helpful especially with large projects. He stated that he is in favor of a trial run.

Commissioner Maul stated that he felt it was a really good idea from an environmental standpoint and that it would alleviate some issues.

City Council Liaison LeTourneau observed that the land use applications for Parkview East Apartments and Common Bond Apartments were reviewed and the thing that came to the surface was the water management system that Common Bond had put in. It was identified as a best management practice. He stated that this is a good example of how this structure can be the shepherd of these issues and the City will start to see consistency in how it is handling surface water and its retention.

Community Development Direction Gladhill spoke about the Harvest Estate project and how they were able to apply ordinances that were developed through the EPB.

Commissioner Bauer spoke about a recent project that had more than the required number of parking spaces. He stated that the EPB discussions before the Planning Commission's review of the project were helpful.

City Planner Anderson stated that the hope is to have this type of feedback built into the review to go to the Planning Commission and then to the City Council.

Board Member Valentine stated it would be nice if there could be a feedback loop so that we don't wait too long to find out we are out of sync.

City Planner Anderson stated that as Staff they can try to do that. He stated that Staff is going before the EPB and then two weeks later the Planning Commission and then two weeks later the EBP meets again. It could be his responsibility to relay the general conversations rather than waiting a full year. He will try to serve as a go between.

Chairperson Levine stated that this is already being done but now it will be more purposeful and will keep both commissions on track.

5.02: Review Development Review Process and Meeting Procedures

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that he would like to give a broad overview of the land use application process. He stressed the importance of learning the structure of code and being able to find the information Board Members/Commissioners need. He stated that City ordinances come from state statute and constitution. He stated that the League of Minnesota Cities is a great resource and encouraged Board Members and Commissioners to attend a Governance Training Services function.

Community Development Director Gladhill went over zoning and subdivision codes and the Planning and Zoning Discretionary Pyramid and how it is used. He stated that the Planning Commission is the recommending body to the City Council with the exception of variances in which the Planning Commission is acting as the Board of Adjustment and Appeals and they actually make the approval or denial of variances. The Planning Commission's decisions are

subject to appeal to the City Council. He went over the Community Development Department staff, which consists of the Planning Division and the Building Inspection Division that works closely with the Economic Development Division. He stated that the Economic Development Manager serves as liaison to the Economic Development Authority. He spoke about contracted inspections, the uniqueness of an in-house contracted electrical inspector, and a contracted planner used to help Staff meet the 60-day deadline. He reported on the Comprehensive Plan's Vision and Values Statement as it exists today. He stated that the community desires some changes to it. He stated that it will serve as the framework going forward and will lead into zoning code amendments as the City applies its development review standards. He spoke about the values and checklist for zoning alternatives that was developed by citizens and the desire to continue that type of collaborative community engagement. He spoke about the City Council's revision process of the 2015 Strategic Plan.

Community Development Director Gladhill also reported on the powers given to the City by Minnesota Statute Chapter 462 with regard to zoning and subdivision codes. He stated that the Comprehensive Plan is part of Minnesota Statute Chapter 473 and outlined the City's process for completing the Comprehensive Plan update. He spoke about the Regional Plan that includes transportation, water resources management, regional parks, etc. He stated that the Comprehensive Plan must be in harmony with the Regional Plan. He stated that this has implications on how fast the City grows and how it serves the community with infrastructure needs. He stated that Highway 10 and the water supply are key issues that subcommittees are currently working on. He provided the Board and Commission with the Comprehensive Plan's future land use map. He reported on several overlay districts that are specialized geographic areas that might not fit the mold of an underlying zoning district with rivers and the closed landfill as an example. The landfill is a new component of the Comprehensive Plan. He reported that an application needs to be processed in 60 days with one 60-day extension allowed.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that *Roberts Rules of Order* are utilized by both the Planning Commission and the EPB. He pointed out motions that are not used frequently such as "Call the Question".

Commission Brauer recognized Bob Bentz and Joe McDilda for their contributions to the last Comprehensive Plan.

Board Member Hiatt asked for clarification on the timing of the EPB's review.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the EPB is part of the same silo as the Planning Commission versus a separate step. The EPB will be in advance of the Planning Commission and then a proposal will be forwarded to the City Council.

Commissioner Bauer asked if applicants will come to the EPB.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the City makes it an option and not a requirement to come before the EPB. He stated that if the EPB or Planning Commission feels this is important to let Staff know.

Commissioner Bauer stated that if the EBP makes a recommendation for modification, the applicant may be blindsided and that possibly applicants should meet with the EPB on anything controversial.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that he and City Planner Anderson are relatively good at anticipating issues and if they believe there will be an issue, they will strongly encourage the applicant to come before the EPB. He pointed out recent cases where applicants were made aware of the EBP feedback before going to the Planning Commission. He stated that he was interested in feedback on applicants going before the EPB.

Board Member Lewis asked if the Planning Commission reviewed feedback from the last EPB meeting.

Commissioner Brauer stated that they had and it was great and a lot of help to have the background while reviewing the cases. He spoke about a recent position taken by the EPB on a park placement.

Chairperson Levine agreed that it was very helpful and that the Planning Commission could miss some things and the EBP are the experts.

Commissioner Andrusko asked if EPB meetings are open to the public.

Chairperson Stodola replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Brauer brought up setback cases that involve the Mississippi and Rum Rivers and wondered what the EPB's role was in terms of the scenic river issue and if they felt it was important to take a position on development with regard to the scenic issue.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated the environmental overlay districts are important for the EPB to see. He stated that the overlay districts along with shoreline areas are not Ramsey developed rules so there is a limitation on influence on the policies. He stated that it will be good to get feedback from the EPB as the City continues to work with the DNR.

Chairperson Levine stated that he has learned that the area along the Mississippi River is designated as a national park.

Board Member Bentz asked if people that owned property along the river can put fill in to address erosion issues.

City Planner Anderson stated that there is a permitting process in terms of bank stabilization that is reviewed by the City and the DNR. He thinks the DNR would prefer to see techniques such as cedar revetments or other more natural appearing techniques for stabilization, but he has seen examples where rip rap has been approved for stabilizing the bank. He stated that the DNR would like residents to explore alternatives to rip rap and they would like to see that offset with native plantings to give a naturalized appearance and to help with sediment control.

Board Member Lewis stated that he thinks there are a lot of issues like this that are on the table that we haven't been able to look at like we want to. He thinks the restructuring and redefinition of the EPB will help with that.

Commissioner Brauer stated that it is good to see the change in coming back to where we used to be.

Board Member Lewis thanked the Planning Commissioner for the opportunity.

5.03: Review Structure of Chapter 13 (Environmental Protection/Resource Management) of the Comprehensive Plan and Prioritize Areas of Revisions for Current Goals and Strategies

City Planner Anderson stated that the purpose of this case is to begin the review of Chapter 13 (Environmental Protection/Resource Management) of the Comprehensive Plan. This initial introduction is intended to provide both the EPB and the Planning Commission an opportunity to review the existing contents and inform Staff of areas where updates may be necessary or appropriate. The intent is not to develop new goals, strategies, or alternatives yet, but to prioritize areas for future revisions. Essentially, Staff desires the group to identify priority areas for revision and to also identify areas that do not require additional future revisions and areas that need input from the public. He would like to focus on Section B that outlines goals and implementation strategies. He talked about the goal of reducing waste going to landfills and recommended a strategy to explore opportunities to promote or implement source separated organics collection. He stated that the City does have a natural resources inventory and a wetland inventory that was completed and that there hasn't been a lot of development since the studies were done so he doesn't see a need to update presently as they provide a good base of information.

Board Member Valentine wondered if it would be helpful to emphasize water supply in the water resources area. He thinks it is a key area going forward with sustainability in the long term being the underlying policy issue.

City Planner Anderson stated that this is certainly something we can do. He stated that a water resource plan is new to the Comprehensive Plan process and there will be a heavier emphasis on water. The City Council has identified transportation and water supply as major priorities.

Chairperson Levine asked for elaboration on item 1E – “Establish a revenue stream dedicated to the permanent protection of high-value natural resources area.”

City Planner Anderson stated that there is currently nothing in place. The EPB did look at it a few years ago. The intent was to conduct a public survey to gather information on support for a referendum in terms of a natural resources fund. The City Council opted not to move forward with conducting the survey.

Commissioner Andrusko stated that it might be helpful to the Comprehensive Plan in general to expand on Subsection 1E to let citizens know there is not a dedicated funding source and establishing a need for it. He wondered if there was a program of future expenses or a program of planned priorities and investments.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that two tools used in addition to the Strategic Plan for financial planning are the Capital Improvement Program and the annual budget. Planning starts with Strategic plan, then the CIP and is funded by the annual budget. The CIP is a planning document.

Board Member Bentz asked about the City saying there is too much park property and looking at ways to sell it off.

City Planner Anderson stated that the City did complete an inventory of city-owned land and identified land as not serving a purpose to be marketed for sale.

Board Member Bentz asked about a requirement for set aside for development purposes.

City Planner Anderson responded that there is a park dedication requirement that can be satisfied with land or cash or a combination of both. The general policy is to satisfy it with cash.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that City Planner Anderson's statement was correct that it is cash in lieu of land. It has to meet the master park and trail plan. He suggested looking at the term "cluster ordinances" and refining it or getting it out of the Comprehensive Plan. He explained the cluster concept.

Commissioner Brauer stated that in the past, there was a misunderstanding between clustering as a strategy for developing green space and clustering as a way of cramming a lot of houses together that was never resolved.

Board Member Bentz stated that a lot of people looked at it as poverty neighborhoods.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that this issue warrants some future refinement and strategy. Commission and Board Members agreed.

Commissioner Brauer stated that it was ambiguous at the time and it hasn't gotten any less ambiguous.

Board Member Bentz asked if there was a moratorium.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the ordinance was repealed. The only tool that can be used is a planned unit development.

Commissioner Brauer stated that he liked Board Member Valentine's point about sustainability and that that value wasn't stressed enough in the last plan. He thinks it is crucial now to community survival.

Board Member Valentine agreed with Commissioner Brauer and stated that there are plenty of people that think it is a dirty word.

Commissioner Brauer spoke about the need for a discussion on what do we mean by it and how do we plan on doing about it. He talked about reviving the Andover ordinance model. He talked

about the land use issue that Commissioner Bentz brought up and about a past practice of picking up land at a sheriff's sale. He also spoke about a dedication fee issue that could be increased incrementally as a way of financing development.

Board Member Valentine agreed with City Planner Anderson's comments on organics recycling.

Commissioner Andrusko asked about emergency management/planning with regard to the oil trains running through the community. He stated that this is a significant environmental protection topic at the state legislature.

City Planner Anderson stated that he didn't think this chapter addresses emergency response, but that the fire chief and the police chief are actively involved with training with the increased rail traffic. This issue could be added as a goal.

Community Development Director Gladhill stated that the City does have an emergency operations manual that is regularly updated and part of that is oil safety. He pointed out the Highway 10 Access Planning Study, which has led to a request to legislature for grade-separated railroads at Ramsey Blvd., Sunfish Lake Blvd., and Armstrong Blvd. He stated that there are environmental remediation issues long after the event and that the long-term remediation role would be for this group to work on.

Board Member Valentine pointed out that there is a linkage. He talked about the long term clean up and management of properties that were affected.

City Planner Anderson stated that Staff will be preparing for a future public input meeting at some point.

Community Development Director Gladhill asked if there were any other issues and stated that Staff would like to go out to a broader public meeting for input. He stated that they followed this process with their Land Use Vision Statement and were able to pull out areas for refinement.

Commissioner Hiatt spoke about the need for a strategy on the conservation of water that includes an educational process for citizens.

Commissioner Bauer stated that he is not sure how aware the community is that down the road we could run out of water.

Board Member Hiatt spoke about the White Bear Lake situation.

Commissioner Bauer spoke about the need to be more proactive in this area.

Chairperson Stodola stated that water conservation has been talked about since he joined the board.

City Planner Anderson stated he is developing a flow chart that he will be bringing to the EPB. It will be a framework to help outline how to proactively educate the community on water resources.

Board Member Bentz stated that he would still like to see a price tag put on water with irrigation water at a different rate than potable water. He thinks the best way to get people's attention is to let them know this is how much water is being used and it's going to cost them this much more. This would take the issue/costs away from the state and concentrate it locally. He stated that everyone needs to know the costs and that everyone is paying for it.

Commissioner Bauer stated that is a good point. He stated that those on their own well are not concerned because they are not paying for the water, but it is costing the community. He talked about making those with their own private well aware of the issue.

City Planner Anderson stated when the topsoil ordinance was adopted there was a discussion about the ordinance being for those on City services or City-wide. The decision was to make it city-wide because citizens are all drawing from the same aquifer.

City Planner Anderson stated that this is a starting point for framing discussions at an upcoming public meeting.

Board Member Bentz asked the Planning Commission if when they get blueprints and layouts, they use modern best management practices for landscaping, lighting, roofing, etc.

Commissioner Bauer answered that they don't get into this with residential developments. The multi-family proposals do need to present this information.

City Planner Anderson stated that this would be another benefit of the Board actively taking part in the review of the land use applications. If an issue is not in the zoning code, it may not be required but there can be advisory comments. If a consistent message is coming forward, then maybe it's time to look at an ordinance amendment.

City Council Liaison LeTourneau suggested looking at what the City can do to set best practice standards for the community to follow.

Community Development Director Gladhill asked if he was talking about City operations.

City Council Liaison LeTourneau answered affirmatively.

Chairperson Levine stated he didn't want to add a lot of cost to proposed projects and that there needs to be a balance.

Chairperson Stodola stated that we could educate developers on the long-term cost savings.

City Planner Anderson stated that looking at if the City can create incentives to encourage some of the techniques to be incorporated into a project could be a goal.

Commissioner Brauer explained points-based zoning that has been adopted by some cities. He stated that if we had a points-based system, developers could be rewarded for green space and less parking.

Commissioner Andrusko asked if the City participates in the Green Steps Program.

City Planner Anderson responded that the EPB did explore the Green Steps Program and brought it forward to the City Council, but it was not fully supported.

Chairperson Stodola stated he thought of the Green Steps Program when City Council Liaison LeTourneau brought up the City establishing best practices standards for the community to follow.

City Planner Anderson stated the Board was proposing the City look at ways to lead by example.

Community Development Directed Gladhill stated that participating in the Green Steps Program was not supported but it can be used as a tool in the background. He stated that City Council members supported some parts of the program but still voted against it.

5.04 Review Presentation on Update of Development Projects

Community Development Director Gladhill provided an update of various private and public construction projects under construction or scheduled to commence construction in 2015 so that Board Members and Commissioners could answer questions from the community. He presented information on new detached single family development household starts; vacant residential lot inventory which is the lowest seen in a number of years; the market outlook for new construction and existing homes; and inspection metrics and additional help brought on to keep up with the metrics. He reported that Stoney River did get occupancy late this year; that the City has finished its initial review and is working on getting revised plans and issuing a building permit from Casey's General Store; the City Council is looking at preliminary plans for a detached single family development for the former Municipal Center site; the Sunwood Village project will be in front of the City Council on May 12; Parkview East first read will be on April 28; and McDonalds does own the site but does not want to open its doors until work on the Armstrong exchange is complete.

Commissioner Brauer stated that the data on household starts is another example of why the Metropolitan Council predictions are wrong.

City Council Liaison Letourneau presented an update on the sale of the Residence of the COR to an investment organization out of Washington. He stated that it was very successful and the City was able to recover its bond investment and interest accrued.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **EAB Informational Meeting – April 30, 2015**

City Planner Anderson reported that Emerald Ash Borer had been identified and confirmed in Anoka County in Ham Lake in late March. There will be a meeting hosted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on April 30th at the Anoka County Activities Center at 6 p.m. The emergency quarantine will be discussed and comments will be accepted on the proposed permanent quarantine.

- **Spring Recycling Day Event Reminder**

City Planner Anderson stated that the spring recycling event will be held May 2nd at the Public Works facility. He stated that information will be on the website and in the newsletter.

- **May EPB Meeting Date**

City Planner Anderson stated there is a conflict with the May 18th meeting. He is seeking to reschedule or cancel. He stated that no land use applications are anticipated for the June Planning Commission meeting.

Chairperson Stodola stated he would be in favor of moving to another date instead of cancelling.

City Planner Anderson suggested May 19th or May 21st. He stated that EPB members can let him know the dates they are available.

City Council Liaison LeTourneau suggested that City Planner Anderson send out an e-mail and let Board Members choose the date.

City Planner Anderson will send an e-mail to the group.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Valentine to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Stodola, Board Member Hiatt, Valentine, Bentz, Bernard, Covart, and Lewis. Voting No: None. Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
City Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Denise Bosch
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

5. 1.

Meeting Date: 05/19/2015**By:** Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Information**Title:**

Review Framework for a Future Citizen Engagement Process Related to the Environmental Protection/Resource Management Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to review the proposed framework for a future public meeting to solicit public input on the Environmental Protection/Resource Management Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. Attached to this case is the general framework that will be used for updating individual chapters of the Comprehensive Plan, including the natural resources chapter. This is a three (3) step process that includes:

1. Scoping Meeting - Ask the community a question and identify prioritized issues and opportunities.
2. Develop Alternatives and Solutions - these are to be developed collaboratively.
3. Agree on Preferred Alternatives and Solutions - develop consensus around results.

Observations/Alternatives:

The City has for several years now been utilizing a collaborative approach that allows the public to identify what the issues are related to a particular topic and then, based on that input, develop alternatives and possible solutions for public consideration. This approach has proven to be very successful and engages the public more so than if the City were to lead with alternatives and solutions.

As part of this case, Staff is seeking input from the Board on an appropriate question to use to 'kick off' this public meeting. Examples of such questions include: 'You are invited to participate in reviewing what, if any, updates to the Environmental Protection/Resource Management Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan are needed' or 'Are natural resources an important asset in the community and should there be provisions to protect them?'

A second component of a successful collaborative session is a resource bank or library or materials for the public to have access to for background information. Staff would plan to have available copies of the Environmental Protection/Resource Management Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan chapter, The Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), the Wetland Functions and Values report, and applicable sections of City Code (Tree Preservation, Topsoil requirement, etc). Staff would appreciate feedback from the Board on any other resources that would be beneficial to have on hand for the public input meeting.

Staff will have to coordinate the timing for this public, collaborative session and would advertise the meeting through the newsletter, website, and likely QCTV. Thus, the meeting likely would not be scheduled until at the earliest, this fall.

Funding Source:

This case is being handled as part of Staff's regular duties.

Action:

Outcomes of this meeting should include direction to Staff on the following:

- What should the question for the public be?
- What additional resources would the Board like to see available for the public meeting?

Attachments

General Citizen Engagement Framework

Preliminary Work Plan for Comprehensive Plan Update Process

Chapter 13 Environmental Protection/Resource Management

Form Review

Inbox

Chris Anderson (Originator)
Form Started By: Chris Anderson
Final Approval Date: 05/14/2015

Reviewed By

Chris Anderson

Date

05/14/2015 04:34 PM
Started On: 05/14/2015 02:04 PM

**CITY OF RAMSEY CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR:
2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
(EACH ELEMENT WILL BE TAILORED TO SPECIFIC ELEMENT NEEDS)**

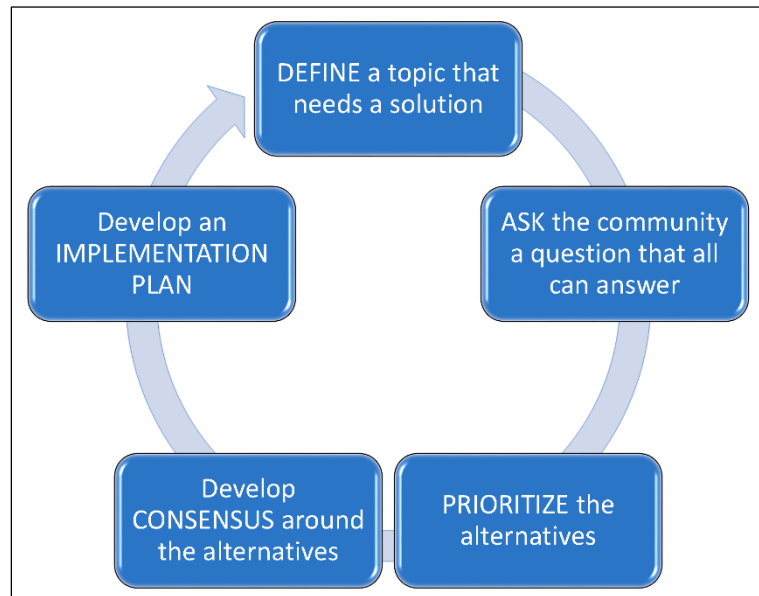
PURPOSE: The intent of this document is to establish a **GENERAL FRAMEWORK** for citizen engagement for the various elements of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.

This has not yet been seen by the Planning Commission nor the City Council.

GENERAL FRAMEWORK

Each individual element/section/chapter of the Comprehensive Plan Update will follow a similar framework for citizen engagement and public input.

Each section will commence by asking the community a question that all can answer. The City will develop alternatives and solutions from the ground up. The City will not lead with alternatives and solutions for the community to react to. Rather, the City will ask the community the broader policy question, compile public input on current conditions and desired goals, then finally develop alternatives and solutions. The alternatives and solutions will first be developed by the community at large, rather than City Council, its advisory boards, and City Staff.



Some previous questions asked or feedback sought include, but are not limited to:

1. What do you want in your back yard?
2. Under what circumstances, if any, would a proposed use be an acceptable use for a City-owned parcel?
3. You are invited to discuss appropriate land uses for 167th Avenue Node at Saint Francis Boulevard.
4. You are invited to discuss a potential future business park.
5. You are invited to participate in the design process for the new Fire Station No. 2.

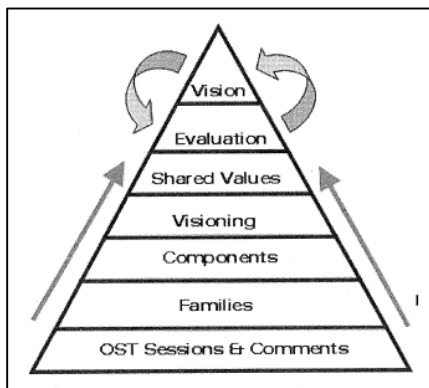
The format will be a three (3) part approach. At times, all three (3) steps may be accomplished in a single session. Other times, these steps may take multiple sessions to complete. The generalized steps include the following:

1. Scoping Meeting – Ask the community the question and identify prioritized issues and opportunities
2. Develop Alternatives and Solutions – these are to be developed collaboratively
3. Agree on Preferred Alternatives and Solutions – develop consensus around results



The intent is not to count a vote on preference of one alternative over another. The intent is to look for common trends and seek consensus around the topic.

The City will start simply ask the policy question without pre-developed alternatives. Participants will develop the discussion topics, agenda and priorities, most notably at the Scoping Meeting. The structure is as follows:

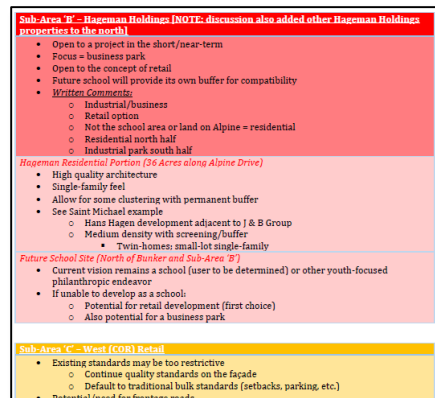


1. Write the topic you would like to discuss on the sheet of paper provided.
2. Say your name, read your topic out loud, and post the topic in one of the time slots noted for the sessions.
3. Convene your topic group at the posted time.
4. Discuss with those present the issues involved.
5. Write down the principles, strategies, and recommendations you have on the topic.
6. If you posted the topic, you are responsible for recording the outcomes in clear, succinct, and legible form. We can only use the input if it is recorded.



It is not the intent to develop revised land use maps, master plans, or site concept maps. It is the intent is to develop guiding principles and goals. These principles and goals may guide the community to changes to our land use vision, but it is not assumed that any structural changes are required.

Samples



MEDIUMS

The City will utilize a variety of mediums beyond traditional 'in-person' meetings, workshops, and open houses. The City recognizes the need to engage its citizens and stakeholders in a variety of ways.

Workshops and Open Houses

The City has utilized a variety of formats of workshops and open houses with great success at the neighborhood and issue-specific level. Regardless of the added mediums to our citizen engagement approach, the City will continue to utilize the existing approach of face-to-face interaction in workshop format. The City will strive to enhance this experience by branching out of City Hall and into other public and shared spaces in the community to reach individual neighborhoods.



Static Kiosks

The City will also provide a kiosk that can be mobilized to various sites around the community. Ideas include 'Pin-A-Map' and Comment Box. These kiosks can be utilized in any number of variety of public events, meetings, and other gatherings. Additionally, these kiosks can be set up in public facilities for display when not used at other events.

1. Ramsey Municipal Center
2. Fire Station
3. Parks (during major events such as Fall Jamboree and Super Soccer Saturday)
4. Quasi-Public Venues (churches, golf courses, etc.)

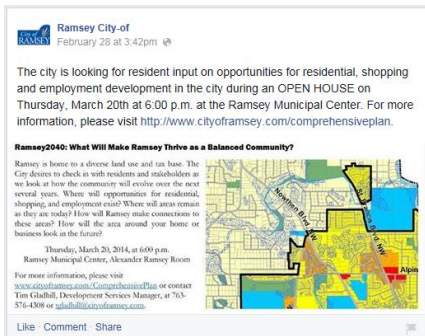


City Events

The City hosts a variety of special events that present a unique opportunity to capture an engaged audience of a large cross-section of our community. The City will utilize kiosks as a means of interaction to discover key 'hot-spots' and trending topics. This medium has been used informally at Happy Days and Business Expo, providing important feedback and topics.

1. Happy Days
2. Business Expo
3. The Draw Summer Event Series
4. Business Appreciation Day
5. Business Networking Event
6. Fire Department Open House
7. Pet Clinic

Social Media and Online Presence

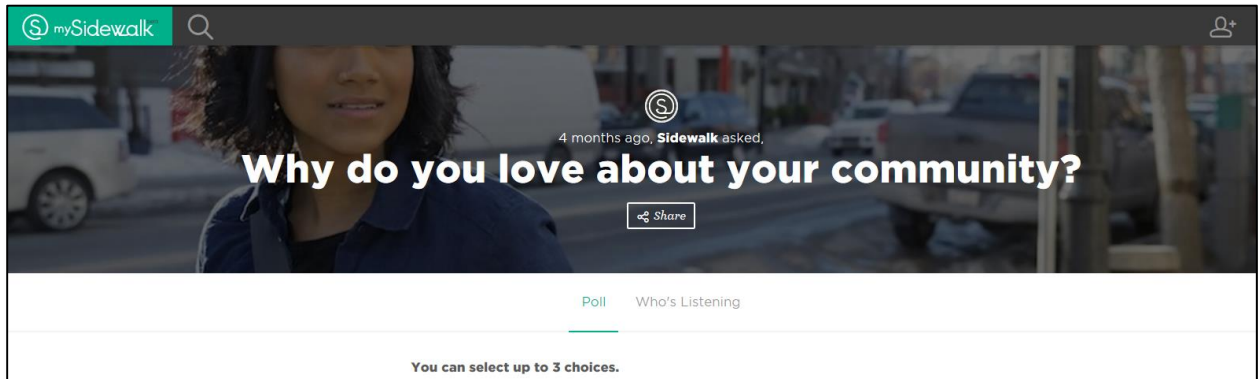


Social Media is an ever growing means for individuals and the community to interact. The City will utilize social media where appropriate to supplement the other forms of face-to-face interaction to broaden its interaction with the community. The City will explore free social media options such as Facebook and Twitter. These are good options to consider, as they are free and widely utilized. The cost to the City would be the time and resources needed to compile and present the data and results. The City recently used Facebook to ask the community a question about parks in The COR leading up to an in-person workshop. The intent was more to advertise for the event,

but the community did have to opportunity to comment on the Facebook post. The City ultimately received a larger number of ideas and feedback from the Facebook post than it did from the in-person workshop. The City not only gained insight on park-planning in The COR, but other ideas for desired uses for areas surrounding the area parks. The City was able to capture valuable feedback for little effort.

The City is also exploring the use of other software vendors for online engagement. Some are a 'fee for service' options while others are a free option. Any option would need to follow the preferred structure of the Citizen Engagement Framework by asking the community a question that all can answer, and then displaying trend data and priorities. These options would be used for the ability for the system to automatically compile and

display results and trend data, thus reducing Staff time in data compilation when compared to the Facebook and Twitter options.



**CITY OF RAMSEY PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN FOR:
2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
(DETAILED WORK PLANS TO BE DEVELOPED IN FUTURE STEPS)**

PURPOSE: The intent of this document is to BEGIN discussions on developing a Work Plan for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.

What story does Ramsey want to tell?

This HAS been seen by the Planning Commission and recommendations from the Commission have been included. This has NOT been seen yet by the City Council.

This step is not intended to approve a work plan, nor authorize work to begin on updating the current 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Furthermore, acceptance of this preliminary/initial work plan does not indicate adoption or support of any component of the Comprehensive Plan or regional planning document of the Metropolitan Council. Due to the number of required elements and statutory deadlines, it will be important to plan for a workable, cost-effective work plan to accomplish the minimum necessary elements. This document is NOT a finished product and will evolve throughout the process. The City is required to update its Comprehensive Plan once every ten (10) years.

At the end of 2015, the Metropolitan Council will have completed updates to Regional System Plans (Water Resources, Transportation, Parks, and Housing). Information will then be compiled at the local, individual community level in the form of a System Statement. The System Statement is the official kick off to the required Comprehensive Plan Update for the City of Ramsey. This Work Plan is anticipated to be a 12-24 month process with periodic check-ins as needed.

The Work Plan is divided into several logical categories. Specific outcomes are not identified in this work plan, but a framework to complete the necessary steps. Based on feedback from the previous 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important to start planning for citizen engagement and plan development early in the process in order to meet statutory deadlines.

This work planning will be key for budget planning purposes for the years 2016-2018 in order to identify benchmarks and required resources to complete.

Sometimes, each step can be accomplished in a single meeting. Others may take several meetings to complete. Likewise, a single meeting may accomplish multiple elements. Once general consensus is achieved, or at least as close to full consensus as possible, each individual end product will proceed through City advisory board review and then City Council adoption.

Each 'Element is likely to have several steps and is anticipated to commence with citizen engagement before developing alternatives or products.

The broad steps include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Ask the community the policy question
2. Identify Issues and Opportunities
3. Develop Alternatives
4. Seek Consensus on End Product

The intent of this work plan is to divide the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update into smaller, manageable tasks that will maximize the opportunity for public input.

KEY MILESTONES:

- Fall 2015: System Statements Distributed: Comprehensive Plan Update Begins
- December 31, 2018: Comprehensive Plan Updates must be adopted

Public Element #1#2: VISION, VALUES, AND GOALS (including BACKGROUND & PURPOSE)
[Required Element] – NOTE: The order of the first two (2) elements have been swapped from the original version of this document.

Desired Outcome: Review and Amend if Desired Vision, Values, and Goals Chapter from the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Should the City update its land use vision, values, and goals?
What do you want in your back yard?

Review of End Product:

- Economic Development Authority
- Environmental Policy Board
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Charter Commission
- Public Works Committee
- Planning Commission
- City Council

NOTE: Element #1 should be completed before Element #2.

Element #2#1: REGIONAL SYSTEM PLANS – NOTE: The order of the first two (2) elements have been swapped from the original version of this document.

Desired Outcome: Review Regional System Plans and City of Ramsey System Statement prepared by the Metropolitan Council. The intent of this step is to establish a framework and identify the question being asked of the community with this update:

“What is the future land use vision for the City of Ramsey through the year 2040?”

Additionally, this is an important step in identifying for the community why the City is updating the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Furthermore, this forum will identify what a Comprehensive Plan is and the benefit it provides to the community.

The City will consider inviting our Metropolitan Council Member and Sector Representative to assist in the intro, explain why we are here, discussion regional policies, and value of planning.

NOTE: Element #2 should be completed before Element #3.

Element #3: LAND USE PLAN CHECK-IN #1 (DEVELOP FUTURE LAND USE MAP – THIS WILL BE CONTINUALLY/ITERATIVELY REVIEWED AT EACH STAGE) **[Required Element]**

Desired Outcome: Review and update current Future Land Use Map. NOTE: the City did hold an initial forum in 2014 and as able to gather initial feedback. The City will utilize a variety of forums to seek feedback on this map over the next 12-24 months.

What changes, if any, should the City make to its future land use map?
What do you want in your back yard?

The following smaller geographic areas need to be addressed as part of the overall Land Use Plan:

- Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA)
- Closed Landfill Land Use Plan
- South of Highway 10
- Highway 10 Access Planning Study Impacted Parcels

Review of End Product:

- Economic Development Authority
- Environmental Policy Board
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- City Council

NOTE: Element #3 should be completed before Elements #4 through #84.

Elements #4 through #8 can run concurrently if desired, with specific working groups with expertise and desire in specific topical categories.

Element #4: TRANSPORTATION PLAN [Required Element]

Desired Outcome: Review and Amend/Update the Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.

What transportation infrastructure is necessary for Ramsey?

At minimum, the following factors need to be acknowledged in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update:

1. Armstrong Boulevard Interchange Design
2. US Highway 10 Access Planning Study

Review of End Product:

1. Economic Development Authority
2. Planning Commission
3. Public Works Committee
4. City Council

The City will consider inviting a representative from the Metropolitan Council Transportation Services Division and MnDOT to review the end product. As this is identified as one of the two (2) key regional policy issues for the community, the City will also invite our Metropolitan Council Member and Sector Representative for this element.

This item is connected to the City's Legislative Platform.

Element #5: WATER RESOURCES PLAN [Required Element]

Desired Outcome: Review and Amend/Update the Water Resources Plan. Components of this plan include:

How should Ramsey provide water to its residents?

1. Ground Water Supply (private and municipal)
2. Wastewater Treatment (private septic and regional sanitary sewer)
3. Surface Water

Review of End Product:

1. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [advisory only as implementing agency for public wells]
2. Minnesota Department of Health [advisory only as implementing agency for private wells]
3. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency [advisory only as implementing agency for private septic systems]
4. Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization [implementing agency for surface water and erosion control management]
5. Environmental Policy Board
6. Planning Commission
7. Public Works Committee
8. City Council

This element will require a high degree of interagency coordination (City, DNR, and Metropolitan Council). As this is identified as one of the two (2) key regional priorities for the community, the City will also invite our Metropolitan Council Member and Sector Representative.

This item is connected to the City's Legislative Platform.

Element #6: PARKS PLAN [Required Element]

Desired Outcome: Develop Comprehensive Parks Plan with metrics and financial forecasts based on the existing Master Parks and Trails Map.

What improvements to our parks and trail system would you like to see?

Review of End Product:

1. Anoka County Parks Department [advisory only as implementing agency for regional parks]
2. Parks and Recreation Commission
3. Planning Commission
4. City Council

4. The City will consider inviting a representative from the Metropolitan Council Parks Staff to review the end product.

Element #7: HOUSING PLAN [Required Element]

Desired Outcome: Review and update Housing Plan (developed 2006) and Housing Assistance Policy (developed 2014) and consolidate.

Review of End Product:

1. Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority [advisory only]
2. Economic Development Authority
3. Planning Commission
4. City Council

4. The City will consider inviting a representative from the Metropolitan Council Housing Staff to review the end product.

Element #8: NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN [Required Element]

Desired Outcome: Review and update if necessary the Natural Resources Chapter of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. At the core of this chapter is an inventory of high-quality natural resources used for advisory purposes.

This will also include the required land use plan for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area.

Review of End Product:

1. Environmental Policy Board
2. Planning Commission
3. City Council

The following are optional elements of the Comprehensive Plan:

Element #9: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Review of End Product:

1. Economic Development Authority
2. Planning Commission
3. City Council

Element #10: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

Review of End Product

1. Environmental Policy Board
2. Economic Development Authority
3. Parks and Recreation Commission
4. Charter Commission
5. Planning Commission
6. Public Works Committee
7. City Council

Element #11: REDEVELOPMENT AREAS

Desired Outcome: This would be an appropriate chapter to discuss the three (3) small area plans currently under development:

1. 167/47 Retail Node
2. Future Business Park West of Armstrong
3. Old Municipal Center

Review of End Product:

1. Economic Development Authority
2. Planning Commission
3. City Council

The following are miscellaneous chapters from the 2030 Comprehensive Plan (some of these elements 'live' within other elements above):

1. Community Identity
2. Public Facilities

Element #12 (REVIEW OF ELEMENT #3): LAND USE PLAN CHECK-IN #2 (DEVELOP FUTURE LAND USE MAP – THIS WILL BE CONTINUALLY/ITERATIVELY REVIEWED AT EACH STAGE) [Required Element]

Desired Outcome: Review and update current Future Land Use Map. NOTE: the City did hold an initial forum in 2014 and as able to gather initial feedback. The City will utilize a variety of forums to seek feedback on this map over the next 12-24 months.

The following smaller geographic areas need to be addressed as part of the overall Land Use Plan:

- Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA)
- Closed Landfill Land Use Plan
- South of Highway 10
- Highway 10 Access Planning Study Impacted Parcels

Review of End Product:

- Economic Development Authority
- Environmental Policy Board
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- City Council

Modeling 'What-If' Scenarios

Model alternate forecasts based on the following assumptions (two alternative forecast scenarios):

- No improvements to Highway 10
- No solution to groundwater supply issues/surface water supply study

13. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION/ RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A. Existing Conditions

Ramsey is fortunate to have an ample amount of natural resources and open space areas and a community attitude that is increasingly concerned about the environment. The inventory of natural resources and open spaces include a variety of wetlands, woodlands, farmlands, parkland and two golf courses. Many native plants and trees are evident in the community. Early settlers cleared much of the land for farming in the early settlement days, but since then residential development has been the main force behind the loss of native vegetation allowing for the introduction of new species into the Ramsey community. The following is a limited description of the natural features and their characteristics that can be found in the Ramsey community and surrounding areas of the Anoka Sandplain. This inventory includes information that has been gathered at a regional level including sources such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of Natural Resources, U. S. Army Corp of Engineering, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Metropolitan Council and other federal, state and regional resources. Information has also been obtained by local studies conducted by the City of Ramsey.

1. Wetlands

The City of Ramsey has an abundance of wetlands in a variety of wetland types. The following inventory includes two sources of data: the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and the DNR’s Protected Waters Map (see Figure 13-1). The National Wetland Inventory put together by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers includes a more thorough inventory of land areas that have an impact on maintaining and enhancing the quality of the water. Table 13-1 represents the wetland types as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services that can be found in the City of Ramsey.

Table 13-1 NWI Wetland types found in the City of Ramsey

Wetland Type	Wetland Description
Type 1	Floodplain Forest and Seasonally-Flooded Basin
Type 2	Wet Meadow or Prairie
Type 3	Shallow Marsh
Type 4	Deep Marsh
Type 5	Open Water (Pond)
Type 6	Scrub Shrub Swamp
Type 7	Wooded Swamp

The Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) of 1991 outlined a program for the conservation of wetlands. The WCA is directed through the Minnesota Board of

Water and Soil Resources (MBWSR) with the DNR acting as the enforcement agency. The Act places implementation responsibilities in Local Units of Government. The Local Unit of Government that monitors wetland activities in the City of Ramsey is the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization. The DNR’s inventory includes those wetlands that are classified as Type 3, 4, or 5 of the NWI. Figure 13-1 illustrates the City of Ramsey’s wetlands.

2. Shorelands

The City has several lakes and marshes that are classified as part of the shoreland management program. The following table highlights the various shorelands in Ramsey:

Table 13-2 Shorelands of the Ramsey Shoreland Overlay District

Natural Environment Lakes	Recreational Development Lakes	General Development Lakes	General Development Streams
Shack Eddy	Jeglens Marsh	Ramsey Terrace	Trott Brook (part)
Itasca	Peltzer	Magnesium Street	Ford Brook (part)
Rogers	Grass (Sunfish)	Industry Avenue	

3. Soils

The predominant soil types in Ramsey consist of the Hubbard–Nymore Association. These soils are nearly level to gently sloping, excessively drained soils that are sandy throughout. This association is well suited to most urban uses and is moderately well suited to farming and to recreational uses. This soil type is mostly found in the central and southern portions of the City while in the northeast part of the City the Zimmerman-Isanti-Lino Association is prominent. This soil association is also dominated by sandy soil conditions, is well suited to urban uses and moderately well suited to farming. The dominant soils of these associations include Hubbard, Nymore, Zimmerman and Isanti. Some of the sub-soils include Markey, Rifle, Dickman, Anoka, Duelm and Becker. A complete inventory map of Anoka County including the City of Ramsey can be found in the Soil Survey of Anoka County found at City Hall or Anoka County Surveyors office.

4. Rivers, Urban Streams and Drainage Ditches

The Mississippi River forms the southern border of Ramsey and one of its tributaries, the Rum River, forms the eastern border. These two rivers are the drainage basins for the entire City. Much of southern Ramsey is part of the Mississippi River Watershed. The northern and central portions of the City are located in the Lower Rum River Watershed. Trott Brook and Ford Brook are two main ditches in a series of county ditches that provide drainage ways through the northern portion of the City and drain into the Rum River.

5. Floodplains

A good portion of the Cities natural resources are located within designated floodway

or floodplain areas. Floodplain areas can be found along Trott Brook, Ford Brook, many of the drainage ditches and wetlands within the community and the Mississippi and Rum Rivers. Characteristics of floodplains include mucky soils that are poorly drained and seasonally flooded and wetland vegetation. Often, floodplains are used for agriculture purposes because of the high nutrient and organic soils that are unsuitable to development.

6. Woodlands

The City of Ramsey conducted tree inventories in 1979 and again in 1992. These inventories indicate a predominance of bur oak, box elder and red oak. The area was originally higher in oak species; however, clear-cutting for agriculture greatly reduced tree cover. Also the oak population is suffering from oak wilt, which has been increasing in recent years. In addition to disease, residential development has reduced much of the wooded population. As the older tree population begins to die off or be removed, new species are introduced. These species are not very well documented. The City of Ramsey has been designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a member of Tree City USA since roughly 1986.

7. Natural Resources Inventory

In 2007, the City completed a Natural Resources Inventory to collect and evaluate information on the natural resources of Ramsey. This document also described potential strategies for the protection of these resources. Figure 13-3 shows the existing natural areas in Ramsey and their ranking.

8. Existing Management Efforts

The following programs are currently being implemented by the City of Ramsey to protect the natural resource base:

The Shoreland Management Program provides orderly development of the shoreland and protects lakes and rivers from pollution by individual sewage treatment systems and other non-point sources. The intent of the program is to encourage development of our shorelands in such a way that the water quality is enhanced and the scenic resources are preserved.

The Floodplain Management Program is intended to minimize the threat to life and property resulting from flooding. This program restricts development in floodplains by preventing structures from being built at too low an elevation in areas that have a high risk of flooding. It also controls encroachment so that the floodplain's capacity to hold floodwater will not be reduced, causing flooding to properly located structures.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Program is a program to preserve and protect rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, natural, historical and scientific values. The program is designed to prevent damage to these exceptional rivers caused by intensive development and recreational overuse. Both the Mississippi and Rum Rivers are protected under the Wild and Scenic River's Act. The Mississippi River is designated as a "recreational" river through the City of Ramsey while the Rum River is designated as "scenic."

The Critical Areas Act is a program to protect areas, which are of significant regional or statewide public value or interest. The program is designed to protect, preserve and enhance a unique and valuable resource; its biological and ecological functions; its natural, aesthetic, cultural and historical values; and its significance to the transportation, sewer and water and recreational systems for the benefit of the citizens of the state, region and nation. It is also to prevent and mitigate irreversible damage resulting from urbanization. The Mississippi River is designated as a State Critical Area through Ramsey.

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Program is a program that furthers the intent of the Critical Areas Act by emphasizing the preservation and enhancement of the historical, scenic, recreational and cultural values of the Mississippi River Corridor. The program is designed to assist and coordinate from a national, regional and local level, activities and projects that emphasize such things as historic/cultural interpretation, public access or native vegetation restoration.

The American Heritage Rivers Program is intended to improve access to federal expertise and resources for riverfront revitalization. The Mississippi River through the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area received designation as an American Heritage River in 1998.

The City Forester and Recycling Coordinator are staff persons hired by the City to provide assistance to residents and business with tree care and recycling needs. The recycling program is funded through Anoka County Integrated Waste Management, while the City Forester is funded through the City. Citizen volunteer groups also contribute to tree preservation and recycling efforts.

Monitoring of Public Wells. As a condition of the approval of Well #8, the latest municipal well to be constructed in the City of Ramsey, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the City of Ramsey began an initiative to monitor the effects of city wells on nearby wetlands and surface water. The purpose of this initiative was the result of concerns by the DNR of using a single aquifer that may result in depleting the resource and possibly lowering the water table. In addition, the City is studying the possibility of using surface water from the Mississippi River as a source for municipal water.

B. A Plan for Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Management

A very important piece to the vitality of the Ramsey community is the protection, preservation and restoration of the native vegetation that covers the community. The following goals and implementation strategies are intended to act as a framework for environmental protection.

1. Natural resources are protected

STRATEGIES:

- a) Identify and prioritize natural areas in the City based on the Natural resource Inventory (NRI)
- b) Use cluster ordinances, density credits, and conservation development practices to minimize impact on identified natural resources
- c) Explore ways to put an economic value on habitat and other natural areas
- d) Provide incentives to homeowners for the permanent protection of high-value natural resource areas
- e) Establish a revenue stream dedicated to the permanent protection of natural resource areas such as a dedicated City tax enacted through referendum
- f) Manage invasive species and promote the use and protection of native species for private and public development
- g) Develop educational materials, such as kiosks, Ramsey Resident article, and maps to inform public about the value of natural resources

2. Recreation opportunities are integrated into protected natural areas

STRATEGIES:

- a) Coordinate protection and enhancement of natural corridors with neighboring communities
- b) Develop a suitability analysis method for reviewing new development that measures both environmental suitability and efficiency of infrastructure use
- c) Prioritize the preservation of large, contiguous natural areas (greenways) that provide the greatest opportunities for animal and plant habitat, as well as a contiguous trail system

3. Clean water and clean air for the current and future generations of Ramsey citizens and businesses

STRATEGIES:

- a) Preserve existing tree canopy and promote additional tree planting in new development, both public and private
- b) Explore options other than ground water for municipal water supply
- c) Manage stormwater on site by using alternative stormwater treatment systems, as described in the Storm Water Management Plan
- d) Monitor the quality and quantity of groundwater in aquifers and adopt measures to ensure long-term sustainability
- e) Seek out alliances and partnerships with non-profit and governmental agencies to assist in securing funding and other resources to assist in achieving this goal
- f) Continue to participate in the North Metro Water Supply Group organized by the Metropolitan Council

4. Reduce waste that goes to the landfill from both private and public sources

STRATEGIES:

- a) Continue to improve upon the City's award-winning recycling program
- b) Seek out alliances and partnerships with non-profit and governmental agencies to assist in securing funding and other resources to assist in implementing this goal
- c) Develop educational materials, kiosks, Ramsey Resident articles and maps to inform public about the value of natural resources

C. Implementation Strategies

The following strategies are a suggested means to achieving the goals set forth in the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Management element of the Comprehensive Plan.

1. Data and Information inventory

A critical step in being able to implement an Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Management plan is to have information that can be analyzed. Such information might include native species, rare habitat, wetlands, soils, diseased areas, septic system problems or other significant natural resource information. Much of this data is already available from federal, state, county or local agencies: however, this data is often outdated, in a variety of different formats (which makes analysis difficult) or too general to provide analysis information. With advances in modern technology, federal, regional and local governments have been able to provide information in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) making data management and information analysis much more feasible and cost effective. The financial ability to establish such a comprehensive inventory could be made possible through supportive funding by the City in partnership with such agencies as the DNR, Office of Environmental Assistance, Department of Agriculture, private foundations and local businesses. Significant research and grant writing would be involved in securing funding for such an analysis and inventory. A critical element of building an inventory of data is having a database that can manage it and allow easy cost effective retrieval and analysis.

2. The Greenway

Greenway corridors mainly include natural resources such as wetlands, hydric soils, tree canopy, natural vegetation, and unique wildlife habitat. It also includes some lands that may not be environmentally unique but instead simply create a link between other open space areas such as parks or wetlands. Some of the elements within greenways are protected through ordinance or other legal means, while others are not. These corridors may be environmentally sensitive areas, which allow for protection of water quality, wildlife movement, scenic views, and a continuous trail system. The intent of the Greenway is not to prohibit development within this corridor but rather to preserve the existing resource base and return areas to their natural state where possible.

The corridor boundary reflecting the Greenway is not a fixed boundary line. This boundary is intended to reflect general (broad) areas that may fall within the Greenway designation, and should send a message to the developers of lands near or obviously within the greenway to develop in the highest environmentally sensitive way possible.

Implementation of the greenway could be handled in a couple of ways. It could be implemented by creating an overlay-zoning ordinance that simply places a layer of regulation over existing zoning districts. This overlay would not replace existing environmental overlay ordinances nor would it be intended to further restrict areas already regulated by existing ordinances rather it would guide development in areas that are not covered by existing environmental ordinances. If the overlay ordinance is the preferred choice of implementation, a more defined boundary should be

established through more site-specific analysis including field study. The other, and less controlling approach, is to refer to the greenway as voluntary means to preserve the environment and create high quality places to live. This could be done through park dedication, conservation easements or clustering housing techniques that can provide incentives to developers to preserve areas that are not otherwise protected by ordinance. This would be handled through the subdivision and site planning process.

3. Scenic Roadways

Some stretches of roadway in Ramsey provide opportunities for scenic vistas that preserve the rural character of the community. An overlay district that designates roadways as having significant scenic values would apply design and planning principles to preserve the rural character of the community. Such principles might include setback criteria, landscaping guidelines, roadway improvement standards or sign regulations.

4. Land Protection Tools

Many tools are available for efforts to protect areas of significant natural resources. These efforts are summarized in many publications one of which is a publication by the Minnesota DNR Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program “*Natural Areas: Protecting a Vital Community Asset.*” For extensive information about open space preservation tools and techniques, the City should consult organizations such as the Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, The Minnesota Land Trust, The Urban Land Institute and many others. The following is a brief explanation of some of the tools and strategies available:

a) Open-space zoning or cluster zoning

The purpose for establishing an open-space or cluster zoning district is to direct development in an effort to preserve large amounts of contiguous open space and protect natural resources that otherwise may be destroyed. These zoning techniques do not reduce overall density rather they simply transfer density from desired preservation areas to development areas. This way, private property owners are granted the reasonable economic use of their property without negatively impacting the remaining natural or open space areas that the community strongly desires. Residential developments would be clustered together in effort to minimize street and utility construction needs and to systematically provide contiguous open space areas.

Primary components of open-space or cluster zoning

- Smaller lot sizes, street widths, or setbacks in effort to maintain an overall density on a portion of the site that otherwise would be spread over an entire site.
- The developer would be required to preserve a percentage of the land within the development as *permanent open space* by placing the land in a permanent conservation easement or other land preservation tool such as dedication to the City.
- Identification of preservation areas on a community-wide basis, such as the greenway corridor, Wild and Scenic Rivers Area or Mississippi River Critical Area.

b) Conservation Easements

Conservation easements are the voluntary transfer of specified development and land use rights from a landowner to a qualifying organization such as a public body or non-profit agency. Conservation easements can be in the form of permanent easements (lasting forever) or “term” easements (lasting for a period of time at which the land use may be changed). Conservation easements in Ramsey should be used to protect natural resources or to permanently preserve areas of the greenway corridor.

c) Transfer of Development Rights

Transfer of development rights allows landowners who may wish to preserve their lands to still receive a profit from the sale of development rights. The purchaser of the development rights would then be able to develop at greater densities. This technique requires the community to establish (on a community wide basis) sending zones, which are areas the community wishes to preserve and receiving zones, which are areas that are most easily served by utilities and are the most logical growth expansion areas. Examples of sending zones may include lands within the greenway corridor, lands identified as containing significant natural resources or lands within the Mississippi River Critical Area corridor. Receiving zones may be located where utilities are readily available or could be easily extended or possibly within the existing MUSA area.

d) Purchase of Development Rights

Purchase of development rights (PDR) operates basically the same way as in the TDR program except instead of transferring development rights the development rights are basically retired or lost. Development rights are typically purchased by the government or non-profit organizations and the land is put into a permanent conservation easement. This program is more of a tool to reduce total growth and can potentially lead to sprawl or leap frog development when areas adjacent to urban services lose their development rights. This program should be used carefully. Residential lands within the Mississippi River Critical Area may be good candidates for the PDR program.

e) Preferential Taxation

Preferential taxation can be used to protect wetlands, agricultural lands or open space. Several of these programs currently exist such as the Agricultural Preserves and Green Acres program, which provide tax breaks for agricultural uses and the Wetland Tax Exemption program which exempts wetland areas from property tax assessments. The purpose for preferential taxation programs is to level the playing field by acknowledging the land’s actual use rather than a market value based approach on uses to which the landowner has no intention of putting the land.

f) Property Acquisition

Property acquisition is probably the simplest form of open space preservation to understand in that it simply means the public buys the land. This technique gives the public control over the use of the property; however, this technique can be very expensive and may not always enjoy strong public support.

g) Land Banking

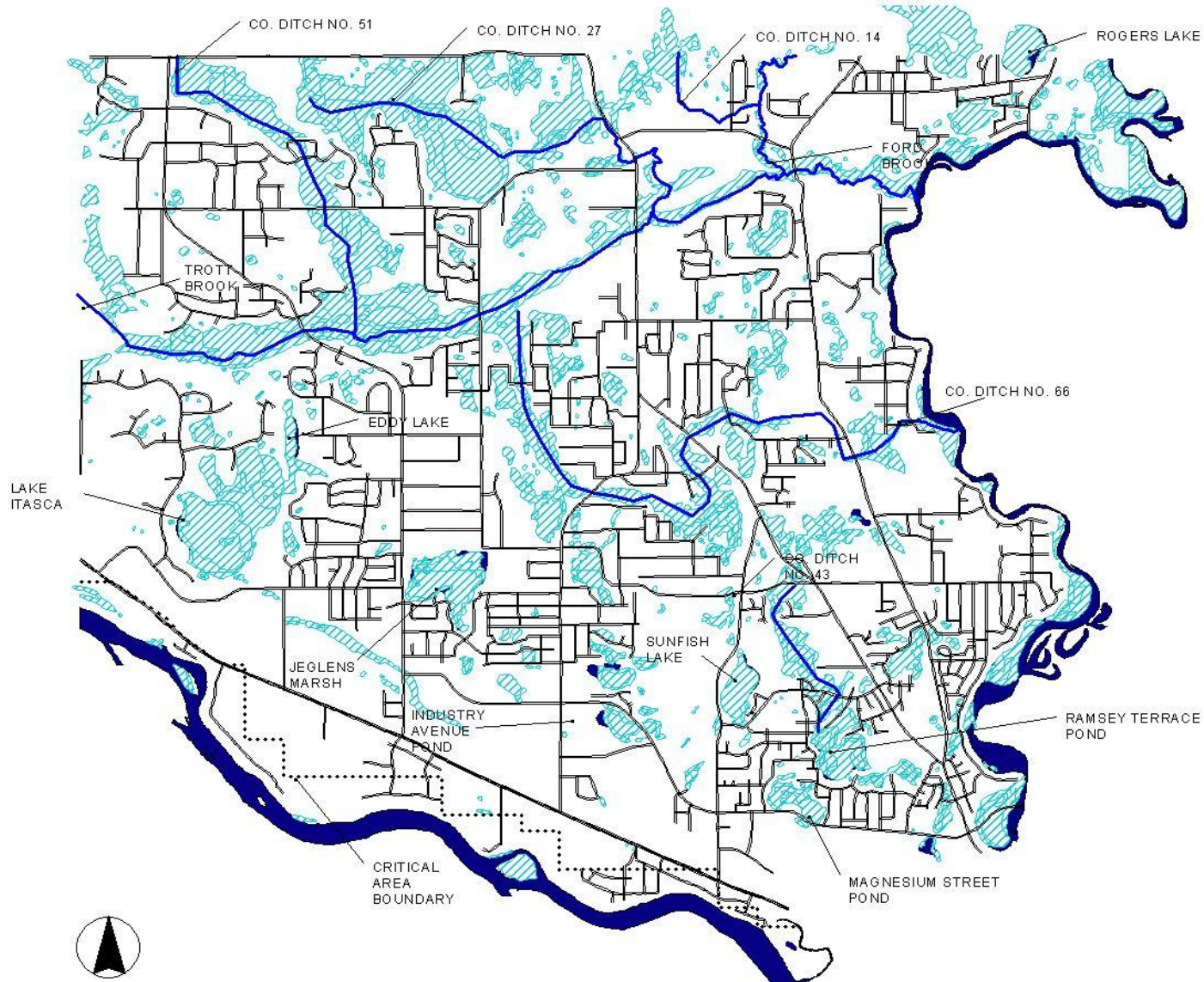
This is a tool similar to property acquisition where the public (City of Ramsey) purchases the land before it is ready to develop. When the area is ready to develop, the City can sell the land with restrictions that preserve open space or limit development. This technique may also be referred to as advanced acquisition.

D. Funding Sources

One of the key obstacles to utilizing some of the tools described above is adequate funding. The following is a list of potential funding sources for implementation of the above-mentioned programs.

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- National Park Service
- Metropolitan Council
- Minnesota Land Trust
- Trust for Public Lands
- 1,000 Friends of Minnesota
- City referendum
- Park dedication from development

Figure 13-1 Wetlands (NWI and DNR Protected Waters) and Natural Drainage



City of Ramsey



Environmental Features

Updated February 26, 2002

Legend

- Critical Area Boundary
- Drainage Ditch
- National Wetland Inventory
- Protected Waters Inventory (DNR)

Data Sources: Anoka County GIS,
 Anoka County Assessor,
 Metro GIS, LMIC, City of Ramsey



Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc.
 Map Created 11/14/02 by the City of Ramsey

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Meeting Date: 05/19/2015

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Information

Title:

Consider Topic and Process for Focused Education Campaign

Purpose/Background:

Earlier this year, the Board discussed the desire to develop an education campaign that focused on one or possibly two items. Once the topic(s) was identified, the message and the mediums to deliver that message could be developed. The purpose of this case is consider a potential topic for a concentrated education campaign.

Observations/Alternatives:

The City's 2015 Legislative Platform, which was adopted earlier this year, identifies two (2) primary issues: transportation and water supply. There are multiple facets to water supply, but generally speaking, this topic correlates well with the mission of the EPB. Considering that this is part of the City's Legislative Platform, Staff thought it was appropriate to consider Water Resources as the focal point of an education campaign.

Attached to this case are exhibits that outline how this general topic could be broken down into more specific sub-topics. Educational pieces could then be developed on each of the sub-topics. Note that the attached exhibits are in draft format and could be revised if the Board so desired.

If the Board is comfortable with Water Resources as a topic and the general breakdown of sub-topics, then Staff will develop an outline(s) for sub-topics. The outline(s) would establish the mediums used to convey the message (e.g. newsletter, website, community events, etc.), potential timelines for content development and content dissemination. The development of specific content can be completed by Staff or through a sub-committee of the EPB, or a combination of both as had been discussed previously.

Staff acknowledges that this deviates from the discussion in March in which Board Members were going to submit ideas or topics for consideration. While that could still be a possibility, Staff wanted to present this alternative to the Board for consideration as it fits within the City's current Legislative Platform.

Action:

Develop consensus to focus an education campaign on Water Resources or identify an alternative topic or two and approve the general process outline provided in this case (regardless of topic).

Attachments

Education Campaign Process

Suggested Topics from Board Members

Form Review

Inbox

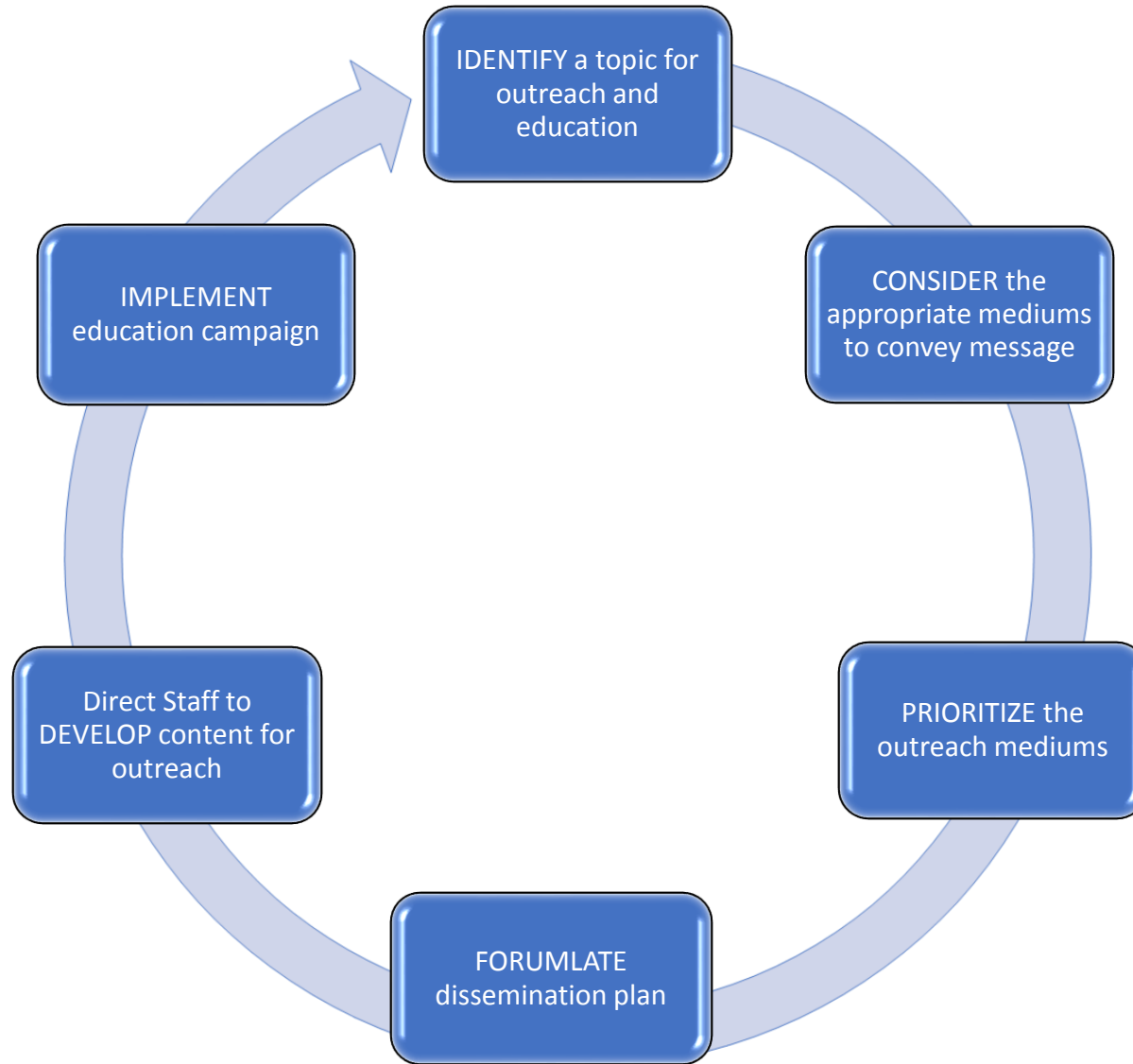
Chris Anderson (Originator)
Form Started By: Chris Anderson
Final Approval Date: 05/14/2015

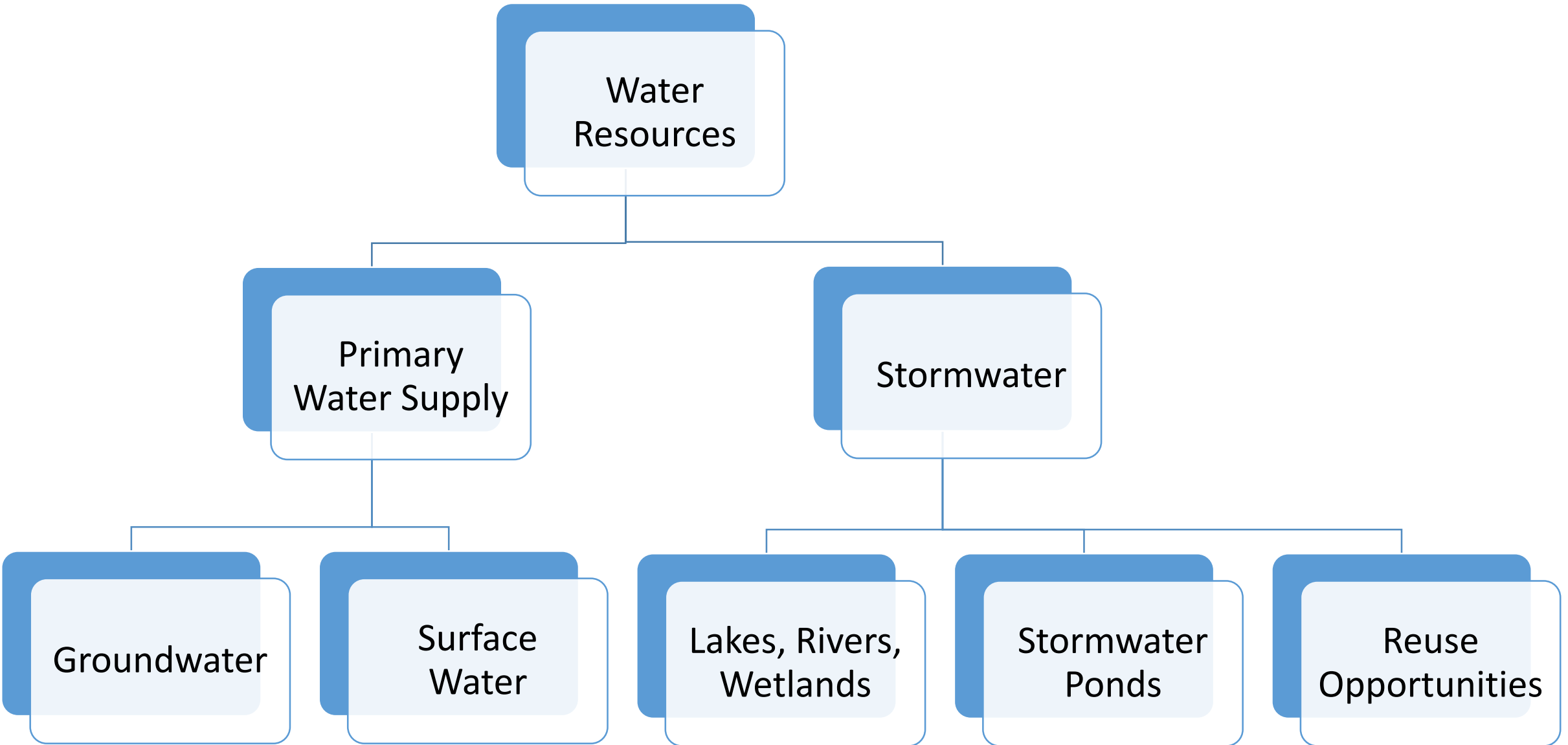
Reviewed By

Chris Anderson

Date

05/14/2015 04:33 PM
Started On: 05/14/2015 03:02 PM





Primary Water Supply

Groundwater



- What is it?
- Where does it come from?
- How does it get replenished?

Surface Water



- Mississippi River
- Water treatment
- _____

Stormwater

Lakes, Rivers, Wetlands



Purpose and function

Quality

Actions to help protect

Stormwater Ponds



Function (treatment)

Aesthetics

To Treat or Not?

Reuse Opportunities



Small scale (residential)

Large Scale (commercial)

Examples/Ideas

Suggested Topics Received from Board Members

- Still would prefer a leaf, raindrop, logo on City's web page to get to the EPB area with one click. Digging through the menus isn't doing us any favors.
- Methods to keep water out of the storm drains and sewers, encourage infiltration:
 - Swales, french drains on steep slopes to keep water from reaching the streets
 - Any new septic tank or drain field methods
 - Raingardens
 - Topsoil
 - Graywater
- Advertise in newsletter, QCTV xeriscaping methods and natural / native landscapes
 - Tree or shrub of the month in the newsletter, maybe a picture, why it fits in Ramsey
 - Types of hardy, drought tolerant grasses that do well here with minimal irrigation
 - Publish Mr. Riverblood's study on topsoil in a resident friendly manner in the newsletter
- Help spread the word the County's efforts (year of the bird 2015)
- Obtain the Outreach septic tank care presentation and have it available locally, along with the well water. They have had annual presentations for years and I still haven't been able to attend one...
 - As an example, not to do all your laundry on the same day if you are on a septic system. You may not have enough solids settling time and the solids may move through the system creating blockages. Or why/why not using the Rid-X...
- May have an interest in LED lighting for residents. I don't know if Connexus or some green groups or Feit may have some energy saving calculation spreadsheets to plug in costs, run-time, utility costs, etc. Similar to the article reviewed at the last meeting, how the company determined their savings.
- Perhaps a challenge to turn out the lights at night. Not security lighting but signs, landscaping lights, building lights, billboards, etc. As many companies already have security systems to lower insurance premiums, and most use IR to see in the dark, many building lights should be able to be turned off. Especially multi-level buildings, second floor and up? Dark skies?
- Still like to encourage the Monarch Highway, planting milkweed in corridors. The Monarch's follow Highway 35, so we are along their route...