

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

On Monday, September 21, 2020, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Council Chambers at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Valentine
 Board Member Reid Bernard
 Board Member Melissa Fetterley
 Board Member Michael Hiatt
 Board Member Jared Little
 Board Member Laura Moore

Members Absent: Board Member Jane Covart

Also Present: City Planner Chris Anderson
 City Councilmember Jeff Menth

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Moore	aye
Board Member Hiatt	aye
Board Member Little	aye
Board Member Fetterley	aye
Board Member Bernard	aye
Chairperson Valentine	aye

Motion carried.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated August 17, 2020

Motion by Board Member Little and seconded by Board Member Fetterley to approve the regular meeting minutes dated August 17, 2020.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Bernard	aye
Board Member Fetterley	aye
Board Member Little	aye
Board Member Hiatt	aye
Board Member Moore	aye
Chairperson Valentine	aye

Motion carried.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Recycling Programming for 2021

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that each year the City receives SCORE funding for the recycling program through Anoka County. Ramsey's allotted base funding for 2021 is \$57,990 but there is also an opportunity to request additional funding for various uses. The other categories include Drop-Off programming, General Enhancement, and Organics. The purpose of this case is to provide the EPB an opportunity to discuss and/or identify new programming opportunities and potential enhancements to the City's recycling program. Anoka County has provided more detailed documentation that needs to accommodate the funding request, which is due by September 30, 2020.

Board Member Hiatt stated that there appears to be an evolution in recycling. He asked the last time residents have been surveyed to determine if there are additional things they would like to dispose of.

City Planner Anderson stated that he receives a lot of calls leading up to recycling events to find out what will be accepted. He explained that there are rules in place as to how the funds can be used and they cannot be spent on refuse or garbage. He stated that about 10 years ago the City worked with ACCAP and accepted good, usable furniture in order to provide that to people in need within the community. He explained that was a form of reuse, but those opportunities have disappeared. He noted that there could be frustration from residents if they suggest certain materials that cannot be collected using these funds.

Board Member Moore stated that the goal is to have 75 percent recycling by 2030 for the State and that rate is currently near 50 percent. She asked the current percentage rate of Ramsey.

City Planner Anderson stated that he could review the information and provide the tonnage recycled but does not have the percentage rate as he does not have the information from each of the garbage haulers. He stated that he could provide the Board with the tonnage that was recycled.

Board Member Moore acknowledged that it is difficult to increase participation in the organics program. She believed that a curbside option for organics recycling would increase participation.

City Planner Anderson stated that the organics participation has increased. He stated that there are consistent waves of people signing up for the organics program but noted that there are still less than 200 people participating in the program. He stated that those participating in the program do an excellent job. He did not think the numbers would support a community wide curbside service as of yet.

Board Member Fetterley asked if staff is looking for input from the Board as to whether the City should continue to participate or additional ideas for continued participation.

City Planner Anderson replied that the City will continue to utilize the SCORE funds that it is able to access through the County. He noted that the purpose of the case tonight was to determine whether the Board has additional ideas of things to implement in 2021.

Board Member Fetterley stated that she likes the idea of using coupons as that could incentivize people to bring materials that perhaps they otherwise would not bring. She stated that perhaps coupons could be targeted for specific materials in the spring.

Board Member Little stated that he also likes the idea of coupons. He noted that some of his neighbors would be interested in disposing of certain items but are hesitant because of the cost. He commented that he is impressed with the work and attention Ramsey places on recycling.

Chairperson Valentine stated that there is pressure from the State and through the County to get people involved and reach the targets set for recycling. He stated that he would encourage staff to continue to obtain SCORE funds and be aggressive in its attempt to gain additional funds if possible.

City Planner Anderson explained that the SCORE funding does not require a City contribution to the program. He stated that the City still has to submit a request to the County to receive the funds but is not required to contribution additional funds to the program. He stated that to date the City has only used the SCORE funding to run its recycling program.

5.02: Update on Water Efficiency Grant Program

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that as the Environmental Policy Board knows, the City was awarded \$28,000 from the Metropolitan Council to implement a water efficiency grant program between January of 2020 and June 30, 2022. The City rolled out the grant program in May of 2020. To date, 29 households have participated in the program, with the majority of the upgrades focusing on smart irrigation controllers. There is still approximately \$23,000 available for reimbursement through June of 2022.

Councilmember Menth stated that as people are aware there is manganese in the water in certain wells and therefore staff is looking into water treatment options. He stated that he went with staff to tour the Andover water treatment plant and it was fascinating. He stated that in Andover the treatment plant goes through 8,000,000 gallons per day compared to the winter, where 2,000,000 gallons per day goes through the water treatment plant. He stated that most of that difference is from irrigation and therefore the irrigation controllers are a great idea.

City Planner Anderson stated that Ramsey water usage is not quite as high as Andover's but agreed that the water usage almost triples in the summer compared to the winter months. He commented that it is amazing how much water is attributed to irrigation. He stated that even though the water is coming out of the ground to go back into the ground, it takes much longer for that water to go back into the aquifer.

Board Member Little asked if there is a more efficient water sprinkler that connects to hoses. He noted that most of his neighbors water with a sprinkler directly attached to a hose.

City Planner Anderson confirmed that there are likely more efficient above ground sprinklers that attach to hoses. He stated that while that could be promoted, it would not be eligible for reimbursement through this current grant.

Board Member Fetterley stated that if the funds are all spent during the course of the program, perhaps the City look into implementing its own system in the future.

City Planner Anderson agreed that if all the funds are used, he would see that as an opportunity for the City to look at a broader City program.

Board Member Hiatt asked the percentage of residents that use well water compared to City water.

City Planner Anderson replied that about 60 percent of residents use urban services and 40 percent on septic/well. He confirmed that about 40 percent of the community are not able to take advantage of this water savings program.

Board Member Hiatt commented that there are a lot of well and septic systems in Anoka County and asked if there would be an opportunity for legislators to develop incentive programs for those well and septic users.

Chairperson Valentine commented that would involve complicated dynamics.

Board Member Moore asked if the homes built near Pearson Park are on septic/well or City services.

City Planner Anderson stated that the Riverstone development is connected to City services. He stated that new construction projects are not eligible to participate in the program. He commented that most irrigation systems installed now already contain water savings equipment.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Fall Recycling Event**

City Planner Anderson reported that the Fall Recycling Event will be held Saturday, September 26th at the Public Works Campus from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Board Member Little and seconded by Board Member Fetterley to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was performed:

Board Member Moore	aye
Board Member Hiatt	aye
Board Member Bernard	aye
Chairperson Valentin	aye
Board Member Fetterley	aye
Board Member Little	aye

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
City Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.