

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

On Monday, April 18, 2022, 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 Laura Moore
 Board Member Todd Arts
 Board Member Melissa Fetterley
 Board Member Michael Hiatt
 Board Member Jared Little

Members Absent: Board Member Reid Bernard

Also Present: Senior Planner Chris Anderson
 City Council Liaison Chelsee Howell

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Moore, Board Member Little, Hiatt, Arts and Fetterley.
Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated March 21, 2022

Motion by Board Member Fetterley and seconded by Board Member Little to approve the regular meeting minutes dated March 21, 2022.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Moore, Board Member Fetterley, Little, Arts, and Hiatt.
Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Appoint Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Senior Planner Anderson stated that a Chair and Vice Chair must be appointed annually. He opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair.

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Little to appoint Laura Moore as Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board.

There were no other nominations.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Moore, Board Member Hiatt, Little, Arts, and Fetterley. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

Chairperson Moore opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson.

Motion by Chairperson Moore and seconded by Board Member Little to appoint Michael Hiatt as Vice Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board.

Board Member Hiatt stated that he would be willing to serve but noted that he has been on the Board for some time and would step aside if another member wanted to gain that experience.

Board Member Fetterley commented that she would be interested in serving.

Board Member Hiatt commented that he would gladly step aside to provide the opportunity to Board Member Fetterley. The motion to appoint Board Member Hiatt as Vice Chairperson was withdrawn.

Motion by Board Member Little and seconded by Board Member Arts to appoint Melissa Fetterley as Vice Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Moore, Board Member Little, Arts, Fetterley, and Hiatt. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Bernard.

5.02: Introduction to Conservation Minnesota

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that Conservation Minnesota is a statewide, nonpartisan, nonprofit that works on a variety of conservation issues throughout Minnesota. Conservation Minnesota has focused on issues from water to land use, to waste and toxics, to climate and energy. He introduced Conservation Minnesota's Local Government Project Manager, John Anderson, who was present to provide the Board with more information on potential partnership opportunities.

John Anderson introduced himself and provided information on Conservation Minnesota. He stated that their intent is to partner with local entities.

Chairperson Moore commented that she is familiar with Conservation Minnesota and asked what the organization would be able to lend to Ramsey in terms of a collaboration effort.

Mr. Anderson replied that they like to determine the big interest of the community and connect in that way. He provided an example of working with the City of Minnetonka which received a piece of property to be conserved and stated that he worked with the City to turn that property into a bird sanctuary. He stated that he has also worked with cities in terms of public engagement and provided examples. He stated that the organization is flexible, wanting to work with cities on what interests them.

Board Member Hiatt referenced the work the organization has done towards a legacy amendment and asked if there are other funding mechanisms that could be a help for the City of Ramsey.

Mr. Anderson stated that the organization does not provide direct grants but has worked on bonding referendums in the past with different municipalities. He stated that the organization attempts to be a clearing house for grants when they become available as other entities offer grants.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that he could see connection points related to exploration of an open space referendum should that remain as an item on the strategic plan. He stated that another opportunity could relate to shoreline stabilization projects.

Board Member Hiatt stated that on the organization's website there is mention to clean drinking water. He asked if the organization could assist in the issues Ramsey has experienced with its wells.

Senior Planner Anderson provided background information on the elevated manganese levels detected in Ramsey.

Mr. Anderson stated that he could speak with other members with more knowledge in that area in attempt to provide connection.

Chairperson Moore thanked Mr. Anderson for his presentation and stated that she would be interested in collaboration in the future.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

Chairperson Moore welcomed the newest member of the EPB.

Board Member Arts introduced himself to the Board.

- **Arbor Day Planting Event**

Senior Planner Anderson provided details on the upcoming Arbor Day planting event on the Dedicated Networks property and adjacent City property, which is scheduled for Friday, April 29th. He stated that the event is open to the public and the Board is invited to attend if available.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that the Spring Recycling event will be held on May 7th from 8 a.m. to noon at the Public Works Facility. He stated that there is also a rain barrel and compost bin sale occurring at this time, purchases must be made prior to the pickup date. More information can be found on the City website.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Senior Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.