

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

On Monday, April 20, 2026, 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 Melissa Fetterley
 Board Member Reid Bernard
 Board Member Nick Burgess
 Board Member Thomas Hagerty
 Board Member Paula Houts
 Board Member Daniel Payne
 Board Member Hassan Salami

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Senior Planner Chris Anderson
 City Council Liaison Kirsten Buscher

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Fetterley, Board Member Hagerty, Bernard, Burgess, Houts, Payne, and Salami. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated February 9, 2026

Motion by Board Member Hagerty and seconded by Board Member Bernard to approve the regular meeting minutes dated February 9, 2026.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Fetterley, Board Member Hagerty, Bernard, Burgess, Houts, Payne, and Salami. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

5.01: Appoint Chair and Vice Chairperson

Chairperson Fetterley welcomed the newest member of the Board.

Board Member Payne introduced himself.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that each year the Commissions and Boards appoint Officers.

Senior Planner Anderson opened nominations for the position of Chairperson.

Board Member Hagerty asked and received confirmation that the term limit had been removed for the Chair position, and Chairperson Fetterley could continue to serve.

Motion by Board Member Hagerty and seconded by Board Member Houts to appoint Melissa Fetterley as Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board.

Further discussion: Chairperson Fetterley commented that she would continue to serve, but would also open up the opportunity if someone else were interested.

There was no other interest in the position.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Fetterley, Board Member Hagerty, Houts, Bernard, Burgess, Payne, and Salami. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

Chairperson Fetterley opened nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson.

Board Member Burgess nominated Board Member Hagerty.

Board Member Hagerty nominated Board Member Bernard.

Motion by Board Member Hagerty and seconded by Board Member Burgess to appoint Reid Bernard as Vice Chairperson of the Environmental Policy Board.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Fetterley, Board Member Hagerty, Burgess, Bernard, Houts, Payne, and Salami. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

5.02: Consider Natural Resources Aspects of a Proposed Site Plan to Accommodate an Expansion of Fleet Operations at 14201 Basalt Street NW (Project No. 26-105); Case of ACE Solid Waste Inc.

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the City has received a Land Use Application from Waste Connections, Inc. (DBA ACE Solid Waste Inc.) for review of a Site Plan that is intended to accommodate an expansion of their fleet used in their waste and recycling services. The Site Plan includes an expansion of parking/maneuvering areas at 14021 Basalt Street NW and installation of additional compressed natural gas fueling “stations”. The Land Use application also includes additional requests which are outside the purview of the EPB, such as a request to vacate a portion of road right-of-way at the south end of Basalt Street, adjacent to the

subject property, a rezoning of 14021 Azurite Street from I-1 Light Industrial to I-2 General Industrial, and a minor plat to combine multiple parcels into a single parcel. The applicant has stated that this is for future site planning and operations.

Chairperson Fetterley asked if this plan would work regardless of whether the rezoning request is approved.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that is accurate.

Board Member Hagerty asked who would be responsible for the tree inventory.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the applicant has a design team, and the civil engineering firm will solicit or contract the work necessary for the inventory. He explained that the City reviews the inventory but is not involved in completing that work.

Board Member Payne asked for more information on coniferous trees and whether some replanting could be reduced if additional coniferous trees could be retained on the site.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that planting requirements can be offset by trees that are retained onsite.

Chairperson Fetterley commented that it seems that the applicant preserved as many trees as they could, considering this is for a parking lot.

Motion by Board Member Burgess and seconded by Board Member Bernard to recommend approval of the natural resources aspects of the project, contingent upon compliance with the staff review comments.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Fetterley, Board Member Burgess, Bernard, Hagerty, Houts, Payne, and Salami. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

5.03: Review and Provide Direction on Possible Grant Opportunity: Electric Landscaping Equipment Pilot Program in Environmental Justice Areas

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that the purpose of this case is to review a potential grant opportunity through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The grant program is titled Electric Landscaping Equipment Pilot Program Grant in Environmental Justice Areas. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance to individuals to purchase electric or battery-powered lawn/snow equipment, with the intention of reducing air pollution (by replacing gas-powered equipment). The grant program targets Environmental Justice areas. He stated that if the City is eligible to apply, staff would recommend pursuing the grant; and if the MPCA finds that Ramsey would be ineligible, staff would recommend against applying.

Chairperson Fetterley stated that it is an interesting opportunity for people who meet the criteria. She asked if residents who applied would then be scored lower in comparison to those within environmental justice areas.

Senior Planner Anderson explained that the question would be whether Ramsey would be eligible to apply for the program without an environmental justice area and whether residents within the city would qualify for reimbursement. He explained that staff do not want to waste time if the City or its residents are not eligible. He explained that Council approval is needed for grant applications, which is why he is bringing this forward at this time. He stated that if the MPCA states that Ramsey can still apply and would not score poorly, staff could still complete and submit an application prior to the deadline.

Chairperson Fetterley commented that she would not want to waste staff time if it is unlikely that the City would qualify, but could also see the benefits that would be gained if the City is deemed eligible. She hoped that staff would receive clear direction from the MPCA.

Senior Planner Anderson commented that the Board could provide a recommendation to pursue, contingent upon a positive response from the MPCA. He stated that if the MPCA stated that the City is unlikely to score well, staff would not pursue the grant.

Motion by Board Member Hagerty and seconded by Board Member Burgess, to recommend that the City pursue the grant opportunity, contingent upon a positive response from the MPCA.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Fetterley, Board Member Hagerty, Burgess, Bernard, Houts, Payne, and Salami. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT

- **Staff Updates**

Senior Planner Anderson stated that the Board is invited to participate in an Arbor Day planting event at Alpine Park one week from today. He also noted the Spring Recycling event scheduled for May 2nd from 8 a.m. to noon. He also provided an update on recent City Council actions on cases previously considered by the Board and a potential review of the tree preservation standards. He stated that the May meeting date has been shifted from May 18th to May 11th.

Chairperson Fetterley encouraged the members of the Board to participate in the tree planting event. She encouraged residents to participate in the recycling event. She referenced a recent email received related to the We Are Water event, noting that she will be attending and encouraging members of the Board to attend. She confirmed that she could forward the email to staff to disburse to the Board.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Board Member Burgess and seconded by Board Member Hagerty, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Senior Planner

ATTEST:

Kalia Lor
Planning Administrative Assistant

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.