

Environmental Board Meeting

May 8th, 2013

Call to order: 7:01 p.m

Members Present: Ruth Caputo, Catherine Niessink, Tim Winslow, Spencer Welling, Christin DeJong, Martin Sepanik.

Excused Absences: William Beck, Raoul Wadhwa, Luis Henriquez, Martha Dahlinger,

Guests Present: Dave Mayfield, Jeremy Rowland (In place of Chris Barnes)

April Minutes: The April Minutes have been approved by the board

New Business:

- Update on Portage River Watershed

Several governmental groups and other agencies have formed the Portage River/Little Portage River Portage Watershed Management Planning Project. These agencies are interested in keeping the watershed in their area clean and unpolluted. The group received a grant from the DEQ and wants to use the grant to organize and further plan the project planning group. The group found higher than accepted E. coli levels in the little portage creek watershed and asked the city for input on what potential pollutants might drain into the watershed. There are 4 CAFOs in the watershed area and it is believed that the E. coli is getting into the watershed from this source. The CAFO's do not have to follow any regulations so there is nothing that can really be done on the issue. The next meeting date is unknown but Jeremy will let the EB know so a member can join in on the next groups meeting. The grant the group received lasts 3 years.

Old Business:

- Garlic Mustard

Garlic Mustard Pull is tentatively scheduled for May 11th from 9-12 and Schrier park next to Bishops bog.

- Family Fishing Fair

The family fishing fair is scheduled for May 18th from 10-1 at Romona Park.

Martha will have the display board there and ready to promote the Environmental Board

Environmental Board Members Present will be Catherine, Christin, Tim, Spencer, Martha, and Marty

- Elision Reserve:
- Christin and Ruth will prepare a grant request with the help of Sarah Reding. The grant will be used to bring Elision closer to pre-settlement condition.

- **Goals and Objectives Update:**

Goal	Status
Patrol the greater Bishop's bog area for PLS and phragmites and other invasive as needed.	Christin is organizing the process and wants to have the other members patrol the area at least 3 times from June 1 st to September 1 st .
Support invasive plant pulls in priority areas within City parks working with established groups.	In progress
Research pros and cons of spraying near surface waters; make a recommendation for control of woody species.	In progress
Continue to implement the city council approved PLS bio control plan; transfer activities for PLC to other board member.	On track
Provide annual report on PLS control to City Council.	On Track
Help the transportation & Utilities Department oversee maintenance of the newly planted areas around the Water Treatment Plant.	Maintenance bid was accepted by Martha in the Fall of 2012
Pursue action to control phragmites near romance road and D&W.	Christin will find out who owns the land. Time will ask phragmites prone cities what they do to deal with the plant Further identification of areas with phragmites is needed.
Provide information at Green-a-thon.	Complete
Provide information on invasive plants at the family fishing fair and provide an opportunity to pull garlic mustard at the event.	On Track
Provide information on environmental issues on the display board at Lakeview park.	Do not know, Martha was absent
Help the transportation & Utilities Department display information at the Water Treatment Plant explaining the land restoration process there.	Inconclusive
Contact the lake associations and offer to present information on maintaining healthy lakes.	Next meeting is May 14, Tim will try to attend.
Write and Submit articles for portage.	Inconclusive
Offer to educate the Parks Department about relevant invasive plants.	Inconclusive

- **Green-a-thon:**

The green-a-thon was successful. Ruth discussed the garlic mustard and Marty discussed PLS. The board will work on coming up with alternative ways to display the information without the wind causing issues. The board will support the Green-a-thon next season.

Meeting Adjourn: 8:07 pm