



# NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 330, City Hall

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- I. Call to Order**

Chair Streitz called the meeting to begin at 6:02 PM.
  - II. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Lori Dando, Judy Gibbs, John Lindgren, Mike Raichel, Mike Schrage, Nancy Schuldt, Andrew Streitz  
Commissioners Absent: Pam Foster, Tiffany Sprague  
City Staff Present: Jim Filby Williams, Kate Kubiak, Bronwyn Bauer
  - III. Approval of the Agenda**

Commissioner Lindgren made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Dando. Unanimously approved.
  - IV. Approval of the February 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Raichel made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Vice Chair Schuldt. Unanimously approved.
  - V. Old Business**
    - A. Tischer Fish Kill Update (City Staff)**

Kubiak had no update and Filby Williams said there was no indication of when a report can be expected.
    - B. Advocacy (Chair Streitz)**

Chair Streitz said he had nothing new to report.

Commissioner Schrage arrived at 6:09 PM.
  - VI. New Business**
    - A. Bear Den Study, Michael Joyce, Wildlife Ecologist, NRRI**

Michael Joyce, a Wildlife Ecologist from the Natural Resources Research Institute, gave a presentation about an upcoming bear study which includes mapping human-carnivore conflicts in human dominated landscapes. With this study they hope to educate the public about conflict mitigation and how to decrease this, and how to better understand how the animals are using the landscape. They hope to collar 15 of each species of bear, bobcat, and coyote, and then monitor the animals' movements. Joyce said that they are working on a communications plan so the public will have information about the study, to include media outreach, and they will also be asking the public to report sightings of the animals. Commissioner Raichel suggested that the public be instructed about what to do if a pet gets stuck in one of the traps, so the animal does not get harmed when trying to remove it from a trap.
    - B. Amity-Hawk Ridge DNAP Presentation**

Gini Breidenbach from the Minnesota Land Trust introduced her fellow partners in the nomination of the Lester-Amity-Hawk Ridge area into the DNAP program: John Lenczewski, Minnesota Trout Unlimited, Tim Beaster, South St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District, and Janelle Long, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory. Breidenbach then gave a presentation about the nomination process, showed the boundaries of the area, and went over the reasons that this area qualifies for DNAP status by meeting not just one, but all five of the DNAP scientific criteria. Breidenbach mentioned that Hawk Ridge brings many tourists and money to the



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City, and Chair Streitz said this point should be emphasized during the future Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and City Council presentations. Kubiak emphasized how special it is that this nomination is by this great group of partners, and not the City.

### VII. Staff Reports

#### A. Natural Resources Coordinator's Report (Kate Kubiak)

- Held 2<sup>nd</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting for the Magney-Snively Mgmt Plan update
- Held annual Arrowhead Bowhunters' Alliance meeting
- Continued support for Amity Hawk Ridge DNAP nomination
- Completed 1<sup>st</sup> draft of City forestry plan (with Clark)
- Attended Headwaters partnership Art of Hosting workshop with other natural resource colleagues
- Exploration of new Hartley trib stormwater project with engineering and Hartley
- Coordinated TNC / MN Land Trust / City spring meeting to discuss collaboration opportunities
- Supported DFD and Parks Maintenance with spring burning plans
- Mission Creek forestry field visits with Clark and future Mission projects meeting with DNR
- Submitted Final report for 3 year, 900K EPA grant.

#### B. City Forester's Report (Clark Christenson)

Spring will eventually return and in the meantime, we hum along doing our work and then one day 500 trees are delivered and it's a hive of activity for two days trying to organize everything and ensure no tree is left behind. Then we return to normal activity levels and plug away at the mountain of work staring us down. Currently that is removals, stump grinding, a little bit of pruning and in a week or two, planting.

The greenhouse is full and mostly operational. Some bugs need to be worked out, but the buckeye and sycamore have broken buds and are putting out leaves. We can only hope the rest of the species follow suite! If any member of the NRC wants a tour, just email me. Also, it's not that big so it will be a quick tour!

We are starting a project with the Minnesota Land Trust and potentially one with NRRI, hopefully we will have plans for review at the next meeting.

#### C. Director's Report (Jim Filby Williams)

None.

### VIII. Announcements

#### A. Mayoral intent to limit all Boards and Commissions to a two-term limit for all commissioners

Filby Williams reported that the mayor decided that there will be a two-term limit for members of all boards and commissions. Commissioner Lindgren suggested that two terms are not enough for those members who will become officers, to get the institutional knowledge that is needed. Commissioner Schrage noted that this will result in lost knowledge and it is a mistake. Commissioner Raichel added that the commission is comprised of members with specialized skillsets, and it takes time to learn. He hopes this doesn't result in open seats.

### IX. Public Comment

Margaret West said there is a Clean Yer Creek event happening on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and it is always a fun event.



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### **X. Adjournment**

Commissioner Schrage made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Dando seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Next Meeting – May 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM Lakeside Conference Room 430, City Hall.