



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Conference Room 330, City Hall

I. Call to Order

Chair Streitz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Pam Foster, Judy Gibbs, Mike Raichel, Tiffany Sprague, Nancy Schuldt, Andrew Streitz

Commissioners Absent: Lori Dando

City Staff Present: Kate Kubiak, Cliff Knettel, Bronwyn Bauer

III. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Raichel. Unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of the September 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Raichel made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Foster. Unanimously approved.

Chair Streitz wanted to mention that Commissioner Dando is going through some medical issues and will not be able to attend for a while. He also said that the departure of Jim Filby Williams from the City is a great loss and he will be missed.

V. Old Business

A. Tischer Fish Kill Update (City Staff)

No update. Kubiak plans to have a presentation at the December meeting.

B. Advocacy (Chair Streitz)

Chair Streitz has two upcoming meetings; one with City Councilor Deb DeLuca to discuss Natural Resources issues and the Parks budget; and a second meeting with City Councilor Awal to discuss the plans to combine commissions. He asked commissioners what they thought about the possibility of merging with another commission. Vice Chair Schuldt is opposed to combining with the Parks & Recreation Commission because the work of the NRC would get lost – these commissions have different missions and different focuses, and the NRC has specific responsibilities like the DNAPs. Secretary Gibbs agreed and said it would be a better fit to combine with the Energy Commission. Commissioner Raichel doesn't want to lose the ability to bring up details like greenspace and viewshed applications.

VI. New Business

A. Buckingham Creek Restoration – Tim Beaster, South St Louis SWCD

Tim Beaster gave a presentation about the Buckingham Creek restoration project at the Enger Golf Course. Over the years, the golf course disrupted the natural process of the streams and fish communities and the 2024 restoration project at the golf course was the perfect time to rectify these issues. The project timeline was delayed by permitting issues, a SHPO requirement, and slow contractor progress. They had to find a second contractor to finish the project but were still able to finish in time for opening weekend. Golf was not impacted by construction, and the final pieces were completed last month, in the areas outside of the playing course. Beaster said the golfers seem very happy with the updates and are surprised to find out that there are actual brook trout in the stream. Now they will focus on monitoring the streams for temperatures, morphology, vegetation, and aquatic life. Commissioner Foster suggested a poster board be put up in the clubhouse about this restoration and Beaster said this is already planned.



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VII. Staff Reports

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

- Hired contractors for fall knotweed treatment and buckthorn management at Hartley.
- Held third Magney Snively Management Plan Advisory Committee – reviewed 50% draft plan.
- Held Q3 St. Louis Habitat Work Group Meeting.
- Collaborated with SWCD, MPCA, MN DNR and Hartley Nature Center to apply to Conservation partners Legacy for some work on Tischer Tributary through Hartley – remove invasive White Crack Willows, clear woody debris and sediment, plant native trees. City Stormwater group may also submit grant application for sediment vault at Northfield Ave.
- Met with Amity Lester Hawk Ridge DNAP group to talk about developing the Management Plan.
- Adjust to new leadership.

B. Forester's Report (Clark Christenson)

- Late summer has been productive for us and we slowly but surely advance plans for future projects. Trees are mostly ordered to plant next year. It looks like we have about 550 trees on the docket to plant, which includes about 80 we will source from the greenhouse. It's a great relief to have that done, until they arrive on the truck!
- Hawk Ridge plans are slowly advancing. We were able to collect a decent amount of paper birch seed which we will sow on the site. We will also purchase white pine and white cedar seed for the same purpose. I was planning on having a drone spread all of this but unfortunately the drone owner/operator didn't want to do the work that close to restricted air space associated with the airport. So we will be spreading it by hand and definitely waiting for snow so we can track our own progress.
- We were pulled into removing vegetation along Hwy 53 in Lincoln Park where there are landscaping spots above the highway just after the 5th Street overpass. Definitely *not* on our radar but it does look considerably nicer.
- By the time you read this we should be planting trees again. We only have about 220 to plant so it should go fast. Otherwise, it is the most wonderful time of the year, so get outside!

VIII. Announcements

Vice Chair Schuldt said there is a Sustainability Analyst position posted on the Reservation. Commissioner Raichel will be attending a Forest Resources Conference later this month.

IX. Public Comment

Margaret West asked how the golf course's use of herbicides will be monitored. Beaster said that it wasn't his position to dictate what the golf course uses but the project provided a large vegetative buffer between the course and the stream, which will help, as well as an upgraded irrigation system to provide healthier grass, which should decrease the need for herbicides.

X. Adjournment

Vice Chair Schuldt made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Sprague seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Next Meeting – December 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM Conference Room 330, City Hall.