



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 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.

Chair Streitz said that Commissioner Dando passed away since our last meeting. She will be greatly missed.

II. Roll Call

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

City Staff Present: Kate Kubiak, Clark Christenson, Cliff Knett, Bronwyn Bauer

III. Approval of the Agenda

Vice Chair Schuldt made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Foster. Unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of the October 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Sprague made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Vice Chair Schuldt. Unanimously approved.

V. Approval of 2026 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Raichel made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting schedule; seconded by Commissioner Foster. Unanimously approved.

VI. Old Business

A. Tischer Fish Kill Update, if any (City Staff)

No update.

B. Status/Future of NRC (Chair Streitz)

Chair Streitz said that it is the NRC's goal to support Parks & Rec, and he did talk to David Demmer, Parks & Rec Commission Chair, Councilor Awal, and the Mayor. He said if we do have to be consolidated with another commission, it would be more suitable to combine with the Energy Commission and not the Parks & Rec Commission. Kubiak reported that there are three people on next Monday's City Council agenda to be appointed to the NRC.

C. Advocacy (Chair Streitz)

No update.

D. Mission Creek Forestry Project (Clark Christenson)

Christenson talked about plans to add vegetation to the "land slide areas", with the bulk of the work in Fond du Lac along the creek. They will spread the seed next fall, remove brush, and use debris fence around the edge to deter deer. Vice Chair asked if fire could be used, but Christenson said this is not a good site for that, but he would like to use it in other areas.

VII. New Business

A. City of Duluth Natural Resources Program Looking Forward (Kate Kubiak)

Kubiak shared a list of possible topics for 2026 NRC meetings. It was suggested to add a bobcat/bear study update to the schedule.



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Conference Room 330, City Hall

VIII. Staff Reports

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

- Supporting Park Point Community group's project - Restoring Fire to Minnesota Point – partnership meeting.
- Continued efforts to move Section 111 Study forward – internal staff meetings and meeting with Park Point Community Club.
- Continuing to Chair Lower St. Louis River Habitat Work group – consultant hired to write update to the Habitat Work Plan.
- Continuing to serve on board / support evolution of Headwaters Partnership (coord. by MN Land Trust).
- Coordinating contractor to remove buckthorn and seed native plants at Hartley with Hartley nature Staff.
- Sister Cities (Sweden) group – showed them around Hartley Dam / Tischer Creek.
- Held 3rd Advisory Committee Meeting for Magney-Snively Management plan Update.
- Forestry/Birds Workshop at Sax Zim.
- Strategic Lands Project support for administration.
- Access Agreements for DNR partner projects Knowlton Creek / Munger Trail and Mud Lake.

B. Forester's Report (Clark Christenson)

- This past month has been devoted to removing those last trees on our list before the snow comes. Some have been on the list a bit too long, others are more recent and surprise additions. In the grand scheme of things, such is life.
- Work continues on Mission Creek; you will hear more about that during the meeting.
- If you are interested, I recently did an interview with Luke Moravek on 103.3 <https://www.thenorth1033.org/environment-outdoors/2025-11-26/green-visions-trees-for-the-future-of-duluth>.
- The storm on November 26th kept us busy all day and resulted in findings that further cement my belief about planting spruce as an urban tree. 13 out of 17 locations with trees reported on the road were spruce trees. All spruce were trees planted by homeowners in their yard. There are other conifers that do well here, and we should encourage the public to consider them long before any spruce.

IX. Announcements

Vice Chair Schuldt reported that they did hire a Sustainability Analyst position on the Reservation and have applied for a Sea Grant for St. Louis River Estuary Analysis Valuation working with Earth Economics.

X. Public Comment

None.

Vice Chair Schuldt made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Sprague seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Next Meeting – January 7, 2026 at 6:00 PM Conference Room 330, City Hall.