

State of Minnesota
County of Watonwan

RESOLUTION NO. 05.25.02

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR
MEADOWLARK PRAIRIES**

WHEREAS, Meadowlark Prairies is a developing conservation and recreation site dedicated to ecological restoration, outdoor education, and public access to nature lands; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. James and collaborating stakeholders recognize the importance of formal governance to guide planning, operations, fundraising, and long-term stewardship of Meadowlark Prairies; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a dedicated Board of Directors will ensure coordinated decision making, transparency, and alignment with the mission and vision of the nature area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF ST. JAMES, MINNESOTA**, as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. A Board of Directors for Meadowlark Prairies is hereby established, effective immediately.

Section 2. Purpose and Responsibilities. The Board shall:

- Establishing clear goals and priorities for land use, habitat restoration, educational programming, and community engagement.
- Ensuring accountability in project funding, maintenance, and operational decisions.
- Serving as a liaison between the city, local, stakeholders, volunteers, and partner organizations.
- Promoting public awareness and encouraging active participation in the care and appreciation of Meadowlark Prairies.
- Supporting and guiding grant writing efforts and conservation funding initiatives.

Section 3. Composition. The board shall consist of up to nine (9) members, representing a diverse group of individuals with backgrounds in environmental stewardship, education, and community engagement:

- Two (2) representatives from Watonwan County Soil and Water Conservation District

- One (1) representative from Watonwan County Extension Office
- One (1) representative from the St. James School District
- Two (2) representatives from the St. James Park Board
- One (1) representative from the St. James Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- One (1) Ad Hoc representative, as needed based on specific expertise
- One (1) Citizen representative from the general public

Section 4. Appointments. Initial appointments and appointments moving forward shall be made by the mayor, subject to City Council approval.

- Carrie Schultz, Watonwan County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Laura Quiring, Watonwan County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Michaela Ahrens, Watonwan County Extension Office
- Gene Hildebrandt, St. James School District
- Britta Romsdahl, St. James Park Board
- Saudi Showalter, St. James Park Board
- Tammy Stevens, St. James Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- Gary Wyatt, Ad Hoc
- Dale Hedlund, Citizen

Section 5. Meetings. The board shall meet no fewer than four (4) times per year, with additional meetings as needed. All meetings shall be open to the public and follow applicable open meeting laws.

Adopted by the City Council this 6th day of May 2025.

Christopher Whitehead, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kristin K. Hurley, City Clerk

Published: _____

Filed: _____

Effective Date: May 6, 2025