



**TWO  
RIVERS**  
WISCONSIN

# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers - City Hall, 3rd Floor  
1717 E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

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## MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Shannon Derby called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

**Board Members:**

**Present:** Shannon Derby, Tracey Koach, Donald DeBruyn, Heather Gross

**Excused:** Corinne Weis, John Tillotson

**Absent:** Douglas Brandt

**Staff and Others:** Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl, Darla LeClair

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the May 20, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting

Tracey Koach made a motion to accept the May 20, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting minutes, seconded by Donald DeBruyn. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Darla LeClair suggested that the City (EAB) take a look at creating and possibly partnering with the high school in developing a fruit and vegetable cooperative to focus on nutritional, home grown fruits and vegetables and get them in the hands of students as a healthy alternative food choice. Further discussion occurred and suggestions about trying to partner with other groups that may already have programs established such as the Senior Center, Hope Church or the Hunger Task Force, rather than trying to create something new.

5. **NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED - N/A**

6. **ONGOING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED**

A. **EAB City Posted Website Videos Update**

This was one of Darla LeClair's projects. The board members present felt that the past videos were very well done and that more of them should be made. These videos can be found on the City's website under the Public Works – Environmental Advisory Board tab.

<https://www.two-rivers.org/eaboard/page/educational-video-library>

Darla LeClair stated that she would still be willing to assist with the videos now that she has the correct editing software. She would be willing to loan out the recording equipment to EAB members and have them bring the videos back to her and she would edit them into the final version.

Donald DeBruyn suggested that we video the Educational Series.

Tracey Koach inquired as to how many website hits occur on the EAB webpage as well as the video links. That will be reported back at the next meeting.

**B. Did You Know - Ideas Update**

No discussion was had on this topic in Corinne Weis's absence.

**C. Native Plant Information (Resource) Update**

At the last meeting, Corinne Weis stated that since we suggest the utilization of native plantings, we should provide resources as to where individuals can purchase these plants, such as The WildOnes in the Fox Valley, Stone Silo Prairie Gardens in DePere, Door Landscape and Nursery in Egg Harbor, Hoot Blossom Farm in Washington Island, etc.

There will be additional discussion on this in the future.

**D. Fall/Winter Educational Series**

If EAB wants to continue with these educational series, we need to consider working on planning speakers and topics for the next series. At the last meeting EAB members were tasked with generating various topics and potential speakers to bring those ideas to the June meeting for further discussion. The results are listed below:

- Darla LeClair stated that she had numerous ideas and contact information for speakers that she would be willing to share with Shannon Derby to assist in continuing the educational series.
- Donald DeBruyn suggested topics on noxious weeds and invasive plants along with another presentation on stormwater management.
- Heather Gross suggested topics on mini-composting alternatives for residents to do at their homes. Also, additional information on the do's and don'ts for recycling and possibly getting recycling containers within the parks; the benefits of pollinators; organic pest controls (natural deterrents); the natural ecosystem/balance and the impacts of urbanization; and possibly a discussion related to the Hamilton property – what are they doing and why hasn't it been redeveloped yet?

This will be the primary agenda item at the July EAB meeting.

**7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**A. Urban Forestry Grant Update**

The notes provided state that 60 trees were planted on the south side of Two Rivers and that Park & Rec staff have been receiving a lot of tree removal and pruning requests from residents.

**B. Faith in Place Grant Update**

The Faith in Place grant is moving forward. Mike Mathis stated that Don DeBruyn could provide additional details. Donald DeBruyn said they should see a portion of the money as of June 17<sup>th</sup> but wasn't sure if it had been deposited at this time. The plan is to do a tree planting this fall in Washington Park.

**C. NWFW, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Grant Update**

StanTec is working on options related to near shoreline and harbor impacts along with upland erosion reduction and runoff preservation. Alternatives will be presented at the 6:00 pm, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, joint EAB, Advisory Recreation Board and Plan Commission meeting.

**D. Neshotah Beach Project(s) Update**

Pierce Street and associated parking areas are almost complete. The paving was completed last week with some restoration work ongoing through next week.

DPW crews finished pouring the trail from Pierce Street to the concession stand on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> and are waiting for it to cure before backfilling.

DPW crews will then work on some connecting trails that run parallel to Pierce Street behind the parking lots connecting the new parking areas to the new spline trail, to the concession stand and playground area or towards the intersection of Pierce and Zlatnik.

There will be a shallow swale between the eastside parking area and the connecting walk that will collect and control stormwater runoff and is anticipated to be planted with native vegetation. There are also fingers between the parking areas that are for the planting of trees and acting as a buffer between all of the parking areas.

DPW crews will also be working on a trail from Garfield to Pierce providing a paved route to these other trails and paths.

If that weren't enough, DPW has been asked to remove the old tennis courts and topsoil the area to allow for the establishment of native plantings in that area. Mike Mathis has sent out a Request for Proposals to do the plantings in late fall this year or spring of 2026.

There will also be the addition of two new picnic shelters to be constructed over the summer in a joint effort between DPW and Park staff.

**E. Shoreline Wind and Wave Study**

This is part of the NWFW, GL-SLCI grant project. Stantec obtained data from other resources such as USACOE and created a model showing how waves (height, direction, duration) and the wind (direction and duration) impact along the shoreline of Two Rivers especially concentrating on the harbor entrance and the shoreline south of the south pier. This information was recently shared with staff during a virtual meeting held on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The preliminary results reflect similar outcomes to the wave study that USACOE completed several years ago in that southeasterly winds and waves deposit sand off the shoreline and within the harbor entrance. This has an obvious negative impact by shallowing the channel entrance resulting in some larger vessels bottoming out, especially during rough water conditions. The consultant will make some modifications to their model based upon our conversations and create alternatives on how to minimize shoreline and harbor impacts. These alternatives will be discussed at the joint July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting that will be open to the public.

Mike Mathis wanted to add an overall reminder: Please check the Park & Recreation and City web pages for additional updates and information.

**8. OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF NEEDED**

FYI – The Plan Commission will be looking at the possibility of “fire” breaks between longer vegetation and established residential turf grassed properties. No additional information is available at this time.

**9. SET DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING**

Proposed regular EAB meeting on July 15, 2025, at 5:30 pm to discuss the fall/winter educational series.

Proposed for Wednesday, July 23, 2025 - Joint meeting with Advisory Recreation Board and Plan Commission. Final time and location to be determined closer to that date.

Location will be in the Council Chambers and a broad timeframe is set for 4-9 pm, but I believe the final timeframe will be 6 – 8 pm.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** 6:38 pm

Tracey Koach made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Heather Gross. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Matthew R. Heckenlaible  
Public Works Director/City Engineer