



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Doug Brandt called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

Board Members: Present: Douglas Brandt, Donald DeBruyn, Tracey Koach, Corinne Weis;

Excused: Shannon Derby; Absent: John Tillotson

Staff and Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the September 16, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting

Corinne Weis made a motion to accept the September 16, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting minutes, seconded by Don DeBruyn. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Peter Becker had a discussion with City Manager Kyle Kordell and he suggested that Mr. Becker attend an Environmental Advisory Board meeting to discuss aluminum can recycling from public facilities/locations. Mr. Becker stated that he just took a truck load of aluminum cans to Green Bay and was paid \$0.70 per pound for them. He suggested that the City could place secure recycling containers in the parks, along the beach and during public events to take advantage of all the cans that are presently being thrown into the garbage.

EAB thought that this was an interesting concept. Mr. Becker stated that he was also going to talk with the Advisory Recreation Board about this topic as well. No immediate action required by EAB.

5. **NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED**

A. **Educational Series Update**

Don DeBruyn has received information regarding "Salt Wise" presentations and thought that the City might be interested in spreading the word about utilizing winter salt in a conservative manner.

B. Corinne Weis continues to seek out interesting and appropriate environmental websites to share with the public. She expressed interest in discussing a potential partnership with Woodland Dunes to post environmental topics or resources on their website.

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

A. **Educational Series Update**

It was reported that the last educational event had good attendance.

B. Did You Know – How to get the content out?

Cool City Connect (Fun tidbits) – Talked with the City Manager about it; Kyle Kordell is familiar with the concept and would be open to including content in future editions. There are 6 examples ready to go.

7. PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND UPDATES (Mike Mathis Not Present)

A. Urban Forestry Budget - No update provided

B. NFWF, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Grant Update – No update provided

C. Program and Event Updates (Park and Recreation) – No update provided

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

A. Discussion of Noxious Weed Ordinance (9-6-11)

Don DeBruyn provided the Board with an overview of the existing ordinance and noted that when the City enforces this ordinance, property owners often do not know how to appropriately address noxious weeds. He stated that prior to taking any enforcement action, the City should focus on educating the public, as many residents are not familiar with what noxious weeds look like.

Director Heckenlaible responded that while noxious weeds do exist in select areas, the City does not actively seek out these locations. Issues are typically brought to the City’s attention through complaints from other citizens. He noted that the City does not have the resources to proactively identify and eradicate all noxious weeds throughout the community.

It was suggested that the City direct residents to outside resources, such as the Arboretum or Woodland Dunes, which may be better equipped to assist with education and management of undesired vegetation.

B. Alternate "Take Out" Containers Discussion Relative to Think and Drink Educational Series (1/8/26)

Don DeBruyn noted that many restaurants and food establishments offer styrofoam containers as the only option for take-out or carry-out food. He suggested that the City explore promoting a “green” container initiative to help reduce impacts to local landfills.

Doug Brandt stated that while “green” container alternatives are available, they come at an increased cost and do not readily decompose in landfills due to the high level of compaction and limited oxygen needed for the decomposition process. He noted that composting could be an alternative; however, Manitowoc County does not accept these types of containers at its yard waste facilities on Woodland Drive or Basswood Drive.

Additional discussion included members stating they would be willing to bring their own reusable containers to restaurants to take home leftovers in a more environmentally friendly manner.

C. Wisconsin Maritime Museum "From Grey to Green: How MMSD's Watershed Approach Reduces Impacts of the 2025 Storm" Discussion

Director Heckenlaible provided a brief recap of the Maritime Museum's *Think & Drink* presentation, highlighting how the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District has expanded its role beyond wastewater treatment to include wetland and waterway restoration, as well as the implementation of various stormwater management practices. He noted that these measures provided significant relief during the August 2025 storm event that impacted the greater Milwaukee metropolitan area. While the storm still resulted in millions of dollars in private property damage, he emphasized that the impacts would have been significantly greater without these practices in place.

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

Proposed for Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

10. ADJOURNMENT: 6:40 pm

Tracey Koach made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Corinne Weis. Motion carried.

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