

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 25, 2020

Joe Citta, Chair, called the meeting of the Nebraska Environmental Quality Council (EQC) to order at approximately 10:00 am, Central Time, June 25, 2020. The meeting was held online through the Zoom platform. Public notice of the meeting and scheduled public hearing was published more than 30 days prior to the meeting in the Omaha World Herald in accordance with the law and on the NDEE Website. Mr. Citta read a statement at the beginning of the meeting informing the meeting attendees of the location of a current copy of the Open Meetings Act online on the Nebraska Legislature's Website.

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Barfuss, Ms. Bucklin, Mr. Citta, Mr. Czaplewski, Mr. Dahab, Mr. Gangwish, Mr. Grams, Mr. Hall, Mr. Harder, Mr. Hedquist, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Zuhlke. Mr. Dilsaver was absent. Thirteen members were present, constituting a quorum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Czaplewski made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2019 meeting. Mr. Hedquist seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Barfuss, Ms. Bucklin, Mr. Citta, Mr. Czaplewski, Mr. Dahab, Mr. Gangwish, Mr. Grams, Mr. Hall, Mr. Harder, Mr. Hedquist, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Zuhlke. Thirteen voting yes, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF EQC MEMBERS

None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Macy gave his report to the EQC and a copy was emailed to the EQC and is attached to these minutes.

Director Macy highlighted how NDEE is continuing its work through the challenges of COVID 19, including social distancing and telecommuting by staff and holding meetings online or using other electronic media formats. Director Macy also provided a progress report on the new NDEE office building construction. NDEE anticipates a Fall 2020 occupancy.

In response to a question from Mr. Marshall, Director Macy said the agency is following the Governor's lead on directed health measures but agency directors have been given flexibility on office management and NDEE is functioning at full capacity. In response to a question from Mr. Hedquist, Director Macy explained that the new building office is a lease arrangement and there is space available for rent in addition to the NDEE offices.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Annette Kovar, Legal Counsel, provided a copy of the EQC by-laws to all members with a proposed amendment to change the name of the agency to Department of Environment and Energy. The EQC bylaws state that the EQC may amend its bylaws if the proposed amendment is presented in writing at the previous regular EQC meeting. The proposed amendments were presented at the November 7, 2019 EQC Meeting. Dr. Dahab noted a typographical error which will be corrected in the final document. Mr. Hedquist made a motion to approve the proposed amendment. Mr. Czaplewski seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Barfuss, Ms. Bucklin, Mr. Citta, Mr. Czaplewski, Mr. Dahab, Mr. Gangwish, Mr. Grams, Mr. Hall, Mr. Harder, Mr. Hedquist, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Zuhlke. Thirteen voting yes, the motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Citta asked Annette Kovar if a date for the next EQC meeting has been decided upon. The only agenda item identified at this time is the Litter Percent Allocation. Ms. Kovar anticipates a November date for the next meeting.

In response to a question from Ms. Bucklin asking about any upcoming legislative bills that might be pertinent, Director Macy noted that there is currently a split legislative session with the Legislature anticipated to return in mid-July until mid-August. One pending bill of interest to the agency [LB858] deals with the Title 200 Petroleum Fund and a solid waste litter fee.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2021 INTENDED USE PLAN AND PROJECT PRIORITY LIST FOR CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (CWSRF) AND DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (DWSRF)

Joe Citta opened the hearing. The following exhibits were received:

- **Proof of publication of legal notices (Exhibit 1)**
- **2020 Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) (Exhibit 2)**

- **A copy of the PowerPoint presentation titled, "2021 Intended Use Plan Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund," presented by Lindsey Phillips, DEE Financial Assistance Section Supervisor (Exhibit 3)**

Lindsey Phillips, DEE Financial Assistance Section Supervisor presented the powerpoint on the proposed Intended Use Plan.

Ms. Bucklin noted a gap on the funding map in the powerpoint and asked whether rural communities don't know about the SRF programs or just don't have the right projects to get funding. Ms. Phillips identified a couple reasons. Smaller communities usually have large projects that tend to be full upgrades which can be expensive and these smaller communities may be reluctant to take on large debts. Ms. Phillips also stated the agency may need to market these smaller communities a little more. Ms. Phillips said the agency has reached out to stakeholders, including conducting a survey and NET ads. She indicated the agency plans to try to visit some of these facilities as well. Ms. Bucklin encouraged the agency to look at training opportunities with operators for communicating about the programs.

There being no other questions or testimony from the public, the hearing was closed.

Ms. Bucklin made a motion to approve the 2021 Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Mr. Gangwish seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Barfuss, Ms. Bucklin, Mr. Citta, Mr. Czaplewski, Mr. Dahab, Mr. Gangwish, Mr. Grams, Mr. Hall, Mr. Harder, Mr. Hedquist, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Zuhlke. Thirteen voting yes, the motion carried.

Chair Citta adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:00 am. CT.

Respectfully submitted,


Jim Macy
Director