

Minneapolis Northern Green Zone Task Force

August 7, 2019

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO)
2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis

Board/Commission Members in attendance: Anthony Taylor, Jim Voll, Joanne Goddard, Juli Leerssen, Linnae Nelson-Seys, Liz Reiser, Markeeta Keyes, Roxxanne O'Brien, Vanessa Willis, Michael Chaney, Yolonda Adams-Lee (Quorum 9)

Staff in attendance: Kelly Muellman, Kennedy Kruchoski, Patrick Hanlon

Guests in attendance: Kaleigh Swift, Marita Bujold, Markella Smith, Georgianna Yantos, Michelle Shaw, Leo _____

Welcome + Introductions

Roxxanne O'Brien led the group in a warm up activity to help everyone be present. Warm up activity: no smiling for the first five minutes of the meeting.

Sam Grant welcomed attendees and members and guests introduced themselves.

Overview of Agenda

Members and guests reviewed the agenda; there were no modifications.

Announcements

- **MPCA denies Northern Metal Recycling's extension** to continue operating its shredder in Minneapolis. Northern Metals disputed the decision and asked the Ramsey County District Court to allow them to continue operating while MPCA and Northern Metals pursue dispute resolution. On July 29 Ramsey County District Court issued an order that allows Northern Metals to continue operating after August 1, while Northern Metals and MPCA are engaged in the dispute resolution process.
- **Just and Equitable Climate Platform.** For the first time, a group of 75 environmental justice and national environmental groups have come together to advance a consensus platform. This historic, bold platform -- which can be found at AJustClimate.org -- highlights priority outcomes for a national climate policy agenda and advances the goals of economic, racial, climate and environmental justice to improve the public health and wellbeing of all communities, while tackling the climate crisis. - **The Mayor of Minneapolis has signed on!**
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is looking for six new members for their **Environmental Justice Advisory Group**. The Environmental Justice Advisory Group meets every other month and provides recommendations and advises the MPCA Commissioner. Application deadline is August 12, 2019.
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/mpca-and-environmental-justice>
- **Neighborhoods Now!** Fall 2019 registration **deadline is August 20**. Neighborhoods Now! is an innovative community educational series to strengthen the work of individuals and organizations working in neighborhoods. The next

course of Neighborhoods Now! begins September 30, 2019. Potential participants should fill out a registration form by visiting: <http://z.umn.edu/nnowregister>.

- The third **Minneapolis Food Action Plan** meeting is September 11, 2019 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Wirth Chalet Fireplace Room, 1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Minneapolis. Food Action Plan: Topic 3 is Agricultural Food Production.
- Shaundelle – **Lead and Asthma update. Home Sick** event this month will be August 13th, focused on Northern Metals not shutting down by August 1. MPCA, Environmental Initiative and several Home associates will be attending.
- **Volunteers needed at Minneapolis Urban League Family Day**, August 24, 2-hour commitment of tabling. James will buy lunch for members who commit to tabling. Email james_publicpolicyproject@msn.com to sign up. PPP's table is to increase awareness about lead poisoning and lead in homes. Also working with Appetite for Change youth to survey impacted families. 133 families have been reached with healthy home services with Northern Metals money so far this year.
- **Growth + Justice Breakfast with MPCA Commissioner Laura Bishop**
Join us for our last breakfast event on August 21 at Elsie's from 7:30-9:00am. We'll have a short program focused on environmental equity, featuring Laura Bishop, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. See more on Laura below! Breakfast includes eggs, sausage, bacon, french toast, bagels and pastries, fruit, and coffee. Stop by before you start your day, and invite a friend!
Free and open to the public.
[RSVP HERE](#)
Still moving forward with a meeting with MPCA leadership – this would be a good opportunity to learn more about her platform and ask questions of her.
- “Bee amazing” – spotlight from Growth and Justice of Headwaters Community Food and Water Bill.

Michael Chaney expressed concern about reaching deliverables and defining objectives. Sam Grant acknowledged the importance of this concern, suggesting that work groups specify how the actions that they request from the group apply to the objectives of the Task Force, as specified in the Resolution. Sam also suggested that the group consider what materials and messages should be provided at events where the group can table.

Update on Climate Reality Leaders Conference.

The Task Force members who attended the Climate Reality Leaders Conference provided an overview of their experiences. The Climate Reality Project aims to empower “everyday people to become activists, equipped with the tools, training, and network to fight for solutions and drive change planet-wide”. Break out groups at the conference addressed topics such as the Green New Deal, personhood of the Mississippi River, declaring a climate crisis, and more. Some Minneapolis residents in attendance asked for support in the Upper Harbor Terminal conversation. Attendees summarized that the event emphasized the need for building relationships in the pursuit of this work, and to focus on creating networks and identifying communication strategies based on different audiences. Michael suggested hosting a climate reality event to spread awareness of these facts.

Northern Green Zone Task Force vacancies + appointments

Kelly Muellman provided an overview of the appointment process. There are two open seats on the Northern Green Zone Task Force, vacated by previous members Kitty Stratton (Ward 4) and Guinevere Baptise Johns (Ward 4). With a current imbalance of North and Northeast representatives, the appointments do not have to be from Ward 4. Kelly briefly shared information about each applicant. After a brief discussion, the voting Task Force members approved Markella Smith (Ward 4 resident and employment – McKinley Neighborhood Association) as a member by acclamation. Vanessa Willis made a motion to appoint Nancy Pryzmus (Ward 1 resident/Ward 3 employment – Bottineau Neighborhood Association), seconded by Joanne. The motion carried, and Nancy Pryzmus was appointed as a member.

Subcommittee Assignments

Sam Grant and James Trice asked each subcommittee to create a budget, fleshing out how they intend to use their allocated \$6,667 by the end of the calendar year. If the Northern Green Zone funding is not spent by then, it will be lost. Each subcommittee is responsible for coming up with proposed projects, deliverables and costs, as well as for specifying how those actions contribute to the work of the whole Task Force.

The Air, Water and Land subcommittee was asked to share their questions and comments for MPCA leadership, as well as dates they are available to meet with MPCA leadership. Other members who are interested in taking part in that conversation were instructed to reach out to facilitators.

Subcommittee Work

Each subcommittee provided an update on their discussions.

- Air water and land: Working to expand on outreach and education to bring people together, plus the upcoming conversation with MPCA leadership.
- Food and soil: Focusing on promoting the Headwaters Bill. Considering the practical implementation of the program.
- Housing: Mostly working to gather information. A lot of this group's work won't be associated with costs, but rather changing policy. Sam suggested that if proposals are low to no cost, the subcommittee could choose to give their funds back to the Task Force.
- Community healing: Discussing a response method for when something happens within a community, showing people that they have support and someone who cares, and sharing information about resources, trauma support, etc. The group also discussed healing circles, and providing money to victims of domestic violence. However, this might not be the topic area for the City to invest Green Zone dollars.
- Green workforce: Discussion of training local folks for green jobs, and hosting events. Putting people to work and giving them skills to do that work. Michael expressed the desire to see something more tangible come from these funds, such as a biochar plant in North Minneapolis.
- Development: Suggested focusing first on larger City-owned properties that the Task Force wants to provide input on, as opposed to focusing on all developments. The Task Force first needs to define who the "community" is that should have say in city-owned property. A discussion of this and one or two other large questions that resulted from those development criteria will be discussed at a future meeting.

Michael expressed concern that the group should be using more of a democratic process in receiving community input to accurately represent the Northern Green Zone. Other Task Force members responded, saying that the members of the Task Force are responsible for ensuring that the community members are being benefited even if they are not involved in the conversation. Additionally, the Task Force could decide to use their 2019 funds to do more extensive engagement on specific subcommittee issues or potential projects.

Presentation of Subcommittee recommendations and discussion

Each group was given one minute to summarize their recommended actions and plans for using their allocated funds.

Air land and water: Will partner with KMOJ for podcasts and continue policy work at the City, and community outreach from the whole group. Will possibly hire performance artists. Could easily use the \$6,667, and determine how many podcasts could be produced using that amount. They will get the word out about existing issues like idling (and the existing ordinance that prohibits it) and other issues in the community (semi-trucks on parkways, interviewing local community members, etc.).

Food and soil: Will bring language forward pushing the City to change Policy to allow growing food on boulevards. The group also wants the community to know what is available in the local food system, and present data and a related soil assessment for North Minneapolis. Will be meeting with NEON to talk about investing in infrastructure about using some of the money to support a food based business in the community. Also want to support other groups that will be organizing around climate resilience and preparedness. Are planning to allocate 20 minutes of the next meeting for a presentation about the Headwaters Community bill. On August 29 there will be a “plant based” popup event at Breaking Bread, and they are currently seeking vendors.

Community violence and health: Want to invest in a trauma response initiative. Haven’t figured out what that could be yet, but would be a response to domestic violence, police shootings, community struggles, etc. This would include resources, and people who are willing to listen to and deliver what people need. Also need to address intergenerational normalcy of domestic violence behavior, and determine how to extinguish that. This would involve an intergenerational conversation about the root of violence in the community, not just focusing on one of those violent responses.

Housing: Partnering with community based and trusted research organizations to conduct a study on rent control feasibility. Discussing capping property tax increases approved in each year. Both of these items would require funding graduate level researchers from the University of Minnesota. No-cost ideas included a pledge for elected officials who are landlords to recuse themselves from housing policy work, scrubbing evictions, and increase the percentage of affordable housing required in new developments.

Green workforce: Owning a “biochar trailer”, collecting compost around the community. Using funding for outreach to collect interest and research the local market, gain strategic partners, and perform a feasibility study. Other sources of funds include GoFundMe and leveraging the recently passed resolution.

Sam requested formal proposals for the allocation of these funds by the September meeting of the Task Force. Otherwise, the funds will be made available to the whole group.

7:36 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting: September 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: NEON (Northside Economic Opportunity Network), 1007 W Broadway Ave,
Minneapolis

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Sustainability Division at 612-673-3014 or e-mail kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.