

Natural Resource Commission Minutes

July 19, 2018

7:00 PM

Call to Order:

Chair Larson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Bob Larson and Commissioners Kate Winsor, Damien Lepoutre, David White and Dan McDermott (via conference call), City Council Liaison Gregg Nelson and NOHOA Liaison Diane Gorder.

Absent: Commissioner Jamie Pfuhl.

Staff: City Administrator Mike Robertson.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner White moved to approve the agenda. Liaison Nelson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Liaison Nelson moved to approve the June 21, 2018 minutes as amended. NOHOA Liaison Gorder seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Report on Weeds in Pleasant Lake

Steve McComas of Blue Water Science was present to report on the weed delineation survey he did on Pleasant Lake. He was on the lake June 27, 2018 for his survey. There were 15 areas or 40 acres total of the lake that had weeds hitting the surface. While in past surveys Coontail had been the dominant weed, this year it was Stringy Pondweed. Both are native weeds but Stringy Pondweed typically only grows during certain conditions so it's not likely to remain the dominant weed. There was also some Water Celery growing in shallow areas which is a sign of good water quality. There were also minor amounts of Milfoil.

McComas said that Pleasant Lake is above the Metro Area average in water clarity as well. He said that there is a balance between weeds and algae. If too many weeds are removed there will be algae blooms. Liaison Nelson agreed, saying that he remembered much less weeds on the lake when he was growing up but there were often huge algae blooms.

Liaison Nelson said that the City Council ordered weed removal to begin in the beach area and proceed counter clockwise around the lake. Administrator Robertson said the work was scheduled to start in a week and would continue until the budget of \$20,000 was used up. Steve McComas suggested that in some areas channels could be cut through the weeds rather than trying to remove all of the weeds in the area. He particularly recommended that where there are docks that channels could be cut.

Tick Task Force Report:

Commissioners White and Larson reviewed the previous meeting of the Tick Task Force. They will try and set up a presentation by Dr. Neitzel and invite the surrounding cities. Administrator Robertson said that he and Councilmember Kingston had spoken to the City Managers of Shoreview and Arden Hills and neither has received any complaints of Lyme Disease.

Kate Winsor's Report:

Commissioner Winsor submitted her last Best Practices article to the North Oaks News on Tick Management. She'd be happy for any suggestions for future articles.

City Update:

Liaison Nelson reviewed the process of appointing a new Councilmember. He said he was very impressed by the 6 people who applied and there is a lot of talent in North Oaks.

NOHOA/NEST Update:

Liaison Gorder reviewed the upcoming effort to remove Oriental Bittersweet. The Vadnais Lake Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) was able to obtain a grant and the removal will be done at no cost. Another invasive species they are looking at is Japanese Knotweed.

Other Business:

None.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Winsor made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner White seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:04 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 16, 2018