



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Monday, June 23, 2025, Meeting Agenda
3. Approval of the Thursday, May 29, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes
4. Items for Discussion / Action
 - A. Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for Archer Datacenters
 - B. 2025 Annual Plan of Work
 - C. Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs) Energy Assessment Kit Library Project - Update
 - D. River Bend Nature Center - Update
5. Commissioner Reports and Updates
6. Adjournment



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025

6:00 PM

Call to Order / Introductions

The Special meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Teresa DeMars at 6:01 PM. Commissioners in attendance include Teresa DeMars, Lee Nordmeyer, Richard Huston, and Ann Poe. Also in attendance include Environmental and Water Resource Coordinator – Adam King, and City Planning Manager – Harry Davis, AICP.

Approval of the Thursday, May 29, 2025, Agenda

Motion by Huston, seconded by Nordmeyer to approve the agenda as presented and carried unanimously.

Approval of the Monday, August 26, 2024, Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Nordmeyer, seconded by Huston to approve the minutes of the Monday, August 26, 2024, Environmental Commission Meeting and carried unanimously.

Items for Discussion / Action

Election of Officers

King presented a list of past officers. Motion by Huston, seconded by Poe, to nominate Teresa DeMars for Chair, and Lee Nordmeyer as Vice-Chair. DeMars accepted the nomination for Chair, and Nordmeyer accepted the nomination for Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Motion by Huston, seconded by Poe to cast a unanimous ballot for Teresa Demars for Chair, and Lee Nordmeyer as Vice-Chair, and carried unanimously.

Set Meeting Dates and Times for 2025

The commissioners discussed dates and times to hold 2025 Environmental Commission meetings. Motion by Poe, seconded by Nordmeyer to hold the City of Faribault's Environmental Commission meetings monthly on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at City Hall and carried unanimously.

Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for Archer Datacenters

King introduced the commissioners to the EAW for Archer Datacenters, and Davis presented the EAW. The commissioners discussed the EAW, with King and Davis answering questions and clarifying items within the EAW. Davis discussed the potential timeline of the project and the potential roles of the Environmental Commission. It was decided that each commissioner will submit their questions and comments individually to Davis prior to the Friday, June 20, 2025, deadline, and that the Environmental Commission will comment and make a recommendation to the City Council on the EAW after questions and comments have been incorporated into the final EAW.

Xcel Energy Utility Thermal Energy Network (UTEN) Pilot Program Expression of Interest

King informed the commissioners that Xcel Energy has reached out to the City of Faribault about a UTEN pilot program that would use a geothermal energy system to assist with heating and cooling of buildings in a targeted area. The commissioners discussed the UTEN pilot program, the potential workload and current city staff capacity to take on the project. It was decided to pass on Xcel Energy's UTEN Pilot Program.

2025 Heritage Days Booth

The commissioners discussed having a booth at the 2025 Heritage Days. It was decided to not have a booth at the 2025 Heritage Days, but plan for one at the 2026 Heritage Days.

2025 Annual Plan of Work

King presented past Environmental Commission Annual Plans of Work. The commissioners discussed potential priorities to focus on in 2025. It was decided that the commissioners would review the previous priorities, and each commissioner will send King a list of their top priorities. Once received King will prepare the 2025 Annual Plan of Work for the Environmental Commission to approve at the next meeting.

Commissioner Reports and Updates

Adjournment

Motion by Poe, seconded by Huston, to adjourn the Special Environmental Commission meeting and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
	06/23/2025	Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: June 23, 2025
SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for Archer Datacenters

Background:

On Tuesday, May 13, 2025 the Faribault City Council declared the Archer Datacenters Faribault Campus Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) complete, and has directed that it be published by the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for further review and comments. Comments were due to Harry Davis, City of Faribault Planning Manager, by Friday, June 20, 2025.

At the Thursday, May 29, 2025 Special Meeting, the Environmental Commission reviewed the Archer Datacenters Faribault Campus project. City staff answered as many questions as possible and instructed the Environmental Commission to submit questions for Archer Datacenters to Davis prior to the Friday, June 20, 2025 comment deadline.

Once the comments are received and responses are completed, the Findings of Fact and Conclusions incorporating the responses to comments will be provided to the Environmental Commission. The Environmental Commission will then review the Findings of Fact and Conclusions, and provide a recommendation to City Council.

In order to provide the City Council with a recommendation in time for the City Council's approval, the Environmental Commission may need to call a Special Meeting in July.

Recommendation:

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: June 23, 2025
SUBJECT: 2025 Annual Plan of Work

Background:

As stated in the Environmental Commissioner Handbook, Sec. 9-5, the Environmental Commission shall create, for council review, an annual work plan outlining planned projects and tasks for the year. This includes (a) environmental review of projects that involve an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW), or environmental impact statement (EIS), (b) creation and participation of plans, and (c) other duties as assigned by the city council, including advising the city council on other environmental matters such as environmental ordinances and promoting public awareness and understanding of environmental matters affecting the city.

Discussion:

The 2025 priorities of individual environmental commissioners include:

- Maintain past projects.
 1. Prairie planting along Crockers Creek from 7th St. N.W. to MN 60
 - Enlist community volunteers and groups to assist with maintenance.
- Control invasive plants.
 1. Buckthorn
 2. Wild Parsnip
 3. Thistle
- Promote and implement pollinator habitat.
- Promote and replace ash trees in the city.
- Implement Adopt a Drain.
- Implement a native buffer on city property along the Cannon River Reservoir above the Woolen Mill Dam.

Recommendation:

Approve the 2025 Environmental Commission Workplan.

Attachments:

1. Environmental Commission 2025 Workplan



City of Faribault Environmental Commission 2025 Workplan

1. Maintain past projects:
 - a. Prairie planting along Crockers Creek from 7th St. N.W. to MN 60.
 - i. Enlist community volunteers/groups to assist with maintenance.
2. Control invasive plants within the city.
 - a. Glossy Buckthorn
 - b. Wild Parsnip
 - c. Thistle
3. Promote and implement pollinator habitat.
4. Promote and replace ash trees within the city.
5. Implement Adopt-A-Drain
6. Implement a native buffer on city property along the Cannon River Reservoir above the Woolen Mill Dam

The city will work to incorporate education/outreach, demonstration projects, community service into each of the priorities.

1. Maintain past projects.

A group has planted prairie along Crockers Creek between 7th St. N.W. and Minnesota State Highway 60. Since then, volunteer weeds including glossy buckthorn, wild parsnip and thistles have established. Continued efforts to control the glossy buckthorn and other invasives have been made by the Rotary Club and volunteers in front of the Chamber of Commerce office. Even the Faribault Fire Department assisted with controlled prairie burns. In the last few years, the maintenance has decreased and invasives have increased.

The city will work to enlist community volunteers/groups to assist with maintenance of the site, working to bring back native prairie and pollinator habitat.

2. Control invasive plants within the city.

Work with the city to maintain city owned properties that have been taken over by invasive plants including glossy buckthorn, wild parsnip, and thistles.

The city will work with partners and seek funding to remove invasive species and continue to maintain those areas to try to prevent the areas from being overtaken by invasive plants, including watching for the Cooperative Weed Management Grant.

3. Promote and implement pollinator habitat.

Work with partners to promote and implement native prairie and pollinator habitat.

The city will work with partners and seek funding to promote and implement pollinator habitat projects in the city, including the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Lawns to Legumes grant (open through November 30, 2025), the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP) grant, Pollinators Pathways grant and other state and federal grants.

4. Promote and replace ash trees within the city.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has devastated the ash trees in the City of Faribault. Removing and replacing large trees can be expensive and complicated when close to utilities.

The city will work with partners and seek funding to remove and replace dead and dying ash trees in the City of Faribault. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) will open their ReLeaf grant in late 2025 to assist cities in helping residents remove and replace dead and dying trees. There is also a Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB grant through the MN DNR to remove

and replace dead and dying trees on public property that we will continue to monitor for availability.

5. Implement Adopt-A-Drain

The city will work with partners to implement an adopt-a-drain program.

6. Implement a native buffer on city property along the Cannon River Reservoir above the Woolen Mill Dam

The city will work with partners and seed funding to install and maintain a native buffer on city owned property along the Cannon River Reservoir above the Woolen Mill Dam, including the HELP grant, Pollinators pathways grants and other state and federal grants.



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resources Coordinator
MEETING DATE: June 23, 2025
SUBJECT: Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs) Energy Assessment Kit Library Project - Update

Background:

We are pleased to announce that permanent environmental energy assessment tool library kits are now available for checkout at both the Buckham Memorial Library, and River Bend Nature Center. These energy assessment kits provide ongoing access to valuable sustainability resources for the community.

Between March and June 2025, the assessment kit stationed at the Buckham Memorial Library has been checked out 4 times. At River Bend Nature Center, the Girl Scouts have made a display for the energy audit kit stationed there, but the kit has yet to be checked out.

Recommendation:

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community & Economic
Development Director
FROM: Adam King, Environmental and Water Resource
Coordinator
MEETING DATE: June 23, 2025
SUBJECT: River Bend Nature Center - Update

Background:

Staff from River Bend Nature Center are present to provide an update on their programming this year.

Recommendation:

Attachments: