



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE  
ROOM

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approve the Monday, April 27, 2026 Meeting Agenda
3. Approval of the Monday, March 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes
4. Items for Discussion
  - A. Faribault Heritage Days Booth
5. Routine Business
  - A. Grant Updates
6. Commissioner Reports and Updates
7. Adjournment





## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE  
ROOM

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026

6:00 PM

### **Call to Order**

The Environmental Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Lee Nordmeyer at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners in attendance include Lee Nordmeyer, Kevin Theis, Teresa DeMars, Yvette Marthaler, Ann Schultz, and Miranda Lamb. No commissioners were absent. Others in attendance includes Heather Slechta – City Clerk, and Adam King – Environmental and Water Resource Coordinator.

### **Introductions**

Each commissioner and staff introduced themselves.

### **Oath of Office**

Newly appointed Environmental Commissioner Miranda Lamb took the Oath of Office given by Heather Slechta – City Clerk.

### **Approval of the Monday, March 23, 2026, Agenda**

There were no additions or corrections to the Monday, March 23, 2026 Agenda. Motion by DeMars, seconded by Marthaler to approve the agenda as presented and carried unanimously.

### **Approval of the Monday, February 23, 2026, Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes**

King presented the Monday, February 23, 2026 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes. The Commissioners discussed the minutes. There were no corrections to the Monday, February 23, 2026 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes. Motion by DeMars, seconded by Schultz to approve the Monday, February 23, 2026 Environmental Commission Meeting minutes as presented and carried unanimously.

### **Routine Business**

#### 2026 Annual Workplan

King prepared and presented the 2025 City of Faribault Environmental Commission Annual Report and 2026 Workplan based off discussions at the February meeting. Top priorities for the 2026 workplan include implementing the Energy Action Plan with promotion of the energy assessment kits, and environmentally friendly transportation options including bussing and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, remove and replace dead and dying Ash trees, promote and implement environmental restoration and pollinator habitat projects, promote water conservation, promote the Adopt-A-Drain program, display items that we promote at outreach events, and merge the City's Tree Board and Environmental Commission. The commissioners reviewed and discussed the 2025 Annual Report and the 2026 Workplan. Commissioners expressed they would like to include promotion of all priorities on social media and include it under the promote priorities at outreach events priority. Motion by Theis, seconded by DeMars to approve the 2025 Annual Report / 2026 Annual Workplan as amended with the addition of including social media posts under promote priorities at outreach events and carried unanimously.

King will present the 2025 Annual Report / 2026 Annual Workplan to the City Council at an upcoming council work session.

Interim Ordinance

King presented Resolution ENV2026-01, a Recommendation to Adopt an Interim Ordinance to Study the Development of Data Centers. The commissioners discussed the recommendation. King provided an update on the litigation, with the case being heard by three judges at the Court of Appeals on March 11, 2026. The judges have 90 days to make a ruling. Motion by Marthaler, seconded by Theis to approve Resolution ENV2026-01 and take the recommendation to City Council. The commissioners discussed the motion. DeMars proposed an amendment to include the words “to pause” in the first therefore to state “*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FARIBAULT*, that the Environmental Commission recommends the City of Faribault City Council adopt an interim ordinance to pause and study the development of new datacenters for one year to allow time for staff to research, develop, and incorporate design standards for datacenters regarding noise, greenhouse gas emissions, water, and energy efficiency.” The proposed amendment was seconded by Schultz. The amendment carried unanimously. The motion carried unanimously.

Faribault Heritage Days Booth

King informed the Environmental Commission that the Faribault Heritage Days festival will be held June 11-13<sup>th</sup> 2026. The commissioners discussed having a booth at Faribault Heritage Days, and possible themes of the booth, including water conservation, tree replacement, and pollinators. Motion to participate in the Faribault Heritage Days with a booth for the Environmental Commission by Marthaler, seconded by Schultz. The motion carried unanimously.

**Items for Discussion**

Grant Updates

King provided an update on grants he has submitted. The City is still waiting for a grant agreement between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the City of Faribault for the MN DNR ReLeaf Grant, and the City is still waiting for a grant agreement between the University of Minnesota and the City of Faribault for the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) grant to produce video vignettes on home energy conservation practices. King has also prepared a Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Projects and Practices Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant for a rain garden at the Golden Meadows Apartments and will submit the application prior to the Wednesday, March 25, 2026 deadline.

**Commissioner Reports and Updates**

The commissioners provided reports and updates to projects they are working on. Teresa DeMars reported that the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District is currently holding their annual plant and tree sale, and Women and Conservation is hosting a presentation called Conservation Across Landscapes at the Rice County Fairgrounds Straight River Room, RSVPs can be made at the Rice SWCD. Lee Nordmeyer, Kevin Theis, Yvette Marthaler, Ann Schultz, and Miranda Lamb did not provide a report.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Theis, seconded by DeMars, to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Approved:	Date:	Recorder:
	04/27/2026	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:** April 27, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Faribault Heritage Days Booth

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### **Background:**

The Environmental Commission has decided to participate at the Faribault Heritage Days held June 11 – 13<sup>th</sup> 2026.

Outreach ideas for the Faribault Heritage Days include:

- Promotion of the energy assessment kits
- Providing energy efficiency kits
- Water conservation items
- pollinator information

Potential partners include Xcel Energy (Partners in Energy, Home Energy Squad), Rice County SWCD, Clean Rivers Partners, River Bend Nature Center, and others. We still have many light bulbs and water conservation items to give away.

### **Recommendation:**

Determine and decide which events the Environmental Commission would like to try to get a booth at to promote energy efficiency kits, or other work plan priority areas to promote. Are there additional partners that we would like to work with?

**Attachments:**