

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH  
AGENDA  
Regular Environmental Quality Committee  
Medicine Lake Room  
3400 Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, MN  
August 13, 2025, 7:00 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- 2. PUBLIC FORUM** - Individuals may address the committee about any item not contained on the regular agenda. A maximum of three minutes is allotted per individual with a total of 15 minutes for the forum. If the full 15 minutes are not needed for the forum, the committee will continue with the agenda. The committee will take no official action on items discussed at the forum, with the exception of referral to staff for future report.

**3. PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 4. APPROVE AGENDA** - Environmental Quality Committee members may add items to the agenda for discussion purposes or staff direction only. The committee will not normally take official action on items added to the agenda.

- 5. CONSENT AGENDA** - These items are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or individual so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and placed elsewhere on the agenda.

- 5.1 Adopt proposed minutes  
1. June 11 Minutes

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 6.1 Plymouth Environmental Academy

**7. REPORTS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8. FUTURE MEETINGS** - Regular Environmental Quality Committee Meeting - September 10, 2025 - 7:00pm - Plymouth City Hall

**9. ADJOURNMENT**



**To:** Environmental Quality Committee

**Prepared by:** Ben Scharenbroich, Water Resources Supervisor

**Reviewed by:** Michael Payne, City Engineer/Deputy Public Works Director

**Item:** **Adopt proposed minutes**

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**1. Action Requested:**

Adopt attached minutes from regular meeting held on June 11, 2025.

**2. Background:**

Not applicable.

**3. Budget Impact:**

Not applicable.

**4. Attachments:**

1. June 11 Minutes

# Proposed Minutes Environmental Quality Committee Meeting June 11, 2025

Vice Chair Dmytrenko called a Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Environmental Quality Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Medicine Lake Room of City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, on June 11, 2025.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee members Babcock, Dmytrenko, Matthiesen, Polzin, Tinjum, and Vavreck.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Blakely.

STAFF PRESENT: Water Resources Supervisor Scharenbroich and Environmental Stewardship Coordinator Anderson.

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Gregor, Bassett Creek Watershed Representative Catherine Cesnik, and Bassett Creek Watershed Administrator Jester.

## Plymouth Forum

There was no one present to address the committee.

## Presentations and Public Information Announcements

There were no presentations or public information announcements.

## Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Committee Member Polzin and seconded by Committee Member Matthiesen to approve the agenda as presented. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.

## Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Committee Member Polzin and seconded by Committee Member Babcock to approve the consent agenda that included the following item:

### **(5.1) Adopt May 14, 2025, Regular Environmental Quality Committee Minutes**

With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.

## General Business

### **(6.1) Watershed Fourth Generation Management Plan Update**

Water Resources Supervisor Scharenbroich introduced Laura Jester, the Bassett Creek Watershed Administrator, and Catherine Cesnik, the Chair and Plymouth representative on the Watershed Commission.

Ms. Jester stated that the watershed is wrapping up the process to develop the next version of the Watershed Management Plan and therefore wanted to share that information with the committee. She provided background information on the formation of the Watershed Commission, its mission and focus, and water assets within, and the functions of the organization. The Watershed Plan is updated every ten years and identifies goals and policies, priorities, and projects to be implemented over the next ten years. She stated that this planning process began in 2022 and reviewed the public input that was received, which was used to develop a list of priorities. She reviewed the list of priorities, goals, and implementation tools. She reviewed the remaining plan development schedule, anticipating adoption of the plan early next spring. She explained how their funding ability can impact different things, such as maintenance.

The committee asked questions about chloride and impaired waters designations, and Ms. Jester provided additional information on those topics.

The committee asked about potential grant programs for homeowners. Water Resources Supervisor Scharenbroich explained that might be a good partnership opportunity for the city as the Watershed is limited in its staff and funding.

Ms. Jester provided additional information on funding responsibility of the cities and the Watershed Commission. She explained how the Watershed determines where projects will occur, how they are prioritized, and implemented, noting the importance of the partnership with the cities in that process. She provided additional information on the indigenous water and land care practices priority item and how that could be implemented.

The committee asked if it would be more cost-effective to focus on preventative efforts before waters become impaired. Ms. Jester replied that they do take proactive measures and provided some examples.

Water Resources Supervisor Scharenbroich commented that Plymouth also sees the benefit in completing projects before something becomes impaired, as the cost will ultimately be lower. He explained that most of this watershed was developed prior to stormwater regulations, and therefore, it will take a longer period of time to address water-related issues.

Ms. Jester explained that the Watershed Commission focuses on redevelopment, as treatment was often not provided through the original development. She also spoke about the focus on public/private partnerships, which will incentivize a developer to go above and beyond the standard to provide additional benefits. She also provided information on the work that the commission has done to gain input from voices that are not typically heard during this process and to provide access to the creek in areas where it is not available.

The commission asked questions about the AIS detection course that is hosted by Hennepin County and expressed interest in perhaps hosting a course through the environmental academy.

Ms. Cesnik commented on how fiscally responsible the watersheds are and the tremendous amount of work that is able to be completed with the limited funding.

Additional discussion ensued related to education and outreach.

### **(6.2) 2025 Drop Off Days Event Update**

Water Resources Supervisor Scharenbroich presented data on the drop-off days event, noting that it is preliminary information and the details will be firmed up before the presentation to the City Council.

The committee suggested hosting a clothing swap for the textiles that are collected, and there was additional discussion on the intricacies of that industry and its reuse options. The committee discussed considering details for a potential 2026 garage sale concept.

### **(6.3) Plymouth Environmental Academy**

Committee members shared information on the draft for an upcoming PEA event at Parkers Lake. It was suggested that the Parkers Lake presentation also include information on the impact of practices downstream. There was additional discussion related to the start time for an event and the importance of consistency for residents.

Committee members shared information on the planning for the tour of Schmidt Lake event, noting that they are meeting to discuss further planning next week.

It was noted that additional planning will occur for the stormwater practices session 3 & 4, and it was suggested that perhaps it would be helpful to include a landscape architect or a resident who has completed similar projects to provide input on elements that could be helpful in someone's yard.

## **Reports and Staff Recommendations**

There were no reports and staff recommendations.

## **Future Meetings**

Water Resources Supervisor Scharenbroich asked for assistance from the committee to staff the booth at Music in Plymouth. Some members of the committee volunteered to assist.

## **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Dmytrenko adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

**To:** Environmental Quality Committee

**Prepared by:** Ben Scharenbroich, Water Resources Supervisor

**Reviewed by:** Michael Payne, City Engineer/Deputy Public Works Director

**Item:** **Plymouth Environmental Academy**

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### **1. Action Requested:**

Updates from Environmental Quality Committee members on the 2025 Plymouth Environmental Academy

### **2. Background:**

The Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) 2025 Work Plan includes a continuation of the Plymouth Environmental Academy (PEA), which will begin in August. The committee discussed topics at their February 12 meeting, and will continue further planning efforts for each proposed topic as listed below at its meetings this spring and summer. At the August 13 meeting, committee members should provide updates for the sessions listed below.

#### 1. Tour of Schmidt Woods Park - August 21, 2025 - 6:00 p.m (Schmidt Woods Park)

- Committee members Blakely, Dmytrenko and Vavreck
- Presenters - City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation Director Tomlinson

#### 2. Tree Care and Food Production - September 11, 2025 - 7:00 p.m (Parkers Lake Park)

- Committee members Babcock, Blakely and Dmytrenko
- Presenters - City Forester Paul Buck and TBD

#### 3. Plants, Ponds and Practices for Water Quality Tour - September 25, 2025 - 6:00 p.m (Bus Tour)

- Committee members Matthiesen, Polzin and Tinjum

- Presenters - Water Resources Supervisor Scharenbroich

4. Stormwater Practices 101 - October 9, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. (Plymouth Maintenance Facility)

- Committee members Matthiesen, Polzin and Tinjum
- Presenters - TBD

**3. Budget Impact:**

Not applicable.

**4. Attachments:**