

**LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022
TELFORD STREET BOARD ROOM
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REGULAR MINUTES Minutes of the LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD Regular Meeting held Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at Telford Street Board Room Leduc, AB.

PRESENT: Councillor Lars Hansen
Councillor Ryan Pollard
Benjamin McDonald
Jennifer Roach
Wendy Yule
Lynne Chalmers
Mindy Paradis
Sheila Ruddy
Brittany Onysyk

ALSO PRESENT: Jenna Chernuka – City Representative
Keri Nelson – Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

I. CALL TO ORDER

Wendy Yule called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA
18/2022**

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: It was Moved by Brittany to approve the April 12, 2022 Agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
19/2022**

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was Moved by Lynne to accept the meeting minutes of March 8, 2022 as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

**SAFETY
MOMENT**

IV. SAFETY MOMENT

- Board representative spoke about the topic of “Head injuries”. Was discussed how to protect ourselves from traumatic brain injuries. There are always risks with any high fast-paced activities such as driving, skiing, hiking, and snowboarding.
- No matter what activity you are doing be mindful of the activity wear your helmet, wear seatbelts, keep up on vehicle maintenance do not drive tired, do not drive drunk or high, do not engage in sports drunk or high.
- Important to share stories to create awareness about how quickly things can change. Be mindful of the possibilities of what can happen.

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V. REPORTS

A. Chair's Report

REPORTS

Wildlife Friendly Gardening Webinar was discussed

- Gardeners are important players in wildlife corridors, providing habitat for birds, bats and pollinators. Any size of green space is better than none! Suggest mimicking nature with native plantings and leaving seed heads intact. Native insects have evolved with native plants; native fruit-bearing shrubs have the right proportions of fat to sugar for local species. Studies show native trees support a greater number of native insects. A diversity of flowers, shrubs, trees supports a diversity of wildlife.
 - Avoid pesticides, for instance the pollen and nectar of neonicotinoids is harmful to pollinators.
 - Bird feeders and water containers require cleaning often to avoid spreading disease.
 - Safety tip if you want to keep a dead tree to attract woodpeckers – cut off the top and the branches.
 - Pollinators include bees, flies, beetles, wasps, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds.
 - Protect shorelines by not mowing to the water's edge. Look for "Grow me Instead" guides. Watch for invasive species and find out the best way to eliminate them.
 - Canadian Wildlife Federation offers a "Garden Habitat Certification" and certificate (also, for a small fee, a sign you can post on your lawn). You can apply for this yourself online or as a 'gift' to a gardener in your life.
- Business Expo was held April 9-10 2022
 - Was well-attended with lots of interest at our LEAB table (Arbor Day, pollinators, hens and bees). Several people noted that their bee hotels never attracted pollinators.
 - Youth Council
 - Brittany and Wendy will be attending the Leduc Youth Council April 14, virtually.
 - LEAB has 5 minutes to talk about LEAB (past projects and current etc) along with 5 minutes for questions. Council had suggested to us that we have youth representation on LEAB. What will that look like? Update will be given at the next board meeting
 - Councillor suggested to have them come to subcommittee meetings maybe they want to come to those but not the regular monthly board meeting as they also have their own meetings to attend
 - Their chair may want to come to a LEAB meeting so the community cleanup is huge and they want to be involved.
 - Chairperson wants to talk about the community initiatives
 - Find out how best to get the Youth involved within LEAB

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- Leduc Wildlife is doing a wildflower planting around the Memorial Gardens. They will be establishing a “Native plant” garden 1 km east of the North parking lot. Supposedly, it will be beside the Memorial garden that you folks are developing. Vic chatted with the City and this will be a joint project including us (LWCS), The City of Leduc and your group (LEAB). Our logo’s will be included on the signage
- Pitch in week – register in with LWCS
 - LWCS is also considering a bird count/watching “tour” the week of the Spring Bird count to assist in bird identification.

B. Council’s Report

- City of Leduc’s proposed Memorial forest around Telford is very exciting for the City, this feeds into what the LWCS wants to do with urban forests. A big push this year from council is to plant trees. The goal is to plant 6000 trees this year if the City of Leduc receives the grant then there will be over 20K trees planted.
- Briefly spoke about 2024 summer games, lead time of about 2 years so it is fairly unlikely the City of Leduc will be hosting, just not enough time to plan and prepare. 55 plus games will probably be a go within the City of Leduc this will be a great economic boost
- Within the report on Monday; things are looking good business licenses are up, vacancy rates are below 5% and housing stats are going wild. Spoke with a well known builder in Leduc and they are sold out of homes, they cannot keep up with the supply chain. This is great news for the City of Leduc
- First reading of property tax was had brought forward was a proposed 2.5% increase. Mostly tied to capital projects. Mainly the Fire hall expansion which will service the east side and industrial areas of Leduc.
- West campus follow up is that there is a lot of demand for artificial turf so have been doing tours within Edmonton at facilities that are currently using the turf to see if it is something that can be incorporated into the plans for the field house on the West Campus
- Downtown area is accepting applications for outdoor patio again this year which is great for the businesses downtown
- Street sweeping on multiway and roads has begun
- Record-breaking year for snow removal 5500 more truckloads of snow this year than last.
- Fortis is doing pole removal so power outages here and there for residential some tied into the relaying of the TELUS Fibre optic. Residents and businesses that are affected have received notices

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- Councillors are attending the Region small business convention in May to discuss how to increase tourism within our city. Sports tourism is important and Leduc wants to be more involved in that to bring more people to Leduc

C. Administration's Report

- Update on the City's Business Expo – was a great success! Excellent turn out and lots of engagement with residents on environmental initiatives. A big thank-you to everyone who volunteered their time to represent LEAB.
- Arbour Day reminder – May 7th from 11:00am-3:00pm. We've brought some of the postcards along if you'd like to take some and share them with friends and family.
- Youth Council – Wendy and Brittany will be attending this Thursday to speak on LEAB initiatives. Could recommend they attend Arbour Day with their own table or a shared table with LEAB.
- Would like to propose moving our June 14th meeting due to the Kelly Lamrock Memorial Golf Tournament as Engineering & Environmental will be volunteering and I believe Council may be participating as well. We would like to suggest either the 7th or 21st.
- Home energy kits are currently being assembled (the target for release is May 30th to align with CEIP). Residents will be able to sign them out at the library and they will include things like:
 - Thermographic cameras for heat detection
 - CO2 meters
 - Radon meters
 - Watt meters to measure how much energy appliances are using

**MOTION
APPROVAL
20/2022**

MOTION: It was motioned by Jennifer to move the June 14 meeting to June 21. All in favor

MOTION CARRIED

- Arbour Day is fast approaching Administration will set up a table for LEAB to hand out seeds, promote the Pollinator Garden Challenge and hand out info on Hens & Bees. Wendy will volunteer. Hopeful that everyone from LEAB can come out and participate.

VI. APPROVAL OF REPORTS

**APPROVAL OF
REPORTS
21/2022**

MOTION: It was moved by Jennifer to accept the above noted reports for information purposes only.

MOTION CARRIED

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VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Watershed and Coal Policy – Update

- There continues to be a concern about the pause on coal exploration on the eastern slopes being a ministerial order only – it needs to be legislated. However, Adam Linnard, the Alberta Program Manager for Yellowstone to Yukon stated there is some cause for celebration. Tens of thousands of Albertans opposed the expansion of coal mining and the AB Energy Minister admitted that the government made a mistake. Therefore, the Eastern Slopes are now in a better position than they were prior. Other positive news; the 3 thermal coal plants left in Alberta are being modified to use natural gas. The plan to phase out thermal coal by 2030 is ahead of schedule (likely by 2023).
- Of the 4 excepted proposals, that is, the ones which were proposed prior to the coal policy being rescinded, here is an update:
 1. Grassy mountain – rejected by AER & the Federal government, lost first appeal
 2. Tent Mountain Montem – going for federal review (more stringent than provincial). Recently announced a transition to a renewable energy complex.
 3. Vista mines (Hinton) – applied for a mine expansion – unlikely to be approved.
 4. Mine 14 (near Grand Cache) small underground mine, probably not viable.
- Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative held a webinar, “Call About Coal “ on Mar 23/22
- If you couldn't join or would like to share the Q&A with family and friends, the webinar recording is now available at this link. “

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

B. Single Use Plastics – Update

Two motions were unanimously approved in Edmonton:

- A motion to approve Edmonton's Plan to Reduce Single-use Items (SUI) and develop a related bylaw. The bylaw will go to public hearing later this year and would be in effect one year after its approval. Regulatory actions include:
 - Banning single-use plastic shopping bags and imposing a minimum fee on paper shopping bags and new reusable shopping bags;
 - Banning foam cups and containers;

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- Requiring restaurants to serve dine-in beverage orders in reusable cups and accept reusable customer cups for dine-in and takeout orders (excluding drive-through);
 - Providing accessories, like utensils, straws, pre-packaged condiments and napkins, by request only.
 - Public hearing later this year
 - Connecting with the City of Edmonton once they have rolled out their platform
-
- A motion to approve a business case for mandatory food scraps and recycling collection for multi-unit properties, such as apartments and condominiums. The City and its Contractors will continue to provide collection service.
-
- Collection from these properties could begin as early as 2023.

C. Pollinators and Pesticides – Update

- Auditor General's report came out with the use of pesticides in Alberta. Inadequate process to minimize risk. Stopped inspections in 2017. No performance matrix. Recommendation is to assess the risk. Ensure the public info is current and accurate. Recommended we develop a performance metric last data was collected in 2018. No water monitoring in place right now.
- No mow May will have to have more thought into it. CWF is already doing it so maybe we can tag on with them. More discussion required
- Update from Administration in regards to Pesticides Survey along with LEABS involvement. It was decided that LEAB needs to take a step back from being involved in the survey results so there is not bias towards the survey. The final draft of RFP will remain internal to get a consultant on board. Once the results are finalized, then LEAB can present their recommendations to council.
- Administration still feel that it is valid to go back to council with a preliminary update, as it has been a year since the last update so would be good to go through the implementation plans and objectives. Then come back in the fall to relay the survey results.
- Pollinator Garden Challenge update, board members met with Communities in Bloom who gave some suggestions on how to promote the challenge. Scale back and not have a windup this year, focus on the challenge. Look into adding a QR code to register for the pollinator challenge

**MOTION
APPROVAL
22/2022**

MOTION: It was Motioned by Lynne to have 2 ads in the Rep paper for the Pollinator Challenge. All were in favor.

MOTION CARRIED

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- Administration asked the board what the metric of success they feel is required for the Pollinator Garden Challenge Board replied that prior to the pandemic around 75-90 participants registered and then Covid-19 happened 2020 participation was down to 40 and 2021 was even less. The board would like to see participants back up to 75 for the challenge to be considered successful
- Objective of the challenge is to educate the youth and have people understand what the Pollinators are and what greatness can come out of them. This metric is difficult to show
- The board would like to talk with landscaping companies to help promote the gardens etc. Questions to the board are how do we reach more people? The board will review after this year's challenge and come up with a plan for next year.
- Weed pulling, Public Services and Environment need to clarify LEABS vision. Board to discuss and come up with a plan to present to Administration on the vision for this. LEAB should present the topic to council

D. Green House Gas Plan/CEIP – Update

- Info session for contractors was held end of March
- End of May to be rolled out
- April 25 there will be a big announcement on CEIP with Alberta Ministers

E. Light Efficiency Community and Telford Berms and Buffers – Update

- No update from Sub Committee
- Request from Sub Committee to Board is to have everyone look at the info Rod sent out and bring all ideas back to the board
- Administration to send out materials along with video for all board members to look at before next board meeting on May 10th
- Update from Administration; Strathcona County is working to develop a light pollution policy/procedure and both Devon and Parkland County have reached out to support this with information from their current policies/procedures. We know this is something LEAB would like to prioritize in the near future so we wanted to share this. Perhaps we can have one of our connections from Strathcona come to LEAB once they are further along in their process to share their experience and lessons learned. Administration to update when that can be done, likely 2023 to give Strathcona time to see what is working and what is not
- Weed pull update from Administration – Preliminary discussions between Engineering & Environment and Public Services have been positive. Similar to No Mow May, we need

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to clarify LEAB's vision of what the event would entail – in terms of advertising, training, and documentation. Sounds like City staff would be on board to help prepare training material, map out appropriate areas and timelines for pulling, and provide a hands-on demonstration for LEAB members to equip the group with the information needed to then run this event in 2023. The City's volunteer resources could be used to draw participants. Would be good to present the idea of a weed pull event to Council when providing recommendations around the Pesticide Survey results. Whether it is an education campaign or the development of a bylaw, LEAB modelling alternative weed control methods could be a complimentary topic to weave into that discussion. If Council supports the initiative, resources could then be allocated to Administration to assist with this.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Citizens of Distinctions – quite a few nominations this year very impressive. Selections are in, unsure on results as of yet. Number of volunteer hours people are putting in is amazing to see within the City of Leduc.

**OPEN
DISCUSSION**

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Nothing discussed

FUTURE TOPICS

X. FUTURE TOPICS

- ICI, Multi-Unit and Industrial Pilot
- Planning presented their recommendations to Council and the Changes/updates were approved. This will ensure all new developments have space available for organics diversion.
- Urban tree removal and replacement policy/bylaw
 - Our Planning and Public Services Departments are currently working on a Neighborhood Streets Policy and a Tree Protection Bylaw. The Neighborhood Streets Policy would address protecting and preserving City trees, where possible. While the Tree protection Bylaw would address tree protection on a much larger scale.
 - The Bylaw is being modelled after Stony Plain and Edmonton's current plans this would address both public and private trees in some capacity. Administrations understanding is that the goal is to have this in front of Council before summer.

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Administration would be happy to ask someone from our Public Services department to come to a meeting if LEAB would be interested in this to update on their efforts and findings.

- Environmental Plan
 - No update

ADJOURNMENT

23/2022

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: it was moved by Jenn to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on May 10, 2022 Virtually on Microsoft Teams



Chair



Recording Secretary