

Wetland Task Force Meeting Minutes

Executive Conference Room, City Hall, 3rd Floor
1528 3rd Avenue
September 3, 2025
8:30 AM



Task Force Members Present	Nina Struss Mike Thoms Jon Duyvejonck Missy Gasiorowski Kathy Wine Tim Pressly
Task Force Members Absent	Ald. Randy Hurt Mayor Ashley Harris Hannah Alexander
Staff Present	Todd Thompson Tom Flaherty Miles Brainard Tanner Osing Sarah Hayden
Guests	Lorraine Foelske, INDR/INPC

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am.

Discussion on Land & Water Reserve

The Task Force reviewed the proposed timeline for the Land and Water Reserve (LWR) designation process, targeting final approval in January 2027. The timeline includes initial data collection, boundary work, and title research in Fall/Winter 2025, followed by development of the proposal and management plan in Spring/Summer 2026, and finalization of documents in Fall/Winter 2026 prior to presentation to the Commission.

The Task Force discussed prioritizing boundary and survey work early in the process, with consideration given to expediting timelines if completed by the City. The Task Force emphasized the importance of collecting ecological data, including assessments of birds, reptiles, amphibians, and plant communities, and identified opportunities to partner with local organizations and academic institutions to support this work. Members also discussed the need to define site uses, public access, and long-term management strategies, as well as coordinating with adjacent landowners and exploring parcel consolidation.

The Task Force reviewed anticipated costs associated with boundary surveys, ecological assessments, and long-term management. Foelske noted that IDNR may

contribute up to \$20,000 toward survey work, though City-led efforts could accelerate the timeline.

Other Business

Additional discussion included potential partnerships with universities and conservation groups to support research and long-term stewardship, as well as the importance of timing early management activities to avoid conflicts with ecological studies. The Task Force also discussed coordination with adjacent landowners, Council involvement, and key approval milestones. The Task Force concluded the meeting by reviewing next steps.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by consensus.

Minutes submitted by Tanner Osing.