

Wetland Task Force Meeting Minutes

Executive Conference Room, City Hall, 3rd Floor
1528 3rd Avenue
October 1, 2025
8:30 AM



Task Force Members Present	Nina Struss Mike Thoms Missy Gasiorowski Hannah Alexander Tim Pressly
Task Force Members Absent	Ald. Randy Hurt Mayor Ashley Harris Kathy Wine Jon Duyvejonck
Staff Present	Tom Flaherty 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.

Land & Water Reserve Process Update

Foelske provided updates on the Land and Water Reserve (LWR) process, noting that boundary survey work will be conducted through the state's INPC process, which will contribute up to \$20,000, with the City providing additional funding as needed. The timeline for this work remains uncertain due to the state-led process. City staff will collaborate with INCP to prepare the RFP and required job specifications, with materials anticipated to be finalized by early October.

Foelske shared that a draft budget has been prepared and distributed. She noted work is also beginning on the formal proposal to INPC for LWR designation.

The City reported that a mass mailing was sent in mid-September to landowners and taxing bodies, including information on the LWR and an invitation for participation; no responses have been received to date. The Task Force discussed whether additional outreach is necessary, including the possibility of designating a point of contact rather than holding an in-person meeting. It was confirmed that City Council approval will only be required for the final management plan and proposal submitted to INPC. The Task Force also discussed key milestone dates to stay on track for the January 2027 deadline, including a community engagement effort in early 2026, a mid-2026 progress

update to Council, and completion of the final management plan and proposal by late 2026.

Other Business

The Task Force agreed to transition to monthly meetings, with additional meetings scheduled as needed through early 2026. Members discussed opportunities to share project updates with the public. There was also discussion of interest from local groups in conducting wildlife and environmental surveys, including bat monitoring and eDNA sampling, with coordination and permissions to be addressed by the City. The group acknowledged that collecting ecological data now could be beneficial and plans to further coordinate survey efforts at an upcoming meeting with academic partners. Ongoing questions regarding the long-term term of the easement were noted, with clarification that the intent is for perpetual designation to be reflected in final documents.

Additional updates included potential federal funding opportunities through the NESP program for river restoration efforts, as well as upcoming regional events related to river and environmental planning that may be of interest to Task Force members.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by consensus.

Minutes submitted by Tanner Osing.