



**Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan Environmental Quality and Natural Systems  
Working Group Meeting One Notes  
8 March 2018  
City Hall  
6 pm – 7 pm**

**Topic:** Narrowing down the most important topics to address regarding environmental quality and natural systems for the next five years

**Facilitator:** Stephanie Richards

**Computer notes:** Steven Chybowski

**Number of participants:** 11 (Stephanie Richards, Daphney Richemond, Steve Chybowski, Jane St. John, Anil Joshi, Mike Litwin, Mike McAfee, Kathy Gutowsky, Amanda Figolah, Steve Cotter, Elizabeth Tompkins)

**Summary of Topics discussed**

- Introductions of the working group members
- Review of sustainability action plan process
- Review of the working group member list
- Review the main topics under environmental quality and natural systems
- Rating the importance of environmental quality subject areas
- Wrap-up/Next Steps

**Detailed Notes**

**Review of Sustainability Action Plan Process**

- We are creating the City's first ever sustainability action plan
- We had a class on Friday (3/2/18) with SPEA professor Dr. Kenneth Richards to get everyone speaking a common language regarding sustainability and goals
- We will have working group meetings which are made up of members from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors
- The working groups will establish priorities for the next three meetings in this first meeting
- In the next meetings, SPEA Masters students will present for 15 minutes on the current situation in Bloomington of specific environmental quality topics as well as what other cities are doing to address these issues
- We categorized all the ideas by topic and subtopic and listed actions that community members thought of in the open houses
- Today, we will identify the top issues from the ideas developed in the open houses
- The next meetings will be longer to dive into the topics in more detail
- Spacing out the meetings gives us time to research these ideas
- SPEA Masters students are doing research on the City of Bloomington and what other cities are doing around the country

- As a result, the action plan will be research-driven

### **Review of Working Group List**

- We are looking for opportunities for collaboration between the three groups of private, public, and nonprofit
- We have put together working groups for these 4 broad topics
- Have we overlooked a hidden gem that we forgot to invite?
- A person's name highlighted in green has been confirmed, feel free to politely peer pressure any names that are not highlighted to join us in the future

### **Topic Area Discussion:**

- We have grouped everything by subject matter and listed some of the recommendations by residents
- Have we missed anything from these topics?
- Improve protected ordinances should go under the topic of surface water quality
- Storm water runoff is related to surface water
- Include soil and water conservation districts and friends of Lake Monroe in topic of surface water
- Include invasive plants in pest management topic
- Invasive eradication is a part of pest management
- Include construction waste with solid waste management
- Include recycling/reuse of construction waste and materials in solid waste management
- Incentivizing businesses to recycle as a way to promote recycling of materials
- There is confusion about what the City vs. County are responsible for in storm water management, so we should establish clear boundaries moving forward
- Include pre-treatment facilities as an action of storm water management
- Filters on drainage inlets would be useful for storm water management
- We can look for ways to harness storm water such as using rain barrels in residential areas
- Can the City do that at a bigger scale City-wide?
- Tunneling is something big cities are doing – can we consider that?
- Reusing gray water onsite
- Air quality issues stem from coal plants – use green energy is a solution
- Alternative transportation will help with air quality
- We can provide stewardship and change the culture to visit here and leave it better than you found it regarding tourism as well as new businesses
- Do biodiversity and ecosystems go together? Yes
- Would the City consider banning certain invasive species?
- The state is considering a ban on certain species
- Environmental Commission recently released a habitat connectivity plan which should be incorporated into our natural systems plan
- The biggest threats to local biodiversity is invasive plants
- The deer population also needs to be controlled
- When it comes to deer, we just did a deer cull and may look into deer hunts in the future
- Add education on the topic of deer management so the public understands the issue
- Greenspace management will be affected by the new UDO changes
- We must also include brownfield sites and superfund sites

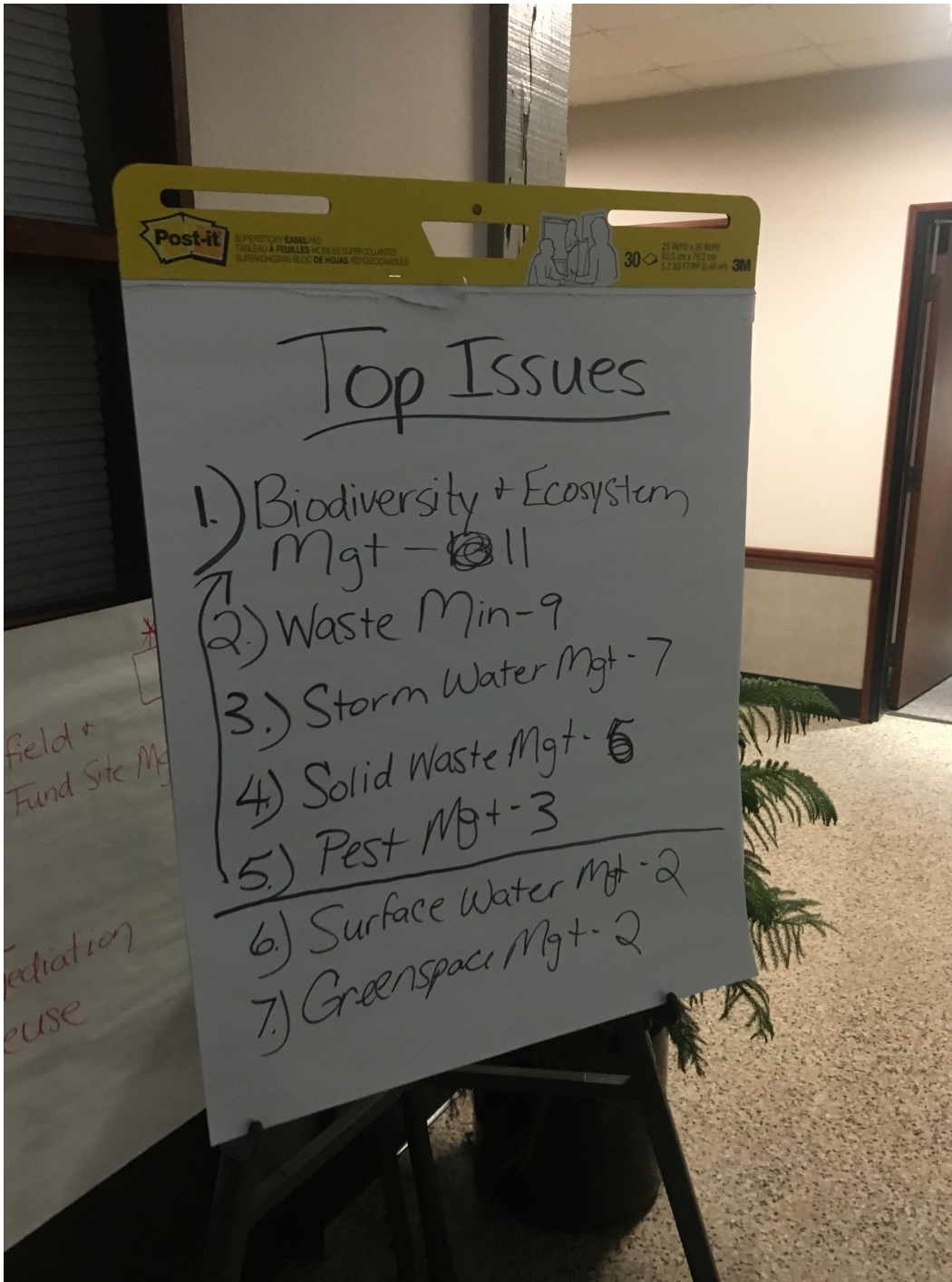
### **Rating of most important issues**

- Group members were given 6 dots and asked to vote on most critical issues facing Bloomington
- Topic issues were identified as Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management, Waste Minimization, Storm Water Management, Solid Waste Management, and Pest Management
- Surface Water Management could be discussed alongside Storm Water Management
- Group members were asked to identify issues the organizations they work for could help address and identify issues they could personally impact through their daily habits.

### **Wrap-Up/Next Steps**

- In the coming days, we will ask for your feedback in defining sustainability and ask that the group provide input into a vision statement for the Sustainability Action Plan
- If you are keen on any of these topics, feel free to do research on your own to prepare for future meetings
- If you have any feedback on the process, please let us know via email
- Please share any background documents on these topics that you may have access to and that are not already accessible online
- We are currently relying on documents available online
- Next meeting is Tuesday April 3 for the Environmental Quality and Natural Systems working group
- Mike of Visit Bloomington has an office with a boardroom that he has offered to us for future meetings

## Priority Issues for Discussion in Meetings 2 - 4





Issue:

## Biodiversity

*	Org	Me
•••••	•••••	•••••

+ Ecosystem Protection

• Diversity of Plant Species

- Deer

- Invasive Plants

Recommendations:

• Encourage planting of native plants

• Banning invasive plants - Deer Call

- Deer Hunts

Challenge: - Education  
re: deer mgmt.

Issue:

## Ecosystem Protection

*	Org	Me
•••••	•••••	•••••

• Habitat protection

• Wildlife protection

Issue

Green

Manag

Recomm

• Require

• City ini


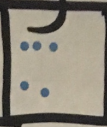

• SLT

• Tree i

Challenge

## Issue:

Waste Minimization

*	Org	Me
		

## Recommended Actions:

- Education on overconsumption
- Ban on plastic bags
- Repurpose/resell + use proceeds for sustainability programs
- Build upon Hoosier to Hoosier sale
- Salvage what students leave behind
- Pay-as-you throw
- Food rescue
- Tax incentives to decrease use of plastic bags

## Recommended Actions (continued):

- Educational packages for new businesses
  - Education for visitors
  - Stewardship materials + culture


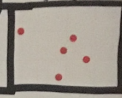
## Challenge:



## Issue:

### Storm Water Management

- Drainage issues
- Flooding
- Compliance w/ Clean Water Act
- Aging pipes
- Collaboration w/ County

* Org	Me
	

## Recommended Actions:

- Bio-swales
- More ditches + fewer culverts
- Rain gardens
- Collaboration b/t city + county
- Pre-treatment Retention ponds, etc.
- Rain barrels

## Recommended actions (Continued):

- Tunneling
- Rain water reuse (e.g. Batchelor)
- Stored gray water

## Challenge: