



MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023, 5:00 PM

In person at City Hall, Room 310.

Virtual attendance also available via Zoom.

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

I. This item contains Zoom information, instructions, and a link to the Virtual Comment Form.

B. ROLL CALL.

I. Chair- Seth Hoffmeister; Vice Chair-Ned Dorff; Alder Mark Steuer; John Arendt; Amy Kox; Kaurie Mihm-PRF; Julia Noordyk; Christa Kananen; Mark Walter.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

I. Approval of the Sustainability Commission meeting agenda for April 19, 2023.

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Kaurie Mihm to approve the agenda.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Mark Steuer, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, Seth Hoffmeister, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Julia Noordyk, No- None, Abstain- None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

I. Approval of minutes from March 8, 2023.

Moved by Ned Dorff, seconded by Ald. Mark Steuer to Motion to edit the minutes.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Mark Steuer, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, Seth Hoffmeister, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Julia Noordyk, No- None, Abstain- None.

Moved by Mark Walter, seconded by Ned Dorff to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Mark Steuer, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, Seth Hoffmeister, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Julia Noordyk, No- None, Abstain- None.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Resiliency Coordinator announced No Mow May registration opened April 7. Residents choosing to participating should register and pick up a sign by May 7. The city will receive two grants to study flood mitigation solutions for the East River. Anticipated project study will begin in late summer 2023.

F. PRESENTATIONS.

I. Informational presentation from Maria Otto, Green Bay Conservation Corps Coordinator.

G. REGULAR BUSINESS.

H. INFORMATIONAL.

I. Climate Resilience and Adaptation work group update

Julia Noordyk gave an informational work group update.

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Julia Noordyk to open the floor to members of the public.
Motion Passed.

Yes- Mark Steuer, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, John Arendt, Seth Hoffmeister, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Julia Noordyk, No- None, Abstain- None.

Moved by Ald. Mark Steuer, seconded by Julia Noordyk to close the floor.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Mark Steuer, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, John Arendt, Seth Hoffmeister, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Julia Noordyk, No- None, Abstain- None.

2. Marketing & Communications work group update

Kaurie Mihm and Mark Steuer and Julia Noordyk gave a work group update.

I. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Ned Dorff, seconded by Kaurie Mihm to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Passed.

Yes- Mark Steuer, Kaurie Mihm, Amy Kox, John Arendt, Seth Hoffmeister, Mark Walter, Ned Dorff, Julia Noordyk, No- None, Abstain- None.

VERBATIM MINUTES

All right, we'll call this meeting to order. 5:01 PM, Item A, zoom information check, item B, roll call.
Chair Seth, I am here. Vice Chair Ned Dorff.

- Present.

- Alder Mark Steuer

- Here.
- John Arndt is not here and not excused.
- Amy Kox.
- Here.
- Kaurie Mihm.
- Present.
- Julia Noordyk.
- Present.
- Krista Kananen, excused. And Mark Walter.
- Here.
- Alrighty then, move on to item C of the agenda for today's meeting, April 19th. Is there a motion to approve?
- So moved
- By Steuer, is there a second?
- Second.
- By Kaurie, all those in favor say aye.
- [Group] Aye.
- All those opposed say nay. Alrighty then, approved. Regarding approval of the minutes from our last meeting on March 8th. Is there a motion to approve?
- So moved.
- By Walter, is there a second?
- I second.
- By Julia, all right. All those in favor say aye.
- Aye.
- Aye.

- All those opposed--
- Hey Seth. I was going to say for discussion, that presentation was attributed to one person and I think Andy DiMezza was the other person who presented with New Leaf. So we might want to put his name in there too as part of the minutes.
- Oh, got it. So you need to make a motion to approve the minute or edit the minutes.
- Yeah, I'd like to move to edit the minutes.
- All right, there's a motion to edit the minutes. Do we have a, with what you had said adding, did you get that Melissa?
- The name.
- I'm writing it down, I'll do it all later, put it in the same file
- Cool, is there a second for Ned's motion?
- Second.
- By Steuer, all those in favor, say aye.
- [Group] Aye.
- All those opposed, say nay. All right, thanks Ned for that. And back to the main motion, approval of the minutes. We had a motion and a second, all those in favor say aye.
- Motion to approve the minutes as amended.
- As amended, okay.
- I'll make that motion.
- By Walter, is there a second?
- Second.
- All right, by Ned, thank you. All those in favor, say aye.
- [Group] Aye.
- And those opposed, say nay. All right, cool. Those are approved as amended. Onto announcements, does anybody have any announcements for the group?
- I do.

- All right.

- First announcement is the No Mow May registration opened early last week. So if anyone wants to participate in No Mow May, they can go to the public works webpage and find the registration link under No Mow May. So far we have 288 registrations and most people have indicated they're reusing their sign from last year, which is great.

- Nice.

- How many did we have last year?

- Last year, we had about 1,200. Secondly--

- Can you get a sign, a new sign?

- If you have your sign from last year, there's a, on the registration form, there's a check box that says you're going to reuse your sign. If you need a new sign, then you can come in and get a new sign. So I have some signs here for any commission members that want to register and pick up their sign tonight so you don't have to come back.

- I have a sign, can I register here or do I have to do it during work hours? Oh, online, I'll do it online, I'll do it online.

- Anytime. Secondly, the purchase of 416 rain barrels was approved by INS and by Common Council last night. So we'll be moving forward with that. Hopefully we'll have those near the end of May and we will do the rain barrel program similar to how it was done last year, do a registration process, first come, first served. But people that have received rain barrels from the city last year are not eligible to register for one this year.

- When does this start? When is this start?

- When we have confirmation that the rain barrels are, an estimated delivery date, then we'll open registration. And we'll put that on social media like last year. So keep your eyes open on the city's Facebook page. And then lastly, the city was selected to receive two grants, one from the Fund for Lake Michigan and the other one from Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to do flood mitigation study for identifying areas in the East River watershed within the city of Green Bay and for flood storage mitigation solutions. So the RFP needs to be written for that. And then we can hopefully move forward with that in the summer to start that study. Total award combined is \$126,000.

- Excellent.

- Those are my announcements.

- Cool, and then we've got John and the waiting room.

- Oh, thank you.

- Cool, other announcements?

- Seth, I could make an announcement. There's a joint effort between my school, Aldo Leopold, and the Brown County Parks to do a food forest, kind of similar to what we saw last week as a presentation, near the trailhead of the Fox River. And it was just this week presented to the Astor Neighborhood Association and they have pledged some funds toward it and so has the Astor East River Neighborhood Association. So pretty exciting. Going to be a fun project to do with the kids in the county.

- Cool, that's exciting, thanks.

- Is that near Porlier Pier then, or where is it, sorry?

- Yeah, pretty close to the pier, but across from the sign across the trail, like if you go east across the trail from the sign in that big lawn area.

- Okay.

- All right, other announcements?

- I just found out this afternoon that I think I'm going to have an op-ed published in the Green Bay Press Gazette online Saturday about green destruction. Check it out.

- We can't see it 'til then, right? Or, I mean, is it done already?

- I don't think the newspapers like you to, because sea grant wants to publish it too obviously but we have to ask permission. I mean, I have it documented, yeah.

- Someday we'll see it.

- I'll print it off for the next meeting.

- Okay.

- Or maybe I can send this to Melissa and she can send it out.

- It'll be online, the online edition?

- Yeah, the online edition.

- Okay.

- Cool.

- Yeah.

- Awesome.

- What day is that?
- Saturday.
- It's Saturday, okay.
- I know.
- They don't deliver on Saturdays but it'll be online.
- I'm glad I updated my subscription yesterday so I can read it without stealing somebody's password.
- That's not a lunatic, though.
- Yeah, right, cool, other announcements. Ask me about the password later. All right, cool< onto presentations. We have Maria Otto here, welcome. Thanks for joining us to talk about the Conservation Corps. We don't need to open up the floor, because it's staff, right?
- That is correct.
- All right, welcome.
- And I will, if you could click, share my screen.
- Audience members, Ned, what do you see right now?
- I can see the presentation.
- Interesting.
- You're missing out.
- Two dogs on the screen.
- I'm really glad.
- Do you still see it?
- Yes.
- Good, thank you.
- All right, so, Kaurie, do you have any brief introduction for Maria before she gets started?
- Well I think a lot of you have heard me talk about the Conservation Corps and Green Bay Conservation Corps in general throughout the years, kind of the development of the program and all of that. So Maria was brought in as part of our planning grant when we had that. And so Maria worked through the planning and writing the grant to actually implement the program, which we

were awarded the funding thankfully. And so she'll definitely get into more about the details of the amount of members and the work they're doing and that sort of thing. But I do have to say Maria's been wonderful in helping to develop the program, kind of coming in and working with all of the other departments and things and trying to figure out how the Corps fits into what we're already doing. And so yeah, I think with that, let her take it from here.

- Okay, well thank you, Kaurie. So yeah, I'm Maria. You guys all know my name but just want to mention it again. My title, my official title is Conservation Corps coordinator, a little bit of a mouthful, but the coordinator of this AmeriCorps program. A little bit about us, so like Kaurie mentioned, and this is a typo that I forgot to tell Melissa that I fixed, but I guess you could say we started in September of 2021. That's when I was hired out for the planning grant. But the actual program started last September, so September of 2022. That's when we got our first members on. We have six full-time members and we hit full recruitment right when we wanted to. We wanted the start date to be September 19th and we had three members start on the 19th and three members start just a week after. So we count that as hitting that target. So we are really happy that we got the full recruitment, especially with how the hiring and job force is right now, especially with AmeriCorps, it being kind of a unique program to the area. So this program is the only municipally-based AmeriCorps program in the state of Wisconsin. And we're only the second AmeriCorps program focused on conservation in the state. So relatively unique program design and because of that and because of what AmeriCorps is, AmeriCorps is focused on service and giving back to their community, so the members who join AmeriCorps are just that, they're members, they're not staff or employees. I like to describe it as like a hybrid between a volunteer and a staff person. One of the main things that kind of reflects this is how they're paid. So they don't get paid an hourly wage, they get a set living allowance. So it's a monthly allowance that's distributed twice a month, so biweekly more similar to a salary but a relatively low amount. For our full-time members, it's 1,800 a month, for our crew leaders, it's 2,100 a month, so a relatively low-paying position and we are still able to hit full recruitment. One of the biggest draws of this program that helped us get that recruitment was our training aspect and the experience. So we do, we'll get into everything that we do, but it's a lot of different experience in a very competitive field. So biology, ecology, conservation field is very competitive. There's not a lot of jobs and a lot of the entry-level jobs are requiring a year or two of experience, even for the entry level. So that is why we got kind of the candidates that we get. And then with AmeriCorps, they also get an education award at the end of their term. So if they serve the set number of hours, which is 1,700 hours for a year, they get an education award of just over \$6,000, it's like \$6,400 that they can use for past loans or future. We actually have one of our members going back to grad school this summer. So basically this program and the draw and the type of person that we get applying are those who are interested in this field as a career.

- [Narrator] So you have questions about--

- Is that okay, is that okay? What is AmeriCorps, I forgot I had this video. Thank you.

- [Narrator] So you have questions about AmeriCorps?

- It's cheesy but I like this.

- [Narrator] Cause we're here to help. First off, let's clear up one thing right away. You might be wondering how to say or spell AmeriCorps. Sometimes people pronounce the P, but don't make that same mistake. AmeriCorps is alive and well, just spelled with a silent P. So think of apple core or

core of the Earth. Now that we have that clear, what exactly is AmeriCorps anyways? AmeriCorps is simply Americans of all ages and backgrounds dedicating their time and skills to get things done. There we go. So how does AmeriCorps get things done? More than 80,000 Americans across the country join AmeriCorps each year and all of them are tackling different problems in different ways. For an example, AmeriCorps members help families attain affordable homes. They mentor students so that they stay in school. Perhaps there's a tornado, a flood, a forest fire, or a hurricane, AmeriCorps members also help communities recover from disasters. There are so many more things that AmeriCorps members do, but if we said it all, we'd be here all day. Why do we call them members, you ask? AmeriCorps members spend anywhere from three months to a year dedicating their time and skills to serve. They can volunteer with nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based organizations. And in case you are wondering, there are a few perks AmeriCorps members get, including money to pay for college, student loan deferment, training, living allowance, health benefits, and job opportunities, meeting employers, not too bad, right? All right, all right, what's the purpose of AmeriCorps? Like the military or the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps is a way to serve your country. AmeriCorps members make America safer, stronger, and healthier and they strengthen our communities. But above all, AmeriCorps members get things done. That's it, that's what AmeriCorps is. Learn more about AmeriCorps at americorps.gov.

- Yeah, that's AmeriCorps. And so our program, so meet the team, like I mentioned, we hit full recruitment, very happy about that. We've been recruiting for our summer positions already. We have 15 slots open. I've already secured 13 out of the 15 with five interviews just completed last week. So we will probably, 99%, hit full recruitment for our summer positions as well. We also have people who wanted to join the crew but didn't have the capacity to hit the hour mark this summer. And so they're joining us as just volunteers without any of those perks but coming out and getting the experience on a full-time basis just to be volunteering and get the experience and be part of it.

- [Narrator] So you have questions about AmeriCorps, well--

- I like that.

- So to introduce you to our crew, because we're very proud of our first crew, our first year we have two crew leaders, Francis and Lindsey on the far left. Francis has a college degree in creative writing. He's a published author and he served on two other AmeriCorps programs prior to this. Lindsey has her master's degree in landscape architecture from out in Oregon and came back here for this program. Taylor, Meg, Jake, and Jared all are full-time members. They're all wonderful people. Jake came all the way from Colorado just for this program in the span of two weeks of getting the position offer. He moved out here, got an apartment, and started all within two weeks. He was given ample time and offered ample time but he got it done, he was excited to get out here, all within two weeks. So they all have college degrees. I want to emphasize that, they all have degrees. All of them, except for Francis and Megan, have degrees specifically in ecology or biology or some sort of natural science degree. Francis, like I said, creative writing and Meg has business management degrees.

- And no degree is required though to be a member, right?

- Yeah, just a high school, GED is all that's required for this program. And so we did get some really great candidates and some really good experienced candidates, as well, which helped push this program even farther. Our summer members, I would say about 80% of them are currently in college for a natural science-related degree. Most of them are coming from UWGB. I would say we

have seven or eight members coming out of UWGB, so local members. But then we also have people coming from Colorado State, someone's coming from Texas and Michigan.

- And Utah? I don't think actually, sorry.

- She might be from Utah but goes to Colorado State.

- Gotcha.

- So we have people local and from all around. And so what do we do? So we do things, we like to categorize it in kind of five different sections. So we do habitat restoration, trail development, native plant establishment, community outreach, and then mapping and survey, and we'll get into each one individually. So this picture here is our crew planting trees. We planted a hundred trees at Colburn Park all within a day with only two shovels because we broke one of our shovels and we had one city forester who showed us properly how to do it and he was on site for about an hour and then the crew planted, mulched, and watered all a hundred trees in one day with the training in the morning. So some things we do, so habitat restoration, that includes our invasive species removal, our seed collecting, and our garbage cleanup. We typically save the garbage cleanup for when we have volunteer events. So we have different businesses and groups come out and volunteer with us. And so it's just an easy task to have volunteers join with us. Invasive species removal, in those pictures, the far left picture is a before and right next to it is an after and that took the crew about three hours to accomplish all of what you see. So that's buckthorn, which is the dark green leaves in the mid-story that's at Emily on the East River, where there was a trail next to the river but you didn't know you were next to the river until the buckthorn got removed. And that's just one example. At the wildlife sanctuary alone in this one year, the one winter. fall through winter, the crew of six removed over 67 acres of buckthorn. So all the buckthorn from when you drive into the sanctuary, all the way to the nature center, all the way down that service road to Dan's, and then out to East Shore Drive is completely buckthorn free. And then obviously we'll need to do follow up but the established trees are cut, completed, and removed. The other thing we do, ooh yeah.

- Do you want to say something about anything else on that slide or did I go too fast there?

- No, that was it. We do seed collect, I should mention that. So this past fall we seed collected native seeds from city parks and we collected over seven pounds of seed of native prairie grass and flower seeds, which if you know about buying native seed, that's quite a lot of money that they were able to collect. And then we now grow that native seed in our greenhouse, which I'll talk about in a different slide. So trail mulching, so when we had a TikTok, we were very active on TikTok. So the crew is able to mulch trails very efficiently. So they spent just about two hours and they mulched about half a mile of trail with just wheelbarrows and pitchforks. We don't use any machinery. If you want, I downloaded all of our TikToks, they're wonderful, so we have Jared who did most of our TikToks, he also has his drone operator license and so he gets drone shots and pictures for us quite often, which has been great for our social media side of things. Other things that we'll be doing this coming summer is we'll replace some boardwalk. So this winter they went through and did a big mapping effort of where are all of our boardwalks in the city and we're talking like, as you know, random as someone through a piece of board across a wet area to our built boardwalks. We wanted to know where all the boardwalks are that are on our city trails just for safety and replacement and improvement aspects. We did a big, big mapping day with all that. So we will replace a new boardwalk this summer and then we schedule time after any flooding or storm event to help keep

the trails clean. So the native plant establishment, so like I mentioned, we collected lot of seed and so we grow plants in our greenhouse. So the greenhouse is located at the wildlife sanctuary. and we started seeds back in late February, early March and we currently have over a thousand plants growing in our greenhouse and those are not just a thousand pots planted, that is a thousand plants that are growing at least two inches so that we know that they're going to survive and be able to be planted somewhere. We have more small seeds that just started sprouting that are not even included in that number. So once everything does grow and we'll be able to do two rounds this summer of plants, we're looking at anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 plants grown in our greenhouse. We also maintain all of the native plantings and biofilters in the city. So we maintain the ones at Bay Beach, at Perkins, at Colburn, all of the when the park puts in the parking lots and everything, they have their rain gardens and biofilters and bioswales and we go in and maintain them. We actually do also help with the Seymour edible garden, maintenance side of everything, making sure things are growing and looking nice so that we don't get the public as if we're putting in more native planting so it just looks unruly, making sure that we keep them looking nice in our parks but also being native. And then we'll also be putting in some planting. So we'll be putting in or planting kind of a rain garden, pollinator, nice landscape planting right outside the nature center of the wildlife sanctuary this year. And then also putting in a rain garden at Navarino Park. And then we spread some of the native seeds so we don't just grow it in the greenhouse, especially like the native grass seed that we collect, like our little blue stem or our big blue stem, we also spread that where we remove a lot of buckthorn or garlic mustard so that we're not removing all the vegetation from a hillside and just letting it wash away. Trying to plant things in there as well. And then we do a lot of community outreach. So we do volunteer events and educational events and then we work with the 4K as well. So as far as volunteer events, we've had quite a few. We had one on Make a Difference Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which is a national day of service. And then we'll have one this Saturday for Earth Day. Then we're also planning another one in May for just garlic mustard removal volunteer day. We also host volunteer groups just on their kind of schedules. So just this past Saturday we had a group of high schoolers from De Pere High School's Key Club come and help us in our greenhouse and volunteer with us. And then education events. We do a series called Discover Your Parks. It's a four-part series. We had our first part back in January, I believe, focused on going through and doing a walking tour and kind of history and what's next for the park. Our one that we had in February was at Whitney Park 'cause Whitney Park was the first Green Bay Park. Thought it was fitting to start there. Our next one is actually going to be on World Migratory Bird Day and we're going to be out at Ken Euers and we're going to do a walking tour and that one will be a little bit more focused on restoration and birds, whereas the Whitney one was more focused on history. And then we'll also--

- When will that be?

- May 13th.

- May 13th, they're still going to be .

- Yep, they'll still be out there. They finish May 14th or 15th, but we'll be walking along the other wetland impoundment. We're also having our Earth Day event out there as well this Saturday. We were out there today to make sure that we could do that safely.

- What do we bring for that? Because I was planning on going out there.

- For Earth Day?

- Yeah. Or either time.

- Yeah, Earth Day, just dress for the weather, wear boots, I would say knee boots, but if you don't have knee boots, you'd be the one more on the dry land. But we'll be cleaning up the shoreline on the edge of the wetland. So if you just have boots, then you can be the one that's helping us haul all the garbage. The people with the rain boots will be down on the edge, tossing it up to people on dry land. So yeah, so we have a lot of events. We also hosted a rain garden event as well to help homeowners walk through how you'd create a rain garden. And then our last section here is our mapping and surveying, like I mentioned, we mapped the boardwalks. We also measure for any native plantings that we'll put in, do some triangulation mapping for Kaurie. And then we do some survey habitat. So I've been working with Ned, and Ned, I promise I will be sending you that pollinator habitat survey. We're finishing it up this week but creating a form on Survey 123, so we'll go out to every single city park and check off if there's pollinator habitat, how big is that, what does it look like, and is there potential for pollinator habitat? So we can get a map of where we have habitat and see where our holes are. And then from that we can see where we have the closest potential. And then we do frog and toad surveys. So we did our first one last week when we had that nice stretch of warm weather and that was more of a training night for the other members, teaching them on the survey protocols. But we go out at night and survey what frog and toad species are calling and breeding on our parks. And then we'll be doing some pollinator and bee surveys. So that's everything we do and we do a lot of different things. We're always looking for other fun activities. So we partner with the 4K quite often. One of the things that came from the 4K is we're hosting a planting day with the families and an educational day where next Thursday the families are going to come in and we're going to have a rotating kind of session where we're going to teach them how to not only plant but we're also going to show them how to use toilet paper rolls for little planters or egg cartons, how to plant milk jugs for milkweed over wintering, giving them tours of our greenhouse. They had just got an aquaponics setup and they're going to have somebody come in and teach the kids and the families about that. So we get to be a part of that. We're also a part of kids day coming up so we really like to be at all of the events around the city and make sure we have a presence. We'll also be hosting a round table discussion at the Green Bay Conservation Partners green round table. We'll be hosting one of the discussions. That is kind of the Conservation Corps in a nutshell. What that means for you all is we have volunteer opportunities, summer members pretty much full at this point, but we'll always have more members starting full-time in the fall and then summer ones, as well. So next year we're looking at eight full-time instead of six full-time. We're also looking to add a new position type, a part-time position that would be year round, so that we're looking at five slots just because of the interest we got from high schoolers and also college students to get them serving with us more than just a summer but still fit their college schedule. Questions? I know it's kind of a lot but .

- we saw you at the event at the library and we're very impressed. I'm on council so I'm very happy that we went along with all of this and seems like it's going very well.

- Yeah and as far as the investment side of it, so we are funded by the AmeriCorps grant and the city has a 24% match for the AmeriCorps grant. We're able to offset that with partnerships with Bear Creek Preservation Foundation and some other in-kind partnerships to reduce that down a little bit. And then some of our plantings, so like our rain garden at Navarino is an outside grant that is going to be funded. We're still hearing back to get the final approval but that one was through Brown County, United Way Neighborhood grants and with partnership with the neighborhood association

in Navarino.

- I have a question about the rain garden at Navarino. Is it going to be, is the stormwater from the shelter going to be feeding the rain garden or what is the source?

- It's kind of just general runoff. It's been an issue and maybe Kaurie can talk about it a little bit more, but flooding at that park's been kind of an ongoing issue where just a few years ago, like three or four years ago, you guys installed the biofilter to help address some of that. But then there's more paving with the loop trail and it's just kind of a low spot over there and so just kind of trying to put in some more native vegetation to help address the kind of flooding and the standing water. So when it does flood or after a rain event, over half that park kind of goes underwater.

- In the area with the rain garden too, there were trees there that had died off for whatever reason over time, which aren't helping to absorb the water anymore and a new resident living adjacent to the park. So perhaps it had been wet for years and the previous resident didn't mind. So I think that's partly brought to our attention because of that. But yeah, so the north end of the park we did have engineered and put in that biofilter and stuff, too, but then we're seeing on the south end that it's problematic in that spot. So the rain garden would be a great amenity for sure.

- Normally you don't site rain gardens or bioretention in low places that are flooding. It would be more of a constructive wetland because the bioretention's supposed to infiltrate into the ground so we don't put it in places where it's not infiltrating generally.

- Yeah, so it only floods in the spring when the ground's still frozen. And so, it's not like it's pooling in really one area. It's just kind of the water's sitting right there. And this rain garden we use as more of a common term and not a technical term for the planting that we're putting in there. It's really we're putting in trees, shrubs, and native plantings to help address the water and then also create habitat and it's in a area of the park that's not used right now. And so it's not like engineered to spec to manage a certain volume of stormwater management by any means. It's more the habitat, native planting, and to hopefully help with some of that water retention. And we just say rain garden because.

- But understanding it's not necessarily going to make all the water go away.

- Are you planting plants that are water loving plants?

- Yeah.

- 'Cause you know they can tolerate.

- I don't think it was necessarily because of the standing water, I'm not sure.

- And two of the trees were evergreens that were causing sight-line issues that were cut down. So it wasn't because of the water or because they died. It was because whoever cut them down didn't want them in our park anymore.

- Melissa, I was going to ask with the city, is there, or Maria, what was I going to ask? Give me a second here. Continue, I'll get it in a second, sorry.

- Yeah, I don't think we have any more questions.
- Oh okay then, I got it. So with the neighborhoods and city neighborhoods, do they apply for maybe subgrants for different projects, have they done that with observation part?
- They haven't done that with us yet, but they have, so like Navarino, when we were applying for this grant, they partnered with us and wrote us a letter of support and wanted to be listed as a partner on the project. So when we're doing a project like that or seeking outside funding for a specific project, we do reach out to the neighborhood associations. I presented when this was getting started a little bit more of a concept to their annual, to all the neighborhood associations. And I've also reached out to every single neighborhood association and had sit-down meetings or attended some of their annual meetings with probably half of them so far. So they are aware of this new program or at least have been attempted to be aware of the program. So none of them have, they have reached out with concerns or ideas that they'd like to see in their area but none of them have come forward with we have this funding, can we partner with you? It's more so, hey we have this problem, can you fix it?
- So before the Conservation Corps was established, we did work more recently with the Wilder Neighborhood Association who was interested in adding native plants. And so we did do that. It wasn't within that program but just through the parks department. Unfortunately it somehow, none of the plants made it through the winter and nobody knew what happened. So it was a really weird situation but there was interest there. And so I do think there could be continued interest from folks, especially if you're going out and talking with them about it.
- Yeah, the thing that holds us back the most is funding for the supplies for us. So we have funding for our personnel and certain equipment pieces, but like plant material and seed material is where we're limited and we have to basically plan very detailed to the square foot a year and a half before the actual growing. So I submitted back in March our grant for next year, so for next summer, knowing the exact spot location and square footage of a planting is a little difficult that far in advance. So we do budget for a little bit but 90% of our budget goes to materials and personnel. So whenever we are asked to do a project, we have the manpower and the time, we just don't always have the funding for the actual plant material or the tree material. And so if we get partnerships that funded that, we can have a pretty big workforce to get it done and then maintain it.
- And maybe too it's just worth touching on the length of the current approval for the grant?
- Yeah, so they do it on like, it's kind of weird 'cause they call it a three-year grant but you reapply every year. But the reapplying is more so, yeah, three-year grant, but I still need to submit grant applications every year. But really that is just, the big grant every three years is the whole direction and the whole scope of the program. And then on an annual basis it's more the annual budget. So I don't budget for a three-year budget, I budget for a one-year budget and then I write any slight edits to the narrative. So it's a very reduced version every year. But yeah, it's a three-year grant cycle for AmeriCorps.
- Where does AmeriCorps draw its own funds?
- Federal. So the whole name is AmeriCorps Federal Agency. So they get all of their funding directly

from the federal government. They're an entire agency in and of themselves.

- They're not under like,

- I don't know what department they're under. Actually they're under the National Service Office, office of, what is it called? Oh, but most of them are education, aren't they?

- Department of Education?

- No, AmeriCorps in general. Like this is what, I'm sorry I missed this at the beginning, but this program is like one of how many in the country?

- In the country, there's probably, like in the state of Wisconsin, there's 28 AmeriCorps programs.

- No, the Conservation Corps.

- Two.

- In the state?

- In Wisconsin, oh, two in Wisconsin, cool

- Yeah, so there's WisCorps and then us, WisCorps is based out of La Crosse.

- And WisCorps is different in that they go out to other communities, like you can hire them as a crew to come do work on your site, where right now our program is set up to work only within our city parks and greenways and things. So there are different ways you can do that. Maria's talked about maybe at some point we could expand out too. So we couldn't perhaps at some point move beyond Green Bay.

- Every AmeriCorps program is different based on their host agency, what they focus on, and their design and their setup. But all AmeriCorps programs are required to follow the code of federal regulations as it relates to AmeriCorps. So all the policies, procedures, things of that nature we have to follow AmeriCorps for. But everything else we have choice.

- What is it?

- It looks like it's Department of Labor, Office, Disability

- Actually it said that Department of Labor, Office, Disability and AmeriCorps are given guidance. So it actually, by the looks of it, AmeriCorps is actually a federal standalone agency.

- It is because the name is AmeriCorps, the Federal Agency.

- Wow.

- Is the name of AmeriCorps.

- So you say that when you walk into a room, the Federal Agency.

- They were just rebranded like two, three years ago they just rebranded. They used to be the Corporation for National Community Service, CNCS, was their corporation, whatever. But then that was synonymous with AmeriCorps 'cause AmeriCorps was like the only program that it did. And so that then it got confusing because then you have AmeriCorps Seniors, you have AmeriCorps Vista, you have AmeriCorps NCCCC, you have AmeriCorps State, and you have AmeriCorps National, we're a state program. So that you have all these branches. And so then they rebranded and said we don't need CNCS, we're just going to call it AmeriCorps, the Federal Agency just to be more direct and easy to follow.

- Right, 'cause you work with Serve Wisconsin then as the kind of in between.

- Yeah, they're a state agency that we report to and they're under DOA, Serve Wisconsin is for the Wisconsin state. So each state sets up their state commission and it can either be through their state government or through a nonprofit. Wisconsin does it through government. So we have Serve Wisconsin through DOA.

- So I was just going to ask moving forward, Maria, I mean let's say a third directives, you know we get all sorts of information at the city, meetings, committees, all that kind of stuff, is there anything above and beyond that we can do locally to keep going with you or is it tied in with the federal government and we just kind of piggyback on whatever? Is there any--

- So the federal government only directs how I spend the grant money and how the members are referred to, basically like pay, and the education work, and stuff. The actual activities that we do is decided 100% by the city of Green Bay.

- Okay.

- So the goals, the initiatives, and the priorities are set by the city of Green Bay as long as our staffing personnel, member structure stays in the AmeriCorps realm. There are certain things that we can't do. So we can't lobby, we can't do any religious affiliations. So AmeriCorps is bipartisan and they're very, very, like, we are bipartisan, which gives them a lot of support. And so because of that, AmeriCorps programs, there are, like, 10 things that are called prohibited activities and one of 'them is setting up voter registration drives and doing some of these things. So those are the things we can't do. We can't fundraise for general operating costs for the city. We can fundraise for specific projects, or equipment, or things like that.

- So right now would you say the majority is working with parks right now, I mean, generally? I mean, are there other departments that you could work with or would you say Kaurie is pretty much to you right now?

- So right now we are, I would say, 95% through parks. We work with public works on occasion and there is potential and we kind of started the conversation and then stopped the conversation about whether the Conservation Corps would take on the maintenance of stormwater management ponds. Right now, DPW contracts a lot of that maintenance work out. And generally the consensus was we'll just keep it as a contract that maintenance work out. As of right now, that would take up the entire time.

- There's 26 ponds.

- Yeah.

- So that would be,

- A full time.

- You would need a whole 'another crew.

- Mm hmm, yeah. So it just wasn't plausible and then we didn't want to get into, oh we'll do this one but not this one, and this one but not that one. So there is potential if the program grows that we could start doing that more in-house instead of contracting it out. But right now contracting it out is the most efficient way for the city.

- Right, but I'm just saying bottom line is costs. We're always looking for ways to either increase revenues or deal with costs. So if that would be something that could piggyback into the city some way, and a bunch of time--

- Contracting too is they just have the specialized equipment, as well. So we go in with hand tools, which isn't the most efficient way. But if we grow the program and we start working towards that, it could, 'cause right now it's not competitive with contracting it out for the maintenance. But as the program grows it could become more competitive and we could switch, but that we're talking years down the road for the program. to grow.

- Now this is a three-year commitment right now, is it?

- Right now, yep, and AmeriCorps generally once you start an AmeriCorps program, you have the AmeriCorps program. So like once you have funding, you're prioritized to keep doing funding because it's so difficult to start up an AmeriCorps program because there's so much that goes into it. That's why AmeriCorps offers a year-long grant to fund one person their sole job is planning to apply for this grant. And so AmeriCorps invests in creating their programs and so it's just easier for them to continue to fund them. And right now we're not at any risk of losing any funding. So AmeriCorps right now, so the state is creating new AmeriCorps programs, and they only create new AmeriCorps programs if they can fund all of their current programs as long as those current programs remain within compliance. So as long as we're staying within compliance and we're getting things done, they're going to continue to fund us. As the program extends, the city's match increases. So right now we're at 24% match. Year four we're at 24% match, or 25% match, and it goes up a percentage every year until you hit your 10-year mark and then you're at a 50-50.

- So you feel confident that this could continue on in the city for some time?

- Just a couple weeks ago we had AmeriCorps Week and we went down to the state capital and the director of AmeriCorps was there and was talking to all the state programs in the capitol and gave a presentation and she personally called out the Green Bay Conservation Corps. Then we had two other senators give presentations that they directly called us up to. What we're doing is quite unique and the Serve Wisconsin really likes to boast about it. If you think just nationally, there are only

maybe a dozen municipally-based AmeriCorps programs in the entire United States.

- For conservation?

- No, For all.

- For all?

- For all.

- And this is the only one in Wisconsin, right?

- Yeah, it's the only one in Wisconsin. The reason is, the federal government has very detailed regulations and policies. City government is very detailed, and so getting those to mesh was a process. But we're here now and we're able to work through that. But that time investment to do it and the fact that, we did have to change some things and you have to be open to changing a little bit to make room for an AmeriCorps program, which a lot of times, city governments, they're doing it a certain way and that's the way that they're going to do it. And to change takes time and money and just being confident that you can do it and it's going to be successful.

- So you said you have to basically do a fairly straightforward annual grant application and then every three years you're going to have to do a full-blown,

- Yeah.

- Is that going to be as onerous the next three-year time as it was the first one or can you use--

- It's going to be better.

- Is there a lot it's just going to roll forward?

- It's going to roll forward, yeah, we can reuse a lot of it. It's really just, so AmeriCorps is very research and database, so we have to keep really detailed records. So like we have Garmin GPS units on the crew at all times when they're out walking around and it tracks exactly where they are. And then from that we can get it into GIS and get an exact measurement of how many miles of trail and how many acres that they were actually treating. So we keep records of all of that. Check out our story map because we also have that all public.

- Does that go over to UWGB then for mapping or, let's say you're taking the GIS data and producing it?

- So right now, Lindsey does most of that. So like I said, she has her master's and she actually taught GIS throughout her master's. So she does our story maps, our GIS, our Survey 123 forms. She is our GIS master. She also works with Brennan quite often in the city, our GIS guy in the city, to make sure that, so we save all of our files in the city's GIS folder. So everybody has access to it from a city side. And then we publish our story map, which is public, which is more of a user-friendly mapping system that people can see where we've been and what we've done.

- Any other questions for Maria? Well thank you so much for all the great work and the presentation tonight.

- We already had three of our summer members start. So they're with the crew full-time right now, so we have nine members full-time, getting all that done.

- We'll see you Saturday. I don't have big boots, but.

- The waders?

- Light waders.

- You need waders.

- Well moving on then, thank you again. We have no regular business, so we'll move on to informational. The first update we have is climate resilience and adaptation, Julia, is that you?

- Yeah, that's me.

- All right, take it away.

- Thank you, I love the new system, It forces me to get my updates together myself together, so I'm very proud of myself. So actually I, I think it was just last week, John and I were at Bay Beach with Leadership Green Bay to give presentations. And I have, I've mentioned this months and months and months, or probably a year ago or more, but we have a student at UW Madison, a graduate student assistant who's helping do climate work with me and my colleague Adam Bechle, who's a coastal processes engineer. And so he, his name is Behi and he's been looking at basically number one, which is outlying local climate changes, projections, and impacts. So this is related to my work plan from 2022. And we gave that presentation for the first time at Leadership Green Bay and I'm planning on putting it on the agenda for next month for him to Zoom in and give that presentation with probably, I'll probably, yeah. So that is actually really coming along, looking at temperature, coastal flooding, riverine flooding, stuff like that. And then the next thing we'll be doing, I think next steps really is looking at kind of some updates on mapping related this, identifying social, economic, and environmental risks. Sea Grant also has a fellow named Jackson Parr who has a grant with the Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission to work with coastal municipalities, including Green Bay. And he's been doing a social vulnerability analysis with GIS and then a full-on vulnerability analysis report too. So he does have that for Green Bay already and he'll be doing that for the East River. And if people aren't aware, social vulnerability index is from the CDC and really what social vulnerability is is basically there's a lot of external stresses on people which makes them more vulnerable to climate hazards like flooding. So this index tracks like 16 different census variables including poverty, access to transportation, socioeconomic status, household composition, minority status, English proficiency, and things like that. So we're going to have some good maps. Normally it's done at the census block, but he's brought it down to the next level, the block, the whole census block, I don't think I'm saying that right.

- It goes block group, then block is the lowest level. Census block is the smallest enumeration for census. And then it goes up to block group, then it goes to track.

- I think it's block group. They couldn't do block because it would be too identifiable.

- Right, so block group then.

- But that's better than what the national map viewer has right now. So it's giving better resolution. So that is coming, and then also we have done, it's for the East River, but we've done some Hazus, which is FEMA, which is the economic analysis for economic damages. And that GIS, that information is actually available. We just got that. And then, yeah, and then eventually, we'll, I don't really have a good update about areas, it's number C, I guess, we're not quite there yet. So that's coming along and hopefully I've been talking about this presentation coming up, so we'll do it. So don't schedule another educational presentation. We'll take care of that one. Another update is that through the East River Collaborative Project Allouez, we helped Allouez, get a Wisconsin Coastal Management grant for the East River Recreational Trail project. It includes the city of Green Bay, Allouez, Ledgeview, and Bellevue, I don't think that was in quite order, but as the trail goes. So on the East River. So it includes all those municipalities and the funding will be developing a master plan to identify flood solutions for parts of the trail that are underwater because of high lake levels or riverine flooding. And then also identify places that you can implement habitat and better access and then coordinate with the East River Water Trail that's being developed through the county. So that's pretty cool, too. Do you have any questions on that?

- That's awesome.

- Yeah, that's,

- No, really.

- That's a great one. One of the reasons that I think it's so great is because it's one of the first projects that's multi-municipality. So it's like these five municipalities are going to work together. Okay, and then my last update is about Brown County highway drainage improvement projects. And so these, so, where should I start with this? So I put some materials in the packet. So you can refer to those, those start on page, I guess it starts on page 19, I think. Put 'them the other way. This is near where I live, so this is mainly why I know about them. Basically Nicolet Drive is a county highway and over the last some three, four years it's had flooding issues, but it's a county highway. And so through public funds, the county has been taking care of these, they call them drainage improvement projects. I mean it sounds good that they're helping residents not be flooded anymore, that's definitely good. However, these are major infrastructure projects and the current one was brought to my attention just recently by two affected residents who are, and when I started understanding the project more, really reminded me of the one that's on page, sorry, page 21, which is the Eagle's Nest. So this is diverting water from, it was Bache Lane flooding issues, what you're looking at, going up the creek, it's actually a creek that they channelized and put rip rap down. And then you look on the other picture below and it's the channelized creek straight to the bay. I just took these pictures a couple, like a week or so ago during one of our runoff events. And so also a very large expensive infrastructure project. I was pretty disappointed, this is also part of a brand new, what's going to be a coastal park. And so the project that was brought forth to me over the last couple weeks was very similar, in my mind, very similar to this. And so you can see now that they're moving forward with another drainage project, which is on page 20, and they're proposing a very, very large ditch. I'm really bad at distance. I think it's probably, it seems like it's huge, like 20, 30 feet, at least 30 feet, I don't know. And then some really major pipes and then also putting a new five-foot

pipe in from an ag field straight to the bay. So it's cutting down on people's properties a lot of mature trees. There's like one tree, a maple, that's over 110 years old on the Sisters of St. Francis property, you can see on there, that property will be quite affected and there's older trees on that property too in general. I guess from a sustainability perspective, the city we do contribute to these projects financially. These are very large, expensive infrastructure projects, and they're land use projects and they're going to be there for decades and they're just really not helping. Like they're kind of the opposite of infrastructure projects that the city and many, many other people have been trying to actually improve types of infrastructure. And so I just have some very, very, it's just sustainability issues with these projects. I'm definitely obviously in support of trying to fix flooding. It's just the implementation of projects that are making other things worse.

- Julie, I was going to ask, so I know we had this, we talked about the city council and that, the issues and that, but it's the county highway as well. So the county's involved, the city's involved and who else is involved in the project? You know, trying to get to the endpoint.

- So from what I understand mostly, I'm sure you were prepped, maybe, I don't know, but from what I understand it's I have always gotten, because also the Eagle's Nest is a park, I'm running a county park also. So the answer I've always got is it's the county DOT and then they just, so they have the authority and no one else apparently has any authority. But I mean the city of Green Bay does own those stormwater infrastructure that's going in and is responsible for maintaining it and we put in money to do it. It's hard for me to understand really--

- The breakup of the costs would be interesting to see. I know it's out there, right?

- For this project, I think the city's putting in half, which is like approximately a \$750,000 project, the city's putting in half. And same with the Eagle's Nest was that, but like the Eagle's Nest, I mean, when I started looking at it back again, I mean it's like literally straightening the creek and channelizing that, which is like infrastructure from the '70s, that's like what you're trying to take out in other places. And I just am concerned with the overall sustainability of these projects, 'cause they're so long term.

- It's a temporary fix, you think?

- Well. once it goes in I just think

- That's it.

- That's it for decades. It's significant land use changes that I don't think are going towards any of the goals the city has set for water quality, habitat, and that's just the city. I mean, I could give a two hour presentation on the other people working on water quality. In this area particularly, there was just a watershed plan approved like last year for trying to manage the water coming off the karst and down through these ag fields and stuff.

- And they're not utilizing that right now?

- it's a complex topic and it's like you're getting into things that aren't regulated. So runoff isn't, ag runoff isn't regulated in the same ways that we have our stone water permit for. So it's just complicated. So it needs a watershed approach. And this is like a, I don't know. I don't know, I just think as a city we should be thinking more about this and it's effect. It's in the city, it's affecting

residents. There is a member from the public here to just make some comments about that project specifically.

- Make a motion.
- That's why I'm in the back.
- Hold on a second, we'll make a motion to open the floor.
- First, second, so motion to open the floor or motioned and second, all those in favor, say aye.
- [Group] Aye.
- Opposed, say nay. All right, the floor is open.
- You could come up here. We're not, we don't bite.
- Or, you know, second row.
- I mean, I can,
- See.
- Yeah, it's your choice.
- Never volunteer.
- Can you give your name?
- You need to state your name and your address.
- Name and address, please.
- I am Don Caldwell and I am at 3154 Nicolet Drive.
- So you're south side?
- Right there. Yeah, east side.
- East side.
- Yeah, that map is, north is to the right. I think what Julia was saying, okay, it is, I don't know, a major impact on the area on the whole, the amount of trees they're cutting down is unbelievable and it's just kind of creating a ditch wasteland in my, she was talking about the 110-year-old maple tree, it is 120 inches or, well, 10 feet in,
- Circumference.

- Okay, and there's other trees too, there's ash trees that we've been treating for the ash peel and things like that. What I think what we're just trying to say is that it's like they got one idea on the road people, and it's make a ditch and their statement is it all flows down there anyway. But I know with your water gardens and the biofilters and all these things, that's probably not a good idea for sustainability. So I just am supporting Julia, what she has to say is that if you contribute money, then you own some of the responsibility to oversee these things. I don't want to lecture that, but it's just kind of a natural thing. So I don't know how you would do that or whatever.

- I would just add, the second resident that contacted me lives down at 3119.

- Where they're creating a new 60-inch pipe.

- That family has,

- 60 inches?

- It's 60 inches, and so they contacted me. They have two young children, very concerned about, they're putting in a new pipe on private property uphill, which is right, and then behind their house is an ag field, so it's directly a new 60-inch pipe down to the bay from there. The county is going to move that pipe from their property over to the other side of 3125 now, because they called. But that's a pretty big concern 'cause it's just a direct conduit. Then you're just adding a new giant pipe and a direct conduit of ag--

- So the pipe isn't closed, correct, it's a pipe?

- It's a five-foot pipe.

- It's big.

- Concrete culvert.

- Yeah, maybe describe it.

- It could go up there if you want.

- I think you what Julia was also saying about ditches, they gather pollutants, leaves, papers, cans, all these kind of things, trash. And they're great thoroughfares for putting stuff directly into the bay. I would like to see alternatives to the solution. There is a storm pipe in there presently, what the consultants have said is it's too small to handle a hundred-year storm. But also another thing with the present pipes in there there are birds cage inlets over the top, which just get filled with stuff. And so the inlets don't work too well to create outlets.

- Let me just say one more last thing because when I put this on agenda, Steve Grenier chimed in also. Just to reiterate that we don't have any decision making or voting power here. And there is a Brown County Commission meeting too, to go to, but I'm bringing it as a just general--

- Information.

- We are advisory.
- Yeah, something to think about.
- I know some of this has been done, but we're not completely finished with it yet, but everything's in the works. So it's kind of like, how do you turn it back? Or what other alternatives might there be?
- That's the question you should ask, what other alternatives?
- So is it the engineering, sorry, that's just been done so far, or has construction started?
- No, that's in August.
- Okay.
- It's when they expect that to happen.
- What committee did this go through on the city--
- Group project, so it went through council, it probably went through finance, I'm guessing, potentially INS, and then to finance and then to council. My, I guess, recommendation or question is, is with the county, there's public meetings there, I don't know if there was any time for public comment before this, this seems a little late in the process.
- This plan was introduced or shown to the public at a public meeting on April 6th this year.
- Really?
- First time?
- Yeah, and so it's all, oh, and you're going to do it in August. So the response time is very difficult to handle. And it's like, okay, well that meeting's in late May and then one in late June and then we're done.
- I would also think that you could work through your county supervisor.
- The supervisor and, well, we've contacted,
- Andrew Alder.
- Is that Antonneau?
- What's her name, Jennifer Grant.
- Jennifer,
- Well that's your alder, but directly to supervisor.

- The supervisor is Ron,
- Ron Antonneau.
- He looks right out--
- This will come before the county's Planning Development Transportation Committee, which meets on Tuesday night, if they haven't already looked at it.
- This is all in the agenda packet.
- I'm not saying that there aren't nice road bumps to deal with the highway department to keep going, and there are, we have to do those kind of things. I think the thing is that I know you're advisory, concerned about sustainability. These projects are designed with no sustainability in mind.
- It's just trying to solve a problem of
- One thing.
- Water rushing in that. And how many years has it been like this for you?
- There was a major flood in 2019. I wouldn't call it major, it affected the houses. which were 20 feet below the roadway, they were down by the,
- Have you had damage at all on your property?
- I have damage from the ag fields in the back, but we said, well, it's our property, we got to solve the problem, right. And so what we've dug is significant French drains around the property and put it out into a biofilter. But I guess what I'm saying is, is cutting down trees, destroying foliage, and wind blocks, and property values, and things like that is not a sustainable solution.
- Does it seem like they think the trees need to come out so it's open so that it's--
- So they can build a ditch. Trees in the way of the ditch. The trees aren't in the way of the pipe that's in there right now. There's area that enlarged the pipe that's present.
- One thought that I have that perhaps if nothing changes with the design, that perhaps future planning could help with your concerns, whereas maybe there could be some discussion and movement towards getting biofilters installed on the ag field.
- I agree. It's a systemic problem. And they're doing one little tactical solution. Paul, what's his name, who's head of,
- Fontecchio
- Fontecchio.
- Fontecchio, thank you, I can't pronounce that. Paul is on vacation now and I feel Paul is probably

open to change and modification of plans. I think just that there was no feedback until April 6th and then all of a sudden feedback occurred.

- So it'll get voted on in May at the County Committee?

- I think it's already voted on. I mean, all the money and funding, it's in their hands and whatever they decide to do is what they're going to do.

- Does anybody know if there's an awarded contract yet for the work?

- No, I saw no bids being put out at all. I don't think they finalized the plan. I think there has been some feedback and they've gone to a consultant to revise the plan. But anyway,

- So I mean, what I mean is things are in place. I mean, I don't know what it would take for us now as an advisory committee to get involved in at the stage. If there's something that we can say, hey, maybe we could tweak it a little differently or whatever.

- I think awareness and somehow that all these infrastructure changes are going on and you may not be aware of them. They come at a very high level and say we need money. But some sort of oversight after the money's granted needs to be in order for sustainability to occur.

- And you have a couple different groups working on this, And one of the problems, it's becoming apparent here is that this is ARPA funding.

- Well, it's not real money then, is it?

- Well, it's,

- So the city got some, every unit of government got some, state got some, the federal government. I've been awarded a whole lot of this money for a big project we're working on for the county. But ARPA monies don't follow the normal, they haven't followed the normal track where when you go through a budget process at the county, for example, I work for the county, so they go through the budget process, starts with the department, goes through the oversight committee, goes through administration, goes through here, goes through here, goes through here, and you have to justify it throughout the whole process. ARPA's short tracked, very much so, because it has to be spent by the end of next year.

- Yeah, I would say the Eagle's Nest was not ARPA.

- Eagle's Nest was not, but, Eagle's Nest been in the work for a long time. That's actually, that crazy parks has been working on that.

- Anyway, that was just my two cents.

- [Group] We appreciate it.

- I will continue to pursue with Paul and other people and the other boards.

- I could talk to him, if you want.
- Oh boy, I'd super appreciate that. I can't, when you start getting involved in this stuff, it's like with path, with committee, when time, it's daunting.
- Is there any, I mean, we, for our commission, I'm just curious 'cause we've been doing a lot of educational presentations, but we are advisory. So thinking more maybe longer term or maybe in future planning scenarios, like where do we advise things?
- I give every civil engineer a seminar on sustainability.
- So obviously, I'm very into green infrastructure and infrastructure just in general, I mean, but it does last decades. So once it's in, it's in for decades.
- And the tree is gone, it's not going to be back for a hundred years.
- No, it is gone.
- If they do this plan.
- I mean even with the city, I mean when we, remember when we first started the green infrastructures, GI, oh my God, it's green. But when it said GSI, the council got a better grip on it. So it's just educational, being aware of what it really is. So that's sort of an issue too.
- Thank you for listening to me.
- I thought I had a card on me, I'll give you my name and number.
- Motion to close.
- Well, we do have another person
- Or do we have someone else?
- Nearby at that property. I don't know if since they are here, while the floor open if you wanted to chime in. Oh, you're on mute. As luck would have it, this is in your neck of the woods.
- There you go.
- All right, would you like to speak to this while the floor is open, since this is along your property as well?
- Our driveway is further to the south. So this here property that is showing on this, it's on the other side of Dan Nielsen's place. I really don't know anything about it. I know that our maintenance person did go, our facilities manager went to a hearing and I didn't hear anything about what was said or what he learned. It's new to me that they're taking trees out along our property line there. Well, the whole thing is kind of new to me. I just know that the culvert in front of our road is, it's obstructed because the ditch is so shallow, but it looks like that's not a part of this here plan at all

either, I don't know. But I concur very much with the whole thought about that Eagle's Nest and that runway that they put where the water will just rush all the way right down and empty right into the bay. There's no mitigation or stopping of it all the way along. It's pretty sad.

- Thank you, and I was supposed to ask you your name and address before.

- Oh, I'm sorry, I'm Sister Sally Ann Brickner from the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross.

- Thank you. And yeah, thanks for speaking to that as well. Do you want to say anything before we close?

- I was going to say I can go over, they're right next door. I can go over and speak with her very soon.

- Good, good.

- Well thank you both and best on luck on this, hopefully it's not--

- Thanks, as I said, thanks for listening, that helps.

- All right, we'll entertain a motion to close the floor then.

- Motion to close the floor.

- So hear, is there a second?

- Second.

- Al. right, all in favor of closing the floor, say aye.

- [Group] Aye.

- Any opposed. All right, the floor is closed. Do we have further discussion on this item? Thank you for bringing this forward.

- I guess I'd like to know what the city has committed to, if it's a joint effort. So maybe that's something Mark could find for us.

- I'll check more into this. I know we talked about this at length months ago.

- Are you talking about financially?

- Yeah, financially.

- It's half of the budget.

- About half.

- It's half of the budget and the budget's I think around \$750,000.
- But you want more specifics as far as, well anyway, go ahead, Ned.
- You know, if it's something that we can revisit as a city, if we already voted on it, I don't know. Is there a way to go back and pull that item and revisit or does the city commit any staff to this project on top of the money? Is our DPW involved? Like if there are some major concerns, I think we as a city can bring that to the county.
- I guess what I'll do is I'll do some phone calling over the next day or two and get as much information as I can get. We may be over the top or finished on some of it, but there may be some possibility. So I'll check and see where we're at with net and soon as I find out, I'll work with Melissa on that as well. We'll just get the information out as quickly as we can.
- Thank you.
- Any other questions or comments on this item?
- I guess one comment that I should make or would like to make is not all of our city projects are sustainable. Of course we try to keep that in mind, at least I know I do in our planning, but I know that not necessarily every city project is sustainable. So I just wanted to point that out. It'd be great if we could somehow work towards it in every project.
- That's understandable, Kaurie, I've spent most of my career arguing with engineers about things, so.
- Sure.
- I would say, I mean, there are better ways to do things than others. And these are two projects near and dear to my heart, 'cause I live near them, I just see them all the time and they're just the opposite. Like they're not even, they're just, yeah, switching out one problem for a lot more other ones.
- Is there, in a perfect world, I mean, is there some way that you could see initially dealing with something like this?
- Understanding the topography of over there would really take a better, you need a little bit understanding of the watershed in general. The water is really sheeting off the agricultural fields behind those and then it drops down into the ditch basically. But I have seen in other places where they've done amazing, like recreational assets, storm water parks where they built large storm water basins and they have trails around them and they meet their water quality permit with these kind of projects also. So there's different, like in my mind there's always going to be a more creative solution. If we're paying, I feel like nowadays with infrastructure, we should be getting as many benefits as we can out of it because it's very expensive. So why not have it meet flooding, water quality, and habitat, and recreation, and make it a community asset rather than just this underground pipe or ditch.
- So part of it, maybe a little knee jerk reaction on something like this or?
- What?

- Knee jerk, was this little a knee jerk in your estimation?
- I think it was a, I just,
- Well anyway, you don't have to say that.
- Yeah, I'm,
- That's fine.
- I already said it, I really just don't think it's a sustainably planned or designed project. Adding another five-foot pipe to the bay is, there's already one right there. There is already one there and they're adding, they're trying to add another one and it's to solve a private property's own issue.
- All right, thanks again for bringing that forward.
- Thank you.
- On to final informational update here. Communication, do we have an update from that work group?
- Yeah. Do you want to go, do I want to go?
- Do I want to go?
- I can go.
- Why don't you start it 'cause I got to get to the board.
- Okay, let's see. All right so we've met a couple of times as a new group. Still trying to get things figured out as how we're, kind of what our goals are, I guess, other than we really know we want to kind of be the hub of all things sustainable for Green Bay. So people who wanted to learn about sustainability can come through us, right. So that being said, we had our Sustainability Commission Facebook page that was, I think we've talked about that before in this group, but in case we haven't, that Facebook page was being managed as a government page and it wasn't set up the right way for how we needed it to be. And so what we're going to do is create a friends of the Sustainability Commission Facebook page instead. And I believe, I know Julia's interested in managing it and I haven't spoke to Ned, but I believe he is too and I think you have spoke with him about it and managing that friends page. And so that's going to be where we're going to be doing our social media communication. We could perhaps at some point talk about expanding to Instagram or something, to those types of things. So we'll explore other social media outlets but starting with Facebook. And so really what we'll do is post something on that existing page just to let folks know, hey, this new page has started, can you please join and follow us here, because we have about 300 followers now I think. And so Julie, I don't know if you know more about when that's going to kick off or?
- So Ned and I talked briefly and I've been, we're going to set it up very soon and Earth Day is on Saturday, so I guess we have a deadline.

- So, oh, I guess our goal will be Friday so Kaurie can set on her, during her day job, send it out to the city Facebook page announcement too.
- We did announce it at council, though, too and the mayor sent an email to all the alders, so we got, I mean that's something.
- That's great, that's great. Well hopefully we'll have something that runs really soon. Ned and I came up with what, Sustainable Green Bay?
- Yeah, I think so.
- It was real simple.
- Sustainable Green Bay.
- Awesome names.
- I would love to have a more fun name than friends of the Sustainable Commission.
- So you mention like Sustain Dane for Dane County.
- We can't do Greener Green Bay because we don't want people to think about harmful--
- Mine was the Sustainability Commission Crusaders.
- I like Sustainable Green Bag.
- It's straightforward.
- Good branding opportunity, put that on a t-shirt.
- Something with gain and sustain.
- Well, if you come up with a motto or a tagline, we can always add a tagline.
- Sustainable Green Bay and then let Mark play.
- No, that's sent to others, I don't want to.
- Ned, did you have anything I missed or you wanted to add?
- That all sounds good to me, Sustainable Green Bay, I like it.
- So if any members have articles or information, we should just direct message the Facebook group and that'll get posted on the Facebook page.
- That's a great idea because I'm not actually, I really don't use, I mean I use Facebook, I don't really

post. I'm very excited about this, so I think we're just going to post as much content as possible.

- Maria and the Corps could give you some tips. They do a great job.

- The one thing maybe.

- It would be a crash course. The same crash course I went through on how to set up an entire marketing page and branding for an entire program. I do all of that for the Corps too, so yeah, let me know.

- And actually I, one thing I was, I feel like we should be pretty adamant is keeping it extremely positive and really not tolerating any negative stuff. And since we'll be doing this not as a government, we don't have to tolerate negative.

- That's right.

- Negative negativity.

- 'Cause it's not a city-endorsed Facebook page.

- Where we would have to record keep and everything with the city.

- And be archiving everything.

- I think we just talk about the various events coming up. You know, Earth Day, well there's on Earth Day there's the Milkweed and Monarchs workshop at the botanical gardens. There's information there, you can contact them. There's Earth Day at the Kroc Center over on Lime Kiln.

- We'll be there too.

- Yeah, there you go. Pick off a new pollinator and garden project. Then the Conservation Corps, of course, they have events at Ken Evers, He-Nis-Ra, Intra Newberry Conservancy, and the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary.

- Also, Baird Creek is having an event before ours, so eight to noon at Bear Creek Greenway, they're having an Earth Day event.

- One to four pretty much, right? One to four--

- For ours, yeah, but then Baird Creek Preservation's doing eight to noon, so back to back. We'll also be there.

- So there's things to do.

- Questions for the outreach group? All right, well I look forward to rationalizing the time I spend on social media by looking at the page, especially if it rains on Saturday.

- Let's see what happens when I don't show up, or I'm not available one evening.

- How much you get down without me.
- We had a cardboard cutout.
- Next question.
- Well, I guess that brings us to the end of the meeting. We'll entertain the motion to adjourn.
- Move to adjourn.
- By, give that to Ned, is there a second?
- I'll second.
- Second by Kaurie, all right. All those in favor of adjourning, say aye.
- [Group] Aye.
- All right, adjourned. Thanks everybody.
- Happy Earth Week.