

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

September 20, 2023, 12:00pm-meeting called to order

Members present: Chair Cedar Walters, Jake Nelson, Beth Monke, Cody Dock; guest Mark Kaelke from WCI

Lake Alice “No Feeding of Waterfowl/Wildlife” – Look at additional places around Fergus Falls for signage aside from Lake Alice.

Food Waste: Cedar and Jean Bowman putting out info in Oct. utility insert about the free food waste drop-off program to get more residents signed up prior to another planned waste audit in December. OTC paid for costs of the insert. Residential food waste audit from 2019- 25% waste is food, 2021- 27%. Boosting up composting as a result of that. Looking for the organics waste % to come down after audit in December. Looking to get more sign ups from residents for composting. Promote “Food Waster Drop-Off” with the Organics Recycling Program. Looking for more waste wizard promotion of the app.

Yard of the week: Looking to highlight yard of the month from the list of residents that have applied for permits/plans. Could start in Spring 2024. Jake will check with SWCD, we could work over the winter on signage similar to the regular ‘yard of the week’ program done by FFPD.

Mark Kaelke from WCI: Potentially only action plan in state of MN. Overview of climate action plan, how WCI can assist communities with taking steps in the process. Highlighting the priority points pertaining to Fergus Falls and neighboring communities throughout Otter Tail County. Group talked through parts of the selected actions.

Possible collaborations with other communities on what is working, what is completed already – promote good things that are already happening will encourage more people to adopt climate friendly practices.

Meeting adjourned.