

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Alden Zuhlke, Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Nebraska Environmental Quality Council (EQC) to order at approximately 10:00 am, Central Time, June 26, 2025. The meeting was held at the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), 245 Fallbrook Blvd Lincoln, NE 68521. Public notice of the meeting and scheduled public hearing was published than at least 30 days prior to the meeting in the Omaha World Herald in accordance with the law and on the NDEE Website. Mr. Zuhlke read a statement at the beginning of the meeting informing the meeting attendees of the location of a current copy of the Open Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were Mr. Bird, Mr. Bogner, Mr. Hedquist, Ms. Kolterman, Ms. Lunz, Mr. Mayhew, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Stange, Ms. Staples, Ms. Steidley, Dr. Tesmer, Mr. Theiler, Ms. Willis, and Mr. Zuhlke. Ms. Becker and Mr. Harder were absent. Fourteen members were present, constituting a quorum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hedquist made a motion to approve the minutes with changes from the November 14, 2024 meeting. Mr. Mayhew seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Mr. Bird, Mr. Bogner, Mr. Hedquist, Ms. Kolterman, Ms. Lunz, Mr. Mayhew, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Stange, Ms. Staples, Ms. Steidley, Dr. Tesmer, Mr. Theiler, Ms. Willis, and Mr. Zuhlke. Fourteen voting yes, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hedquist made a motion to approve the minutes with changes from the April 1, 2025 meeting. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. Mr. Bird, Mr. Bogner, Mr. Hedquist, Ms. Kolterman, Ms. Lunz, Mr. Mayhew, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Stange, Ms. Staples, Ms. Steidley, Mr. Theiler, Ms. Willis, and Mr. Zuhlke. Dr. Tesmer abstained. Thirteen voting yes, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF EQC MEMBERS

None.

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Director Valentine introduced staff in the room to EQC members. She also discussed the merger, organizational chart, and staff updates. She discussed the role the EQC will continue to have such as voting on rules and regulatory functions. Deputy Director Valentine provided legislative updates to members.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Hedquist made a motion to schedule the next EQC meeting for November 12, 2025. Mr. Bogner seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Mr. Bird, Mr. Bogner, Mr. Hedquist, Ms. Kolterman, Ms. Lunz, Mr. Mayhew, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Stange, Ms. Staples, Ms. Steidley, Dr. Tesmer, Mr. Theiler, Ms. Willis, and Mr. Zuhlke. Fourteen voting yes, the motion carried.

Mr. Bogner made a motion to approve the 3rd week of the month for the meeting in June 2026. Dr. Tesmer seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Mr. Bird, Mr. Bogner, Mr. Hedquist, Ms. Kolterman, Ms. Lunz, Mr. Mayhew, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Stange, Ms. Staples, Ms. Steidley, Dr. Tesmer, Mr. Theiler, Ms. Willis, and Mr. Zuhlke. Fourteen voting yes, the motion carried.

NAAQS NONATTAINMENT - INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Tracy Wharton presented the attached PowerPoint presentation titled "NAAQS Nonattainment 101" and responded to questions from the EQC members.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026 IUP

Steve Thomas, hearing officer, opened the hearing. The following exhibits were received:

- **Order appointing Steve Thomas as Hearing Officer (Exhibit 1)**
- **Proof of Public Notice (Exhibit 2)**
- **Declaration of Jeff Atwell (Exhibit 3)**
- **Memo to EQC (Exhibit 4)**
- **PowerPoint (Exhibit 5)**
- **EPA Comment Letter (Exhibit 6)**

- **EPA Follow Up Comment Letter (Exhibit 7)**

Steve McNulty, Section Supervisor, presented the PowerPoint, Exhibit 5, and responded to questions from EQC members.

There being no other testimony from the public or questions, Steve Thomas, hearing officer, closed the hearing and turned the conduct of the meeting back to the chair.

Mr. Stange made a motion to approve the 2026 IUP. Dr. Tesmer seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Mr. Bird, Mr. Bogner, Mr. Hedquist, Ms. Kolterman, Ms. Lunz, Mr. Mayhew, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Stange, Ms. Staples, Ms. Steidley, Dr. Tesmer, Mr. Theiler, Ms. Willis, and Mr. Zuhlke. Fourteen voting yes, the motion carried.

Chair Zuhlke adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:40 AM CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Bradley
Director