



# Village of Westchester

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CHASE

WALTER WOJCIK

## GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2025 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

1. **6:30 - Call to Order**

2. **Pledge**

3. **Roll Call**

4. **Inspiration**

a. Kari Roberg - SCARCE story about how they have helped over 2 million, "m better, little things make a difference, little things add up, and look what we car done."

a. Next Month - Walt

5. **Review of Minutes – Nikki Way (5 min)**

a. Approval of 2/6/25 regular meeting minutes

**Walt motions to approve, LeeAnn seconds, all approve.**

6. **Quarterly Reports – Liz W-Chase (5 min)**

a. Fourth quarter was approved, it will be submitted.

b. Q1 – 2025 – Kari volunteers to do it.

7. **Updates from Village Staff and Board Representatives – (10 min) Annie Canavan, Evie Slavic**

1. The Buckthorn grant was approved, because more money was found to remove Buckthron at Wedgewood and Norfolk, invasives will be removed, natives will be planted. It requires a match from the budget.

2. Shred event – April 26. Nikki asked if we can have a table to hand out seeds.

3. Energy plan consulting services RFQ – received several submissions and will select by mid-March.

4. Evie will put together a volunteer list to call for events like shred events.

**8. Old Business (70 min)**

**a. Greenest Region Compact (GRC) and Subcommittee Updates – LeeAnn Kruszynski (20 min)**

- a. Subcommittee reports:
  - i. Water – Mariana Nicolae/Walt
    - 1. Mariana presented four initiatives where GROW and the Village can take action (in red bold W4, w6, w8, w59). This includes education, toilet water consumption in schools and buildings, water conservation education in schools.
    - 2. Discussed how to add all tabs across committees in OneDrive.
  - ii. Municipal Operations – Kari Roberg/Lee
  - iii. Climate – Lee/Kari
  - iv. Energy – Liz/Walt Wojcik
    - 1. Will meet with Evie
- b. Next Steps – Kari
  - i. Go line item by line item to ID what's changed, then ID 3 –4 main objectives and bring to group to vote on to move forward.
  - ii. Nikki suggested adding final report to newsletter and promoting the objectives.

**b. SBC Stipend Submissions Fiscal Year Ending 4/25 – Liz (5 minutes)**

- a. Adjust seed allocation to \$780 because other items came in lower.
- b. Discussed next year stipend, and will put out proposals when we have new commissioners.

**Approve seed allocation for the FY25 Budget: LeeAnn motions, Kari seconds, all approve.**

**c. Upcoming Event support Needs (10 min)**

- a. Community table event - March 23 – tabling, Nikki and Walt
- b. **April Movie night** – Walt has not heard from CommonGround for approval. He will replace with “Feeding tomorrow” on Amazon Prime.
- c. **International Water Day** – March 22: Theme is “save the glaciers” - Mariana has poster and Annie can print 11x17” in village hall. Asked for weekly newsletter feature.
- d. **Guided tour of MWRD** – April & May newsletter and needs two weeks in advance. Looking at week of May 19.
- e. **Earth Day & Arbor Day** – Events coordinated with village? Annie will share what doing. (Suggested “The Great Green Wall” for Walt’s movie night because it aligns with Arbor Day).
- f. **Tabling for promoting Composting Awareness Week (first week of May)** – which coincides with Air Quality Awareness week. Annie also mentioned how busy the DMV is because of RealID – might be a good opportunity.
- g. **Climate Action Presentation** (Kari) - June on a Saturday between 10 – 11am.
- h. **SCARCE** – Need to figure out space needs and align with what village can offer. Could connect to Reusa-palooza (could have people donate).

- i. **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade** – casting call, variety of Electric Vehicles. Discussion of how this will work with a historic car show. Walt volunteers to take on car casting.

**d. Newsletter Article Ideas/Support (10 min)**

- a. April – Kari
  - i. Kari will write an article about composting and will write something about food waste.
  - ii. No Mow to mothers Day- Slow mow Summer with higher taller lawn.
  - iii. Instead, no mow April, and then slow mow summer – we need to encourage people to keep lawns longer. Green fact for April. 8” is the enforcement. LeeAnne will help with snippet green fact.
  - iv. Recipe – reducing food waste. Carrot top pesto.
- b. May – Walt proposes “say goodbye to plastic” and will tone it down and keep it shorter. Discuss putting it in e-newsletter as a series – 5 weeks 5 rooms.

**9. Comments (5 min)**

- i. Commission Comments
  - 1. Lee – Thanked commission for working together.
  - 2. LeeAnne – Plans to stay engaged. Will volunteer for Reus-a-palopza. Nikki asked how much money LeeAnne had brought to the village through grants, and LeeAnne responded \$90k during her tenure.
  - 3. Liz - Shared products from Melioria, a woman-owned B Corp in Chicago that manufactures people- and planet-friendly home cleaning and laundry products. Mariana reviewed the ingredients.
- ii. Staff/Board Comments

**10. Public Participation** - *In order to give as many visitors as possible an opportunity to speak and in the interest of adjourning the meeting by 8:00 p.m., please limit your comments to 3 minutes in length, unless further time is granted by the Commission.*

Shannon (last name) – thanked Grow, enjoyed observing.

**Motion to adjourn: Walt motions, Lee seconds, all approve.**

**7:41 PM – End of meeting**

**11. Adjournment**

The Village of Westchester will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Village of Westchester, should contact the office of the Fire Chief, 10300 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester, IL, (708) 345-0441, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.



2025 Planning Calendar			
Event	Organizer	Date	
Artisan Fair Tabling – Food Pantry	Walt	March 23	Proposed
April Movie Night - Common Ground	Walt	April 24, 2025	In Process
International Water Day	Mariana	March 22	Proposed
Guided Tour of Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	Mariana	Spring 2025	Proposed
Earth Day		April 22	In Process?
Arbor Day – Oak?		April 25, 2025	In Process?
International Composting Awareness Week Tabling - TBD	Liz	May 4 - 10	Proposed
Air Quality Awareness Week Tabling - TBD	Liz	May 5 - 9	Proposed
Waste Collection with SCARCE	Kari	Fall 2025	Proposed
Climate Action Event	Walt	Spring/Summer 2025	Proposed
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Parade / EV Car Show		July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Proposed
Solar Event with CUB	Liz	Summer 2025	Proposed
Home Electrification	Liz	Summer 2025	Proposed

Newsletter Calendar		
Month	Article Topic	Author
Monthly	Plant Based Recipes	Kari
Monthly	Monthly Green Fact	Walt
January 2025	Improving Your Indoor Environment	
February 2025	Eco-Friendly Valentine's Day	Walt
March 2025	International Water Day	Mariana
April 2025	Tentative: Spring Lawn Care (Calendar?) /How to Compost/July 4 <sup>th</sup> EV Casting Call	Kari
May 2025		

2025 GROW Commission Priorities: Education/Engagement, Advisement, Climate Action Plan