

**VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM
GREEN TIER AD-HOC COMMITTEE WORKING SESSION MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024 – 8:00 AM - 9996 WATER STREET**



Present: Jeff Lutsey, Michael McCutcheon, Bruce Nelson, Lane Methner, and Cindy Nelson-Chair.

Absent: Jeff O'Keefe.

Guests: None.

Staff: Brent Bristol – Village Administrator and Kim Roberts – Deputy Clerk.

1. Update on the Green Tier worksheet and phone conversation with DNR Green Tier Representatives:

C. Nelson provided an update on the conversation that was held with DNR Green Tier representatives Jennifer Feyerherm and Mandaline Bergstrom. C. Nelson acknowledged that the DNR representatives had contacted many Door County Green Tier Communities for feedback. C. Nelson reviewed during the meeting the challenges with the scoresheet, the areas of the scoresheet that were successful, and the impracticality of many of the metrics and supporting actions for a small community. The amount of time dedicated to completing the scoresheet and supporting actions for a small community is just too much. Suggestions were shared with DNR representatives on how to improve the scoresheet process such as breaking communities into three (3) tiers in addition to creating applicable scoresheets and supporting actions for each tier. Additionally creating a way for communities to connect and help each other similar to how Wisconsin Clerks assist each other. Changing the format of the DNR Green Tier meetings into subject-driven webinars to allow people to search for topics and watch at their convenience to avoid hours of attending online meetings. C. Nelson suggested the use of the 7 Rs (Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Repurpose, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot) within the Green Tier program. Both DNR representatives stressed that the program and the scoresheet are works in progress.

Lutsey shared his conversation with the DNR representatives as the countywide Green Tier meetings coordinator. He had communicated similar concerns that the other Door County Green Tier communities had voiced. With the concentration of Green Tier Communities in Door County, the DNR was concerned about the feedback and is considering attending the next Door County countywide meeting.

C. Nelson shared that she had been asked why the Village remained a Green Tier Community. She responded that we ask ourselves that same question; it will be a hard sell to remain a member if it continues to be this difficult. We don't need to be a Green Tier Community to participate in the county-wide group.

Lutsey shared that for many communities it is the financial incentives that motivate continued membership. For example, the City of Sturgeon Bay joined so that Sturgeon Bay Utilities could access a loan that might be forgiven.

C. Nelson noted that the DNR had been really good, initially, with sharing the incentive information but those efforts have waned over the years.

2. Update on 2024 Goals:

The Green Tier Committee reviewed 2024 goals: Water filling stations, energy audits on Village buildings, food pantry donation magnets for STRs, battery collection, pollinator gardens for Moravia Point and Village Hall, and signs for the Wetlands.

A brief discussion was held regarding each of the goals. B. Nelson was continuing research on filling station costs. Lutsey will work on gathering information on energy audits after the Big Plant. McCutcheon inquired if the energy audits were necessary and noted they would need to go before the Board for approval. C. Nelson added that energy audits have been part of Green Tier since the very beginning. Since the Village is looking at remodels on some Village buildings, it would be good to have the data. Methner reported that there was no update to report on the magnets; they are still working with other Community Business Associations to discuss the project. She explained that the magnets were to provide information to STRs where they could donate non-perishable food at the end of their stay. Lutsey will also address battery collection after the Big Plant. C. Nelson continues to work on the pollinator gardens for the Village Hall and Moravia Point as well as signage for the Wetlands. She noted that she was able to track down the woman who did the signs for the Fern Trail at Newport State Park.

C. Nelson introduced the idea of a Community Clean Up day where residents work in their area/neighborhood, pick up garbage, and bring it to the Village Hall for coffee and doughnuts. Committee members present thought that it was a good idea.

McCutcheon noted that the proposal would need to go before the Village Board

Discussion continued in determining the details of the proposed event. Saturday, June 1, 2024, was the date that was chosen for the event so that the proposal could be included on the May Village Board Agenda.

Bristol requested a write-up for the Board packet to facilitate discussion.

3. **Next meeting:**

Next meeting date: Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 8:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 AM.

Recorded by, Kim Roberts – Deputy Clerk