



## MINUTES

### OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Municipal Building 15 South College Ave. Oxford, Ohio 45056 First Floor Conference Room

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025 AT 7:00 PM**

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#### **Approval of Agenda**

Members present were: Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Jim Vinch; Michael Vanni; Ken Vincent

Staff present was Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator.

Members of the public present was Aidan Cornue with Oxford Free Press.

The meeting began at 7:02pm. Approval of the agenda: Mr. Bracken

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: Unanimous approval

#### **Approval of Minutes**

1. Approval of the September 3rd, 2025 Minutes

Motion: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous approval

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

1. WWTP Solar Project

Staff provided an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Solar Project. The city is interested in owning a 1 MW-AC system at the WWTP. Staff shared that the plant was selected because it is the highest electricity user in the City's building portfolio. The City is pursuing a 1

MW-AC system because it optimizes the City's potential to receive direct pay for the project.

Oxford has an RFP open for the WWTP that closes on November 14th 2025 at 11am

## 2. Deer Management Program

Staff provided the following updates regarding the deer management program. The commission had questions regarding the difference between the bow hunting program vs professional population control, which are addressed below.

### Bow hunting

- Administration of the bow hunting program has moved from the Service Department to the City Manager's office
- In session 2 of the bow hunting program, Oxford included 15 new hunters and 11 returning hunters, 6 of whom are Oxford or Oxford township residents.
- We've added 4 new bow hunting locations.
- Sessions 2 and 3 have been shortened to ensure there is no overlap between bow hunting and professional population control.

### Professional population control

- White Buffalo, a nationally recognized leader in humane and professional urban deer population control, has been contracted.
- White buffalo will conduct a population survey in December and will return in early January for population reduction.

## 3. Tree List Revisions

This semester, Staff has solicited a class project to make recommendations for updating Oxford's Tree List. Staff have met with the students and shared the student-created slides with the commission. The students will present their final recommendations to the commission at the December meeting.

Feedback from the commission included skepticism of the inclusion of Osage orange on the small tree list. Additionally, Mr. Vanni requested red bud be considered for addition to the list. Mr. Vincent shared that the students should consider roots in their recommendations, especially if there are some species that tend to push up sidewalks.

Outside the scope of the project but related to urban forestry, Mr. Vincent recommended Oxford consider providing homeowners with a small subsidy to remove and replace callery pears on their properties.

## 4. Member Updates

- City Council
- Planning Commisison
- Climate Action Steering Committee
- OPTAB

No updates from City Council, Planning Commission, or OCASC. Mr. Ralinovsky shared that OPTAB has a bike and pedestrian safety plan bike ride upcoming. Mr. Ralinovsky also shared that he will be stepping down from Environmental Commission and that the December meeting will be his last. The commission and staff thanked Mr. Ralinovsky for his service to the Community.

#### 5. Staff Updates

- Memo from Environmental Services
- Recycling Expansion
- Class Project Presentations:
  - EC December 3rd, 7pm
  - Recreation Board December 8th, noon
- CCEC Audit Trainings

Staff provided a memo from the Environmental Services Division, which included details on urban forestry, landfill flares, and food scraps.

Staff shared that we are moving forward with the recycling requirement for multi-family properties and an ordinance is being drafted. Similarly, an ordinance is being drafted for consolidating toters into a dumpster for buildings with more than 5 units.

Lastly, staff requested a volunteer for CCEC audit training.

### **Adjournment**

Motion: Mr. Vincent

2nd: Mr. Vanni

Vote: Unanimous approval

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm



**Memo**  
**Service Department**  
**Environmental Affairs**

TO: Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator

FROM: David Treleaven, Environmental Specialist *DT*

RE: Environmental Affairs Summary for the November 5, 2025 Environmental Commission Meeting

DATE: November 3, 2025

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**Landfill Passive Gas Vents Emissions:**

Monitoring has occurred during three months (April – June) thus far in 2025 due to Staff undergoing total knee replacements and the subsequent periods of convalesce during the year. During the 2025 monitoring events, gas vent GV-23 would have continued to have the highest total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) at the landfill if it were not flared. The emissions from GV-23 are passed through a solar powered flare (since May 22, 2023), resulting in an approximate 98% destruction rate of its methane content.

Total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) value of the emissions from all 23 gas vents during the monitoring events ranged from 67 metric tons (MT) CO<sub>2</sub>e to 102 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e. Without the flare in operation at gas vent GV-23, these values would have ranged from 88 MT to 122 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e. The decrease in CO<sub>2</sub>e in the total landfill emissions by flaring GV-23 ranged between 17% and 26%.

The anticipated total annual CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions value for the entire closed landfill in 2025 is estimated to be 999 MT. Without the flare at GV-23, this value would have been 1,274 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e.

To assist in determining the location of the next gas vent emissions flare at the landfill, the monitored emissions over a five-year time period from gas vent GV-17, and the emissions from combining GV-19 and GV-20 were evaluated. These vents (GV-17 and combining GV-19 and GV-20) have the highest total CO<sub>2</sub>e values behind GV-23 over the five years of monitoring. Gas vent GV-17, located approximately 300 feet to the northwest of GV-23, appears to be the best candidate for the next flare. Over 49 monitoring events, GV-17 had an average methane concentration of 57%, although at five monitoring events (approximately 10% of monitoring events), there was no detectable methane in its emissions. The average flow velocity at GV-17 was 26 feet per minute, which, while on the lower range of acceptable flow rates, should suffice

in providing enough flow to keep the flare burning (if methane is present). For comparison, GV-23's average methane concentration has been 78%, with an average flow of 54 feet per minute. Combining emissions from gas vents GV-19 and GV-20, the average methane content of their emissions was 34% with an average flow velocity of 19 feet per minute, which would likely not be sufficient to ensure constant operation of a flare. An assist fan (also solar powered) would likely need to be added to ensure sufficient flow of methane to keep the flare operational. With the revised design of the OATS Phase V trail, the trail will be passing very near to GV-19 and GV-20. Locating a flare there could potentially create an "attractive nuisance" situation. The intent is to have a solar-powered flare established at GV-17 before the end of this year.

A figure depicting the relative locations of the gas vents is attached.

**Residential Food Scraps Drop-off Program:**

Since the start of the residential food scraps drop-off program (the Program) in April 2019, through the collection event on October 28, 2025, approximately 246,150 pounds (approximately 123.1 tons) of food scraps have been collected by GoZERO and converted into compost, averaging approximately 720 pounds per week.

Weekly Averages:

2019 – 2020: 624 pounds	2020 alone: 668 pounds
2019 – 2021: 737 pounds	2021 alone: 860 pounds
2019 – 2022: 749 pounds	2022 alone: 794 pounds
2019 – 2023: 730 pounds	2023 alone: 681 pounds
2019 – 2024: 728 pounds	2024 alone: 704 pounds
2019 – 2025: 720 pounds (through October 28, 2025)	2025 alone: 688 pounds

Twice during the third quarter, the weekly collections weight exceeded 1,000 pounds (1,242 pounds on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 1,187 pounds on September 3<sup>rd</sup>).

The sixth annual anniversary of the Program occurred on Sunday, April 6, 2025. The total weight of collections for this time period (through the weekly collection on Thursday, April 3, 2025) was approximately 225,495 pounds (112.75 tons).

The drop-off location was moved to the TRI Recreation Center at the start of 2024 due to the initiation of the construction of the Chestnut Street Multimodal Station. Staff has noticed a distinct increase in the amount of contamination found in the food scraps since the re-location of the drop-off location to the TRI Recreational Center (mostly plastic bagging).

**Urban Forestry:**

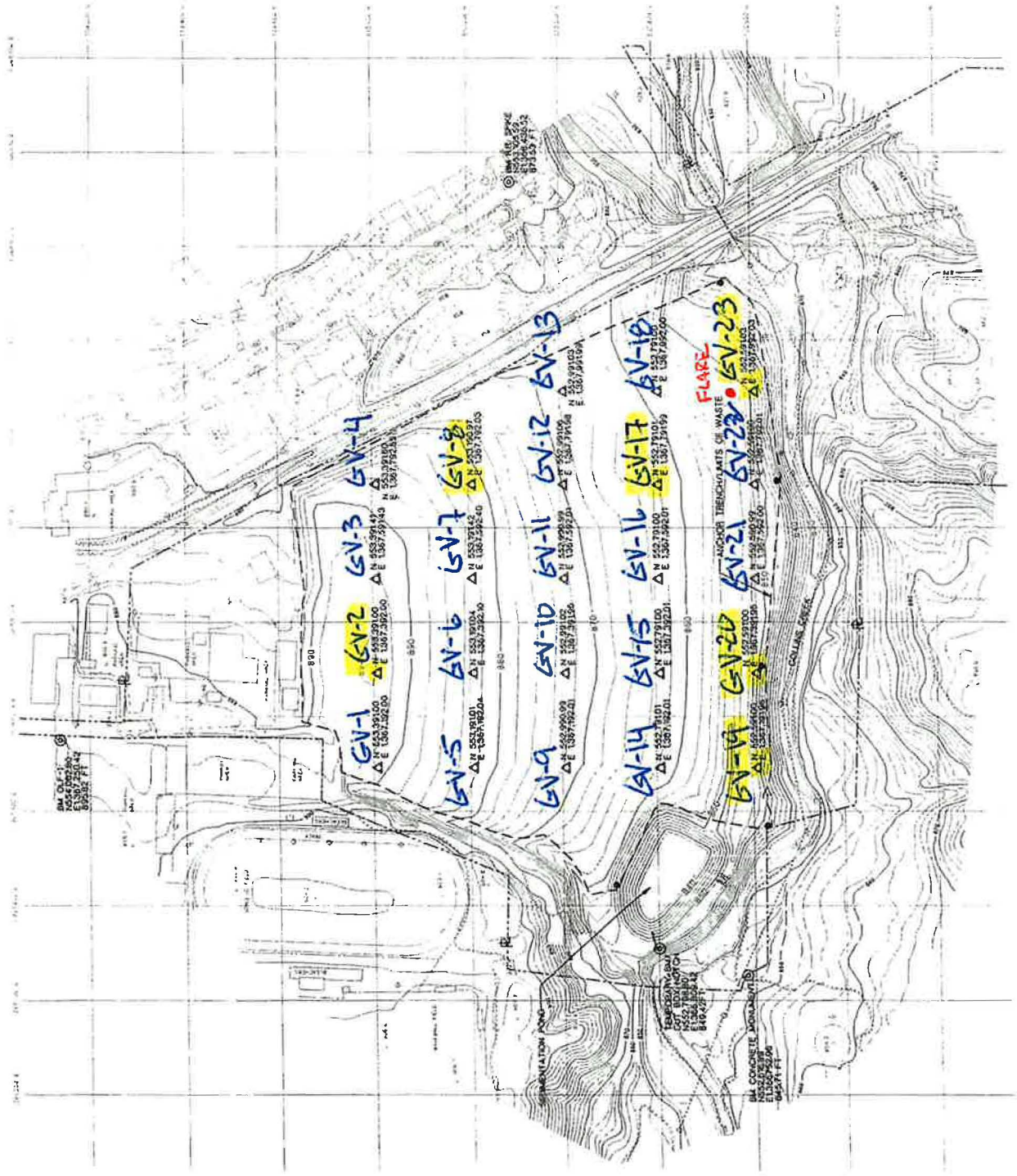
The Annual Tree Maintenance Project was completed in early August prior to the start of Miami University's 2025 – 2026 academic year. A total of 19 street and public trees were removed, two trees had dead wood removed from their canopy, and a total of six existing stumps were removed. The expense of the tree maintenance project this year was approximately \$23,000.

Oxford personnel are meeting with Butler County Metro Park personnel Wednesday morning, November 5th at the Black Bridge to determine the planting location of nine trees. Metro Parks has requested three each of Red and Sugar Maples, and Smooth Bark Serviceberries. These trees should be planted prior to the end of November 2025, tentatively along the trail to the north of the covered bridge.

Thirty (30) Pear street trees in the Uptown Business District are scheduled to be removed and replaced by non-invasive species starting on Monday, December 15, 2025, following the end of Miami University's first semester.

Tree City USA re-certification summary report for 2025 is due to the ODNR Department of Forestry by Friday, December 5, 2025. Pending approval by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and The Arbor Day Foundation, this will be Oxford's 30th consecutive year of obtaining Tree City USA status

CLOSED LANDFILL GAS VENT LOCATIONS



- LEGEND:
- - - ANCHOR TRENCH
  - - - SANITARY SEWER
  - MANHOLE
  - POWER POLE
  - △ GAS VENT
  - ▽ CATCH BASIN
  - BM BENCH MARK
  - LEACHATE MANHOLE



TOPOGRAPHY SURROUNDING  
LANDFILL - SOURCE:  
LORD AERIAL SURVEY INC.  
COLUMBUS, INDIANA 47202  
FEBRUARY 19  
AS SHOWN  
EXHIBIT 3

SCALE: 1" = 40'

PROJECT NO. 101 EAST HIGH STREET  
OXFORD, OHIO 45056

CITY OF OXFORD SANITARY LANDFILL  
GAS VENT PLAN  
DATE: 02/24/19

SCS ENGINEERS  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.  
101 EAST HIGH STREET  
OXFORD, OHIO 45056

PROJECT NO. 101 EAST HIGH STREET  
OXFORD, OHIO 45056

CITY OF OXFORD SANITARY LANDFILL  
GAS VENT PLAN  
DATE: 02/24/19

GV-# : GAS VENTS WITH HIGHER CH4 CONTENT  
NOTE: SINCE GV-8 WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTENING (5/1/25), ITS [CH4] WAS BEEN 0