



MINUTES

OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Members present were: Jason Bracken, Chair, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Jim Vinch, Vice-Chair and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Michael Vanni; Ken Vincent; Becky Mathers; Barbara Smyth. A quorum was present

Staff present: Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator

Members of the public present: Caitlin O'Brien, The Miami Student and Oxford Free Press

The meeting began at 7:05pm. Motion to approve the agenda: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes from the December 3rd 2025 Environmental Commission meeting

Motion: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous approval

2. Minutes from the January 16th Work Session with OCASC

Motion: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Vincent

Vote: Unanimous approval

Old Business

New Business

1. Appointment of representatives to other boards:

- OPTAB
- OCASC

Ms. Smyth nominated Mr. Vincent to OPTAB. Seconded by Mr. Vanni. Mr. Vincent accepted. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Mr. Vincent nominated Ms. Branstator to OCASC. Seconded by Ms. Smyth. Ms. Branstator accepted. Vote: Unanimous approval

2. Electric Aggregation Program

Ms. Murphy provided a presentation regarding the city's aggregation program. The slides are attached.

Ms. O'Brein asked how students get on the program. Staff shared that there are sweep dates for all eligible Duke accounts. Students who live off campus have the same rights and options as permanent residents. Eligible account holders can call to enroll before the sweep date if they would like.

Ms. Branstrator shared that one of the benefits of SOPEC is the timing of the aggregation sweeps and "refreshes", allowing more students to be included in the program for more of the year.

The commission discussed renewable energy credits and asked if there is a different quality of renewable energy certificates (RECs). Mr. Bracken shared more information about REC standards. Staff shared that the aggregation program uses Green-e Energy Certified RECs. The supplier buys the RECs, the City of Oxford does not purchase RECs for the aggregation program.

3. Member Updates

- City Council
- Planning Commission
- OPTAB
- OCASC

Mr. Bracken shared that there will be a ribbon cutting for the WWTP solar array in April. Mr. Vinch shared that the one of the Council Retreat outcomes was to pause the mandatory recycling effort until 2027 or later. Mr. Bracken shared lots of kudos and thanks to staff following the

retreat and felt heard during the project prioritization process.

Mr. Bracken shared that the Planning Commission subcommittee is still working on the UDO and considering environmental impacts.

Mr. Vinch shared that OPTAB is working on a bike and pedestrian safety plan.

No updates from OCASC, as their last meeting was the joint work session with EC.

4. Staff Update

- Deer Program
- Tree City USA
- Callery Pear Tree Replacements

Staff shared an update regarding the deer management program. Changes to the local bow-hunting program were effective and resulted in the highest harvest since the 2013-2014 season. 16 deer were harvested. Contracting with White Buffalo for professional population control was effective at culling 117 deer in 4 nights. 98 deer were sent to processing for donation, resulting in 4,558 lbs going to 4 different food pantries. The remaining 20 deer were picked up by residents and processed at their own expense. The City was limited to 117 deer due to processing costs and our ODNR permit.

Oxford was recertified by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA.

In December 2025, the city replaced 20 callery pear trees in the Uptown Business District. The trees were replaced with non-invasive species. 19 more callery trees will be replaced at the end of 2026.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Vincent

2nd: Ms. Smyth

Vote: Unanimous approval

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm