

Committee of the Whole

Meeting date: January 17, 2018

Subject: Wastewater Reuse Policy Review

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jeannine Clancy, 651-602-1210; Deborah Manning, 651-602-1114

Division/Department: MCES Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

The Wastewater Reuse Policy Task Force reviewed the Council's existing wastewater reuse policies and recommend clarifications needed to respond to requests for wastewater reuse. The task force was chaired by Sandy Rummel and consisted of staff from 10 communities that are MCES wastewater customers and a representative from Metro Cities. The task force met from April to November 2017. The Council accepted the task force's report on December 13, 2017. Task force members reached consensus on the following: reasons for MCES' wastewater reuse program, responsive approach, cooperation and partnership rather than competition, cost-of-service basis for reclaimed water rate, regional benefit evaluation, and seeking funding from non-Council sources. The task force did not reach consensus on the issue of a regional cost share for wastewater reuse projects with a regional benefit. The task force recommended, if the Council proceeded with a regional cost share, that a pilot program be established that capped the cumulative regional cost share amount of the reuse projects in the pilot program at a maximum of 0.75% of the total annual municipal wastewater charge. The 0.75% cap is approximately \$1.65M or \$1/residential equivalent connection.

Staff has identified 3 potential alternatives for policy amendments to the Water Resources Policy Plan. See the attached document summarizing the alternatives. The alternatives are an outgrowth of the Wastewater Reuse Policy Task Force. A next step would be that the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing on the proposed wastewater reuse-related amendments to the Water Resource Policy Plan in order to obtain public input.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Thrive MSP 2040 sets the direction for the Council's development of wastewater reuse where economically feasible to promote sustainable water resources and emphasizes working with the Council's partners. The proposed amendment aligns with Thrive MSP 2040's goals by developing wastewater reuse capability in a collaborative manner, setting the stage for reuse-dependent job and economic growth, while advancing resource recovery from solid waste and generation of renewable energy.