

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Committee Members Present: Haigh, Smith, Schreiber, Van Eyll, Elkins, Brimeyer, Cunningham, Duinink, Reynoso, Rummel, Melander, Kramer, Chávez, Wulff

Committee Members Absent: Munt, Doàn

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Vice Chair Melander called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:09PM on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. (Chair Haigh arrived later.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Cunningham to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2013 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

1. Water Supply Issues—Keith Buttleman, Ali Elhassan, Lanya Ross, Brian Davis

Water Supply planning is one of the roles the Council has in regard to water. Other roles include water quality monitoring and assessment, surface water protection coordination, and wastewater collection and treatment. The Council has had a role in water supply planning since the 1988 drought. Legislation in 2005 charged the Council with developing a metropolitan area water supply master plan. That legislation also created an advisory committee (MAWSAC) representing localities from each metro area county which is chaired by Council member Rummel. The water supply planning unit consists of a small but highly competent staff (Ali Elhassan, Manager, Lanya Ross, Principal Environmental Scientist, and Brian Davis, Senior Environmental Scientist). They have developed some significant technical tools, including the Metro Model 2 (a groundwater flow model that shows the impacts on aquifers), Conservation Toolbox, Stormwater Reuse Guide, and the Groundwater Recharge Map. The Council's water supply planning unit regularly collaborates with state agencies that have interest in natural resources, the U of M, the US Geological and MN Geological surveys, municipalities and utilities, and consultants. The staff has determined the current approach to water supply management and development is unsustainable. A series of maps illustrated the conditions surface water and the Prairie du Chien aquifer, including what it will look like in 2030 if we continue with business as usual. Staff recommended the Council develop growth plans that ensure sustainable water supply.

2. Fair Housing and Equity Assessment—Beth Reetz

Beth Reetz reminded the Council of the following decisions needed to define the RCAPs for the FHEA: What is poverty (income)? What is a concentration of poverty (percentage)? What is a concentration of race/ethnicity (percentage)? Beth stated that the FHEA is an opportunity mapping exercise, and at its core is about identifying and recognizing where deliberate and intentional policy interventions will be needed to provide opportunity to those most impacted by the burdens of racial and economic segregation. The outreach and engagement part of the FHEA will start in April, but in order for that work to begin the aforementioned decisions need to be made. After much discussion, the Council decided the Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty (RCAPs) are where 40% or more of the people in a census tract have incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty rate, and where 50% or more are people of color. This definition may be used to provide parameters for planning, policy, or infrastructure investments.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:14PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary