

**Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Committee Members Present: Sandy Rummel-Chair, Harry Melander, Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber, Gary Van Eyll

Committee Members Absent: Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Schreiber to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Van Eyll to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2013 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2013-292 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Intergovernmental Agreement with Hennepin County

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an intergovernmental agreement with Hennepin County for the construction of portions of the 7018-2 Interceptor System (Wayzata Force Main). **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. Water Resources Policy Plan Update

Judy Sventek, Water Resources Assessment Manager, reviewed the MCES' role in surface water. In the metro area, there are over 378 impaired lakes/streams that need to be addressed. Water quality issues are dominated by nonpoint sources, which are not regulated; solutions are voluntary and harder to implement. A water sustainability policy will be included in the updated Water Resources Policy Plan. The draft sustainability policy specifically supports efforts to maintain and improve quality and quantity to support habitat and ecosystem health while providing for a high quality of life in the region. Strategies for this draft policy include providing technical assistance to partners on projects, development proposals, and issues that may come up that may impact water quality. In addition we will continue to monitor and assess the condition of water resources to determine if there is a need to take or suggest stronger actions. Another proposed policy relates to the watershed approach, where we will work with the current watershed structure to prepare plans that promote protection and restoration on a hydrologic/watershed basis. This will be done through the comprehensive plan review process, by making water resources management a critical part of land use decisions, planning protocols and design procedures. Another draft policy area relates to cost effectiveness. We will work with partners and permitting agencies to develop strategies that allow us to balance point and nonpoint source reduction measures. Our draft policy for providing leadership suggests we need to facilitate discussions on topics of concern, e.g. the northeast area issues. We may want to coordinate regional comments on new proposals and permitting

requirements that impact our stakeholders. We may also want to use our expertise and take the lead in efforts to develop protocols so greater consistency is applied by others.

2. Empire Storm Water Projects

Karen Jensen, Environmental Analyst, explained innovative stormwater practices at the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant. The stormwater practices are intended to protect surface waters, encourage aquifer recharge, and encourage the developed landscape to function like a natural landscape. Projects included pervious paver parking areas, green roof, raingardens, and grassed drainage swales. Since 2007, there has been no surface stormwater runoff from the Empire WWTP process area.

3. General Manager's Report

Leisa Thompson informed the committee that in honor of Veterans' Day, there will be a flag raising event at the Metropolitan WWTP on Wednesday, November 6, at 8:00 a.m. Committee members were invited to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Susan Harder
Recording Secretary