

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

#### Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair, Harry Melander, Gary Van Eyll; Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso

#### Committee Members Absent:

Lona Schreiber

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Edward Reynoso, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Committee Member Wulff proposed amending the Water Resources Policy Plan discussion on the September 23, 2014 minutes with the addition of "Public input will be sought on the DNR segment once it becomes available." She also requested the spelling of her name be corrected in the minutes.

It was moved by Edward Reynoso, seconded by Marie McCarthy to approve the amended minutes of the Tuesday, September 23, 2014 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

#### BUSINESS

##### **2014-243 Authorization to Award and Execute Construction Contract for Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements; MCES Project No. 805922, 805944, and 805997; Contract No. 14P077**

It was moved by Edward Reynoso, seconded by Marie McCarthy that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute a Construction Contract for Contract No. 14P077, with Total Mechanical Services in the amount of \$8,243,077. **Motion carried.**

#### INFORMATION

##### 1. Solids Management at the Metro Plant –

The purpose of the presentation is to begin a conversation with the community about solids management at the Metro Plant. The development of a plan will begin in 2015; details evaluated at present are the content of this informational item.

As an indication of size and uniqueness, the Metro Plant currently serves about 40% of the entire population of the state. A schematic of the incineration process was shared as well as the value in the wastewater solids. With sustainable solids planning, there are economic, social, environmental, and resource recovery benefits to be considered and compared. Solids history with projections indicates we are currently operating just under capacity in two incinerators with one in standby mode. An additional incinerator is needed in the future for additional capacity, flexibility and reliability. Alternatives considered include sustainable incineration; anaerobic digestion, drying and land application; and anaerobic digestion and land application. Sustainable incineration currently appears to be the most cost effective and sustainable process; however, other options are being looked for comparison purposes. We are also evaluating the impact to the environment and are considering permitted emissions as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

Those being considered for participation in the public meetings, although the actual attendees have

not been selected, and may include the environmental advocacy community, businesses, regulatory agencies and customers. Multiple meetings that may include others as well will be held.

Path forward will include:

- Develop a facility plan outlining advantages of sustainable incineration and prepare for public process in early 2015.
- Conduct public hearings and meetings to address the project.
- Submit facility plan to PCA for review and approval.
- Initiate design in 2017.
- Start construction in 2019.
- Finish construction in 2022.

2. Update on State Agency Roadmap Project –

Rebecca Flood, MPCA shared a summary of the purpose of the roadmap project. The purpose includes communicating conditions, trends, and goals, assesses progress, help guide implementation, and inform resource allocations. The roadmap is for state agencies, interested and informed stakeholders, and other members of the public.

The roadmap is a high level document that affects state funding priorities, watershed and groundwater restoration and protection strategies as well as local water plans. High level goals are established that filter to actions. The roadmap will include a 5 year revision process. Input from the Clean Water Council as well as other interested stakeholders will be taken during the review periods.

The goal setting process should be ambitious, yet achievable, contain important values such as human health, ecological value and cost effectiveness as well as consider external factors and all available data. Goals set by the leadership and coordination teams are lake water quality, river and stream water quality, groundwater quality and quantity. Details and data of how the plan will accomplish the goals were reviewed. Staff addressed an inquiry regarding use of Clean Water Funds (CWF) for water supply planning efforts. The CWF allocation discussed in relation to this presentation is for use by DNR to install additional observation wells statewide so water level information could be better documented to assist with measuring progress on goal 4. Met Council does pursue clean water funds for our water supply work and will likely be looking to fund some of the recommendations from the studies currently being worked on from the CWF. Rebecca Flood addressed a question regarding why we are not looking at existing wells to show progress in the nitrate and arsenic reduction goals. She stated there will be activities focusing on reducing nitrates and arsenic in existing wells. The primary method in existing wells is to add some sort of carbon filtration unit (i.e. something at the tap) and educate existing well users. Nitrates are more difficult to achieve reduction in existing wells due to pervasive nature of nitrate in agricultural areas.

Progress is anticipated to continue on roadmap goals with good progress in to 2034.

The five year review currently underway includes evaluation of being on or off track toward meeting the goals, whether or not any adjustments are needed to the indicators, whether or not adjustments are needed to management strategies, funding priorities, or the goals themselves and involvement of the Clean Water Council and stakeholders.

3. General Manager's Report –

Reminder – WWRP public meetings, 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, then 30<sup>th</sup>. RSVP list will be sent 10/15. Would like to hear which meetings you are planning to attend to determine kick off speakers.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary