

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair, Harry Melander, Lona Schreiber, Gary Van Eyll

Committee Members Absent:

Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Gary Van Eyll, seconded by Harry Melander to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, August 12, 2014 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2014-223 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute an Engineering Services Contract 14P041 for the Design and Construction Support for Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Solids Improvements Project

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Gary Van Eyll that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Engineering Services Contract for Design and Construction Support for the Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Solids Improvements Project, Contract No. 14P041 to Black and Veatch in the amount of \$3,500,000. **Motion carried.**

2014-224 Authorization to Increase Delegated Construction Contract Change Order Authority for Wayzata Lift Station

It was moved by Harry Melander, seconded by Wendy Wulff that the Metropolitan Council increases the delegated construction change order authority of the General Manager Environmental Services for the Wayzata Area Improvements L26 Discharge Manifolds and Meter M428A/B Improvements, MCES Project Number 802847, Contract No. 13P184. **Motion carried.**

2014-225 Authorization to Hold a Public Hearing on Industrial Pretreatment Incentive Program (IPIP)

It was moved by Harry Melander, seconded by Wendy Wulff that the Metropolitan Council authorizes staff to hold a formal public hearing to gather input and discuss a proposed new program that incentivizes industrial customers to put pretreatment facilities on their sites. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. Water Resources Policy Plan Update –

Staff presented an update on the draft water resources policy plan. The goal of the plan is to protect and improve the quality of the water in our region so we can remain a viable

economic hot spot for tourism and to maintain our citizen's quality of life. We are integrating our work in wastewater, water supply and surface water. Water planning is looking at impacts of climate change whether it is our water supply or storm water planning investigating reuse of wastewater. Strengthening our program and incentives related to climate impacts such as proposed infiltration and inflow grant program, proposed targeted storm water grants and additional technical assistance in wastewater, water supply and surface water management. We are seeking to lead by example in operations of energy and emissions, water use, storm water discharge, sustainability operational policy and procedures. Working on inflow and infiltration in our system as well as with our partners in getting them help to address inflow and infiltration as well. We desire to keep wastewater rates low and uniform, tie a special sewer availability charge credit to affordable housing, and reexamine outreach efforts by expanding printed information in multiple languages and evaluating meeting locations, times and opportunities to assure all communities can be present.

The outreach plan has included Watershed Administrators Advisory Committee input and Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee input in 2013 to 2014. Metro Cities meetings occurred in July 2014 and LUAC meetings occurring in 2014 as well.

Meeting takeaways indicated a need for incentives to reach regional goals, mention of collaboration and partnerships key to successful implementation, the need to be clear on how this plan, Thrive, Master Water Supply plan and all of the other plans fit together and how this plan will impact the comprehensive plans, caution not to go beyond authorities, and concern about how the plan will be integrated across the Council (Transit, Parks, Grant programs, etc.)

Next steps include continued discussion of the draft plan, public outreach meetings in October and November which are being planned, finalization of the plan anticipated in December, with the public hearing process in January 2015. Plan adoption is anticipated in Spring 2015. Further discussion on the plan will occur at the next Environment Committee meeting.

Staff answered questions related to agency collaboration and SAC policy. Concern was expressed with the draft SAC policy related to affordable housing in the WRPP and Housing Policy Plan. An inquiry was expressed to determine if the SAC proposal was vetted through Metro Cities. Staff responded that initial but not very detailed discussions had occurred with Metro Cities staff.

As the draft plan continues to be revised, agency collaboration is anticipated along with public hearings. During the outreach meetings it will be critical to explain what the plan is and what the plan isn't.

2. Update on Ongoing Inflow & Infiltration (I/I) Mitigation Program and Announcement of I/I Mitigation Workshop on October 1, 2014 –

The 2004 task force was created to address excess wet weather related peak flow in the regional system. Peak excess inflow and infiltration was utilizing system capacity thereby requiring pre-mature system capital improvements to accommodate future growth. Without peak excess, inflow and infiltration was sufficient to accommodate growth in most areas. Taskforces created to address excessive wet weather peak flow in the regional system. The program established notifies communities with excess peak flow and local work plans to mitigate and also investigated the need for program continuance. Cost to mitigate excess inflow and infiltration estimated at \$150 million and to build additional wet weather related capacity is \$1 billion. It was estimated in 2004 that the \$1 billion solution would result in an approximate 30% across the board increase in rates and result in a system that would be used 4 to 6 times per year.

The Council operates and maintains a network of wastewater flow meters that can separate out one community's flow from another. The system consists of approximately 190 meters and reflects either total community or sub community service areas. Communities can elect to mitigate versus

paying a surcharge. The first program contained 47 communities. The work completed by the communities can be categorized under two types, private and public infrastructure improvements.

Due to the significance of the June 2014 events, a workshop is being put together to meet with public works, engineering staff and local officials. Panel presentations will be conducted from local staff to share experiences, successes, and challenges as well as discuss plan enhancements to incentivize private property efforts. Forty-one exceedance notification letters were sent to communities as a result of the June events.

Staff responded to questions about plans to address inflow and infiltration. It is anticipated inflow and infiltration reduction will be accomplished through planned collaboration with cities. The plan allows each city 4 years to complete the work.

3. General Manager's Report –

Comments are encouraged pertaining to the draft Water Resource Policy Plan. Further review and discussion will take place at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary