

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

None

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. on Tuesday, January 13, 2015

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Rummel presented an amendment to the proposed action of business item number 2014-14 as follows with discussion to follow:

That, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council:

- Release the Draft 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP) for public review and comment; and authorize a public comment period from January 28, 2015 to March 27, 2015, including a public hearing on March 17, 2015 at 5:00 PM
- Also, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator or his delegate to work with Metro Cities, and encourage them to convene a work group of stakeholders for the purpose of developing and evaluating SAC credits to support affordable housing.

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

It was moved by Lona Schreiber, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2014 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

Consent

It was moved by Gary Van Eyll, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council approve the consent list. **Motion carried.**

2015-8 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Mound

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Mound for the construction of portions of the Mound 6-MO-651 Interceptor System.

2015-9 Authorization to Award and Execute a Contract for Construction of the Chaska L71 Lift Station Replacement, Project No. 803920, Contract 14P134

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for construction of the Chaska L71 Lift Station Replacement, Project No. 803920, Contract 14P134, with Magney Construction, Inc for their low responsive and responsible bid of \$10,875,600.

2015-10 Authorization to Award and Execute a Construction Contract for R06, R10 & R12 Regulator and Odor Control Improvements, MCES Project No. 807626, Contract No. 14P172

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for construction of the R06, R10 & R12 Regulator and Odor Control Improvements, MCES Project No. 807626, Contract No.

14P172, with Lametti & Sons, Inc. for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$7,769,300.00.

2015-11 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Cooperative Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Inclusion of Waconia Force Main Interceptor Improvements in Conjunction with MnDOT TH 5 Improvements Project

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a cooperative agreement with MnDOT for construction of Waconia Force Main interceptor improvements in conjunction with the MnDOT TH 5 Improvements Project.

2015-12 Authorization to Award and Execute a Contract to Purchase Polymer for the Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plant

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to issue a purchase order to Polydyne, Inc. of Riceboro, GA not to exceed \$2,500,000 to provide Clarifloc polymers at a unit price of \$1.25 per pound to the Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plant for the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 2020.

Non-Consent

2015-13 Authorization to Amend Contract 09I038 with the City of New Germany

It was moved by Gary Van Eyll, seconded by Lona Schreiber that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to amend Contract 09I038 with the City of New Germany to delays the acquisition of the City's wastewater treatment plant. **Motion carried.**

2015-14 – SW Authorize the Release of the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan to Full Council for Approval, Start Formal Public Review Process and Adopt March 10, 2015 Public Hearing Date

That, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council:

- Release the Draft 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP) for public review and comment; and
- Authorize a public comment period from January 15-28, 2015 to March 20-27, 2015, including a public hearing on March 10-17, 2015 at 5:00 PM.

Chair Rummel recommended the following amendment to the proposed action at the beginning of the meeting to reflect the following:

That, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council:

- Release the Draft 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP) for public review and comment; and authorize a public comment period from January 28, 2015 to March 27, 2015, including a public hearing on March 17, 2015 at 5:00 PM
- Also, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator or his delegate to work with Metro Cities, and encourage them to convene a work group of stakeholders for the purpose of developing and evaluating SAC credits to support affordable housing.

Motion by Edward Reynoso, seconded by Gary Van Eyll to adopt amended verbiage recommended by Chair Rummel was withdrawn after further discussion by the Committee.

Motion by Harry Melander, seconded by Wendy Wulff to retain original proposed business item verbiage (with amended dates), retain business item as a same week item for Council meeting on 1/14/15. **Motion to approve the proposed action was made, seconded, and passed with a vote of 5 in favor and 2 opposed.**

INFORMATION

1. Targeted Stormwater Grant Program

Staff presented information regarding the program. It would be an \$800,000 process that would encompass 2-4 projects. The projects will need to serve as visible demonstration projects, easy to replicate, focus on highly urbanized areas, include long-term monitoring, and provide information on challenges and opportunities. The proposed process would involve a formal solicitation process that is reviewed by internal staff and Metro Cities. It will be reviewed by MCES management and approved by the Environment Committee. In order to move on to the second tear of the process, the project must pass the first and second tear criteria.

The following questions/comments were discussed:

- Why is this only being proposed for urbanized areas? Staff indicated that we had targeted the urban area due to the limited amount of money available and to focus on providing grants where there is more impervious surface and need from the storm water runoff perspective.
- Why can we not try in all areas rather than just urbanized? NOTE: Minneapolis and St. Paul already received grant money from the LCDA grants. Staff will look at the proposed criteria again and investigate other types of grants available for the agriculture and rural area to pin down the need.

2. Amendment to Environmental Sustainability Policy, 1-2

The sustainability policy passed previously was internally focused. Of note as a change to the policy is "The Council may allow its assets to be used to support sustainability projects, where its core functions will not be jeopardized. This includes, but is not limited to, hosting and participating in sustainability projects that may use Council lands or buildings and provide beneficial opportunities to other governmental entities.

Staff shared detail about community solar garden establishments. Possible solar gardens are being evaluated at the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant under this process.

The following comments/questions were discussed:

- Would adjacent areas be evaluated for inclusion? We are working on a procedure for subscription
- Is there informal discussions occurring to determine interest? Staff indicated there have been Cities who are interested.
- Comment shared indicated the procurement processes should include MCUB, and MWUB. Staff indicated standard procurement processes would be followed during the process.
- Committee members present indicated support of the program.

3. General Manager's Report

Work continues on the water supply plan. A letter was received in August from the APWA and CEAM seeking collaboration and input. In order to draw on the working knowledge and understanding of local water supply matters, a proposal for a technical working group was made to help identify and analyze current and future demand projections and modeling of groundwater conditions. The purpose of the working group is to ensure the data used in the analysis is as current and accurate as possible and all assumptions and qualifiers are disclosed and understood. Letters of interest have been circulated invite participants to the table.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary