

Environment Committee

Meeting date: December 11, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 12, 2018

Subject: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Wastewater Reuse Grant Agreement
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan, Amended May 9, 2018
Staff Prepared/Presented: Jeannine Clancy, 651-602-1210; Deborah Manning, 651-602-1114
Division/Department: MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize staff to negotiate and execute a wastewater reuse grant agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Association (MPCA).

Background

In 2017, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated funding for a \$300,000 grant for the Council's wastewater infrastructure for waste-to-biofuel development. The grant is to be implemented through the MPCA's environmental fund and is to be used for design or construction of Council's Southeast Metro Water Reclamation Facility. Matching funds of up to \$300,000 would be provided from Enerkem, Inc. via a design deposit agreement.

Rationale

The Council staff request authority to negotiate and execute the grant agreement.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Thrive MSP 2040 sets the direction for the Council's development of wastewater reuse where economically feasible to promote sustainable water resources and emphasizes working with the Council's partners. Working with Enerkem on this potential wastewater reuse project aligns with Thrive MSP 2040's goals by developing wastewater reuse capability in a collaborative manner, setting the stage for reuse-dependent job and economic growth, while advancing resource recovery from solid waste and generation of renewable energy.

Funding

The Preliminary Design Deposit Agreement would provide \$600,000 in funding from Enerkem for preliminary design of the Southeast Metro Water Reclamation Facility. If Council receives a \$300,000 reuse grant from the MPCA, funding from Enerkem would be reduced to \$300,00 and provide the matching funds required by the grant.

Known Support / Opposition

The majority of comments from the Southeast Metro Water Reclamation Facility Plan's public hearing and comment period was positive about the Council's engagement with Enerkem on this project.

