

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

#### Committee Members Present:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair; Kris Fredson; Phillip Sterner; Susan Vento; Raymond Zeran

#### Committee Members Absent:

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Phillip Sterner to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Susan Vento to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

#### BUSINESS

2019-60 JT: City of Newport 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Review File 21915-1 Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Phil Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action: Approve the City of Newport's Comprehensive Sewer Plan component of the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

**Motion carried.**

2019-64: Telecommunications Equipment Contract for the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plants

It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 18P156 in the amount of \$1,280,787.24 to CDW LLC for the purchase of Wi-Fi equipment, which includes access points, switches and controllers.

**Motion carried.**

2019-65: Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for Repair of Rosemount Interceptor 7112 and 9208

It was moved by Raymond Zeran, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council ratify the Justification for the Declaration of Emergency attached to the business item for repairs to Interceptor 9208 and 7112 in Rosemount.

**Motion carried.**

2019-66: Sole Source Purchase of Goods and Services from Evoqua Water Technologies Inc.

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Susan Vento, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to execute a sole-source contract with Evoqua Water Technologies Inc. not to exceed \$2,000,000 to provide nitrate salts, odor control equipment and odor control services to the Interceptor Services Business Unit (ISBU) for the period May 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020.

**Motion carried.**

2019-67: Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for Flood Mitigation at Environmental Services Wastewater Treatment Plants

It was moved by Kris Fredson, seconded by Susan Vento, that the Metropolitan Council ratifies the Emergency Declaration attached to the business item for flood mitigation at Environmental Services Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP).

**Motion carried.**

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. American Water Works Association (AWWA) Award Presentation

Mike Mereness, Assistant General Manager, Operations introduced representatives from the American Water Works Association who attended to present awards to three Environmental Services staff members. Environmental Services are proud of the work our staff does supporting the Minnesota Section of the AWWA.

Erik Volk, Chair, Bill Schulenz, Chair Elect, Carol Blommel Johnson, Awards Committee, and Andrew Sullivan, Past Recipient and Award Namesake were in attendance.

Past Chair Recognition Award presented to Dave Brown, Senior Engineer, Environmental Quality Assurance - In September 2018, at the MN AWWA Annual conference in Duluth, Dave was recognized with the Past Chair Award as he ended his 1-year term as the Section's Chair. In September 2019, he will complete his 3-year term on the Minnesota Section Executive Board in the three Chair roles of Chair Elect, Chair and Past Chair.

Leonard N Thompson Award presented to Bert Tracy, Manager, Interceptor Business Unit - In September 2018, at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) annual conference in Duluth, Bert was presented the Leonard N. Thompson award. The Leonard N. Thompson award is the highest Section award presented by the Minnesota Section AWWA. Each year, the Thompson Award Committee reviews the eligible candidates, determines if any member of the section typifies the standards that were characteristic of Mr. Thompson's contributions to the Section and the water supply industry. The Thompson Award committee felt that Bert Tracy's performance exemplifies these traits.

Andrew Sullivan Outstanding Leadership Award presented to Carol Kaszynski, Manager, Business Systems - Carol was recognized at the MN Section AWWA conference as the recipient at of the Andrew Sullivan Outstanding Leadership award. The Andrew Sullivan Outstanding Leadership Award is presented to an individual or group for exceptional service that demonstrates initiative and dedication to the drinking water profession above and beyond the scope of volunteerism. Carol has provided leadership, exceptional service and tireless efforts to the water industry as the STEM Committee Chair to develop outreach materials as well her involvement on numerous other committees.

#### Comments or Questions:

Chair Lindstrom stated he heard words such as commitment, mentoring, advocate, outstanding leadership. The Council benefits greatly from staff's outstanding commitment. Great to have you on board.

### 2. Environmental Services 101

Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager, Environmental Quality Assurance, Jeannine Clancy, Assistant General Manager, Technical Services, and Mike Mereness, Assistant General Manager, Operations presented an overview of Environmental Services.

Information about Environmental Services was shared, our planning process, a summary of our system, financial structure, and capital program.

The Environmental Services wastewater system serves the 7-county Metropolitan area, 109 communities, and over 2.7 million residents. There are 8 wastewater treatment plants, 610 miles of interceptors which process an average of 250 million gallons of wastewater each day.

Environmental Services serves approximately 50% of the State's population. Our system is also nationally recognized for its high rate of compliance through the National Association of Clean Water Agencies Platinum Peak Performance program with six facilities receiving awards ranging from 8 to 25 consecutive years of consecutive compliance. There are only three facilities in the country that have more years of uninterrupted compliance. Two of our facilities have reached Gold Performance which is less than 5 years of continuous compliance.

Environmental Services employees over 600 employees, has \$7 billion in valued assets, and a \$150 million per year capital program.

Our planning process is driven by both the Thrive 2040 plan as well as our Water Resources Policy Plan with objectives that address wastewater service, customer service and a strategic plan.

Funding of the regional wastewater treatment system is identified through MN statute 473.517 which gives Environmental Services the authority to establish fees for regional wastewater services. This is accomplished via a municipal wastewater, sewer availability, and industrial waste charges. A more in-depth presentation of the finance process will be presented at a future Environment Committee meeting.

Environmental Services Capital Program seeks to preserve the \$7 billion infrastructure, ensure the wastewater system continues to meet regional population growth and optimize and improve performance in our system. Roughly \$150 million is spent on the capital program. A more in-depth presentation of the capital program will be presented at a future Environment Committee meeting.

#### Comments or Questions:

Hastings Plant is on the edge of downtown Hastings. The image provided in the presentation shows a vacant lot but does not reflect the apartment complex that is now located on that property as part of the redevelopment of the river front area. Odor control is important, and efforts have been taken to mitigate odors. Preliminary planning process is anticipated in fall 2019 to design a new plant on an alternate site.

Committee Member Wulff inquired when the R04 Minnehaha Park project in Minneapolis will occur. Staff stated the project is currently out for bid and anticipated to begin later this year.

Committee Member Fredson asked if we are equally competitive with our industrial rates. General Manager Thompson stated a presentation will be made at a future meeting on our budget process and how rates are determined.

Committee Member Wulff stated the Council works with high-strength industrial customers to conduct onsite preprocessing of the discharge to lessen the strength of what is discharged in to the system. By doing this, it saves money and energy for them and us.

### 3. General Manager Report

Information items will be shared over the coming weeks to orient new Committee Members to various aspects of Environmental Services. Committee Members are encouraged to let staff know about specific items they would like to hear about. It was suggested a tour of facilities could be set up in the future.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary