

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Raymond Zerán

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, August 13, 2019.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Phillip Sterner, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2019, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2019-214 JT, 2019-218 JT, and 2019-219 JT)

It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Phillip Sterner to approve the consent agenda business items. Motion carried.

1. 2019-214 JT: City of Eden Prairie 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21978-1
That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of Eden Prairie's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

2. 2019-218 JT: City of Maplewood 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22007-1
That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of Maplewood's Comprehensive Sewer Plan component of the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

3. 2019-219 JT: City of Belle Plaine 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21984-1
That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:



1. Approve the City of Belle Plaine's Comprehensive Sewer Plan component of the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

4. 2019-224: Master Utility Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Interceptor 9004-1

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Susan Vento that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Utility Agreement 191037 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Interceptor 9004-1. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Summer Intern Presentation

Karen Neis, Director of Administration, provided a summary of intern activities during the summer months within Environmental Services.

This summer, Environmental Services had 16 full time collegiate interns and Urban Scholars in addition to 2 high school students through the Step Up/Right Track program.

A gallery-walk of intern project posters was conducted in the foyer of the Council Chambers prior to the start of the Committee Meeting. Projects covered a wide variety of topics and disciplines. Some examples of work included inspecting local dentist clinics for amalgam recovery systems which keep mercury out of wastewater and ultimately out of rivers, performing IT infrastructure transition activities that will enable the newly acquired Rogers WWTP to connect to our systems, recommending criteria to develop a priority list for streams in the region, conducting a solid waste management review for MCES facilities, which will help improve sustainability practices, and mapping the metro area's water supply interconnections between communities.

Interns exhibited a great deal of knowledge, ambition, and curiosity. Each of them had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the Committee members, where they went or are going to school and provided a brief description of their work.

Comments and Questions:

Chair Lindstrom shared insights on the projects that were conducted this summer and how it connects with the work the Environment Committee does. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

2. Minneapolis Interceptor Study & Saint Paul Demonstration Project

Kyle Colvin, Manager, Engineering Programs and Marcus Bush, Principal Engineer shared an updated on two studies Technical Services is partnering on to better understand how wastewater flows are affected by rainfall and document the return-on-investment that can be achieved by repairing sources of Inflow and infiltration from privately-owned wastewater infrastructure. The Minneapolis Interceptor Study is a 5-year monitoring and modeling effort of the flows in and through Minneapolis. One main objective is to develop a hydraulic model of the system to Identify future system limitations and develop long-term capital plans. The Saint Paul Demonstration Project was funded by a Council levy grant to determine the amount of inflow and infiltration that can be reduced by repairing service laterals from homes and businesses. This 3-year study will produce information useful to all regional communities to address inflow and infiltration, including the cost-effectiveness of this strategy.

Comments and Questions:

Staff clarified that the Saint Paul project area is located in the West Side Flats area and was chosen by the City as a location that would offer the best benefit and focuses on a small area. Having a narrow scope allows for better opportunity to look at investments and results that come out of that area.

Committee Member Fredson asked what type of communication to residents would go out from the Met Council, the City or the County related to the project? How do we best communicate with residents? Staff stated the local municipality will have programs to educate residents on sump pump connections as that part of the system is the primary responsibility of the resident. The 2016 task force requested the development of materials that have consistent messaging for communities. This material has been available for approximately 1 year.

Chair Lindstrom asked who determines who is assigned responsibility for paying for the work? Is there financial assistance to help the homeowner or area business? Staff stated part of the grant funding that is made available, is to pay for the project or make repairs. The burden would not be on the homeowner or business owner.

3. General Manager Report

Ms. Thompson shared an image of the award reception photo taken in July at the NACWA conference. We had so many certificates it was good we had extra staff on hand to hold them all. She thanked the staff and Council members who help us be a high performing organization.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary