

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair; Phillip Sterner

Committee Members Absent:

Kris Fredson; Susan Vento; Raymond Zeran

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, October 8, 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 Phillip Sterner to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2019, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2019-271 JT, 2019-273 JT, and 2019-274 JT)

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

1. 2019-271 JT: City of Lake Elmo 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22215-1
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 Lake Elmo's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

2. 2019-273 JT: City of Hugo 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21932-1
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 Hugo's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

3. 2019-274 JT: City of Columbus 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22174-1
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 Columbus's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

4. 2019-277: Intergovernmental Agreement with Hennepin County
It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Phillip Sterner that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an intergovernmental agreement with Hennepin County for the construction of a 1,200-foot segment of forcemain within MCES Interceptor 7113 as part of the County's Tanager Bridge Replacement. Motion carried.
5. 2019-278: Brooklyn Park and Champlin Interceptor Renewal Phase 1, Part 2
It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Phillip Sterner that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for Brooklyn Park and Champlin Interceptor Renewal, Phase 1, Part 2, MCES Project No. 809311, 809315 and 809089, Contract No. 19P143, with S.M. Hentges & Sons Inc. for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$19,892,251.85. Motion carried.
6. 2019-279: Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for Repair of Interceptor 1-MN-320 under Van White Boulevard in Minneapolis
It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Phillip Sterner that the Metropolitan Council ratify the attached Justification for the Declaration of Emergency for repair to Interceptor 1-MN-320 under Van White Boulevard in Minneapolis. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention (IWPP) Overview
Bob Nordquist, IWPP Manager, presented an overview of this regulatory arm of MCES. The IWPP Section administers the MCES Pretreatment Program, which was first approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), in 1982. The National Pretreatment Program was created by an act of congress in 1981 under the Clean Water Act. This program is delegated to local Publicly Owned Treatment Works, such as MCES. Under this program the IWPP Section has issued nearly 900 Industrial Discharge Permits with limits, prohibitions and sampling and reporting requirements. The IWPP Section inspects and monitors these companies, reviews the routine reports and takes appropriate enforcement actions when needed. They also have spill response and collection system monitoring duties. Since the approval of the MCES program in 1982 there has been a reduction in heavy metals to the MCES treatment facilities of 95%, which allows MCES to consider beneficial use of its incinerator ash and potential reuse of its effluent discharge.

Comments and Questions:

Committee Member Wulff asked about the type of process the groundwater discharge permit is currently following. Staff stated in 1988 we were asked by the MPCA to begin accepting contaminated ground water at our facilities. Reports are done quarterly, and a temporary capacity charge is applied rather than a SAC charge. While these sites use capacity in our system, they are not permanent. Responsible parties are the property owners.

Chair Lindstrom asked if there has been a difference in compliance results whether the evaluations are announced or not. Staff stated almost all sampling is conducted unannounced. We do notice at some facilities the first day of sampling is high. If we suspect a facility is changing its process because we are there, we can take other measures such as sampling downstream without the company's knowledge.

Chair Lindstrom inquired if we accept items from ethanol plants. Staff stated he doesn't believe there are any that are active at the present time but would accept if needed.

Chair Lindstrom asked how many permits are terminated on an annual basis. Staff estimated potentially 10-20 annually. These would be for companies that moved out of the area or water conservation efforts that they are not permitted any longer. Very few are terminated due to “bad behavior”. The Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention group works closely with the companies who have compliance related issues to help them improve.

Chair Lindstrom asked if this group is fully staffed to accommodate the number of permits. Staff stated, “as a manager, we would always like more staff.” Most engineers are handling 80-90 permits with approximately 25 being industrial compliance permits. Staff is professional and is able to handle the workload, but there are challenges such as signing companies up for electronic reporting, which became mandatory this year, finding and permitting the many microbreweries as they open, and identifying all the dental clinics that move or open so we can bring them into MCES dental amalgam program and comply with the new federal requirement requiring dental amalgam separators at all dental facilities.

Committee Member Sterner inquired if we have a relationship with herbicide, pesticide, and fertilizer companies. Staff stated there are relationships with pesticide companies. It is a category that is required to monitor.

Committee Member Wulff stated it is nice to see the initiatives this group has been working on. There has been work being done over several years to address. Staff works well with customers and has been successful to help the system work efficiently.

Committee Member Sterner asked the type of metals that are in the water that is being treated. Staff stated it is heavy metals such as copper, chromium, nickel, lead, cadmium, nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen.

2. General Manager Report

Thursday, September 26, over 30 attendees participated in a Customer Forum Tour at the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant in St. Paul. Councilmember Chai Lee was able to attend. The group toured the liquids process, the solids management building including the proposed expansion, and finished up with a walk through a portion of the tunnel system.

Thursday, October 3, over 20 attendees participated in a tour of the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant. Council Members Peter Lindstrom, Deb Barber, Wendy Wulff and Phil Sterner were able to attend. In addition to the plant tour education, additional information was shared regarding the Industrial Pretreatment Incentive Program and our partnership with Michael Foods, solar gardens, energy recovery, Inflow/Infiltration, and the public/private partnership with the New England Fertilizer Company to produce a Class A fertilizer.

Staff in both locations presented information about the role of Environmental Services in protecting public health, the environment and fostering the economic growth of the region. Those present expressed thanks for the opportunity to learn more about the work of Environmental Services and for the improvements to water quality.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary