

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

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 4:01 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 with the following roll call:

Aye:	4	Lindstrom, Sterner, Vento, Zeran
Nay:	0	
Absent:	2	Wulff, Fredson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Without objection agenda was approved.

It was moved by Vento seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2020, regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

Aye:	4	Lindstrom, Sterner, Vento, Zeran
Nay:	0	
Absent:	2	Fredson, Wulff

Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2020-299 JT, 2020-300 JT, 2020-301 JT, 2020-302 JT, and 2020-307 JT)

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Wulff to approve the consent agenda business items.

Aye:	5	Lindstrom, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay:	0	
Absent:	1	Fredson

Motion carried.

1. 2020-299 JT: City of Little Canada 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22455-1
Requests that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following actions:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of Little Canada's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

2. 2020-300 JT: City of East Bethel 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22025-1
Requests 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 East Bethel's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

3. 2020-301 JT: City of Blaine 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21902-1
Requests 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 Blaine's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Implement the advisory comments in the review record for wastewater.

4. 2020-302 JT: City of Long Lake 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22276-1
Requests 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 Long Lake's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Require the City to submit to the Council a copy of any new or amended fully executed intercommunity agreements for filing with the City's comprehensive sewer plan on record at the Council.
3. Require the City to submit to the Council the locally adopted Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to be included with the City's Comprehensive Sewer Plan on file at the Council once completed.
4. Strongly advise that the City address I/I sources within its collection system and mitigate so that peak flow discharges are within the limits as defined in the Council's Water Resources Policy Plan (Table A-2, p. 62). The City should be aware that any future discharge into the regional wastewater system that exceeds the Council's standard PFF, violates Council's Policy and will result in the assignment of an I/I mitigation work plan(s) as outlined in the Council's Regional I/I Mitigation Program.
5. Require the City to submit a copy of the ordinance requiring the disconnection of existing foundation drains, sump pumps, and roof leaders from the sanitary sewer system, along with the resolution adopting the Ordinance, for filing with the City's comprehensive sewer plan on record at the Council.

5. 2020-307 JT: City of Andover 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22301-1
Requests 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 Andover's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

6. 2020-305 JT: Authorization to Amend the 2020 Unified Budget

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the amendment of the 2020 Unified Budget as indicated by Table B-1 in Attachment A of the business item.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

7. 2020-313: Loretto Wastewater Connection Grant

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Sterner that the Metropolitan Council approve the awarding of \$400,000 in state bond funds that were appropriated to the Council in 2018 for a grant to the City of Loretto consistent with the Grant Program Guidelines shown on Attachment A and authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a grant with the City to connect its existing wastewater collection system to a force main in City of Independence.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

8. 2020-314: South St. Paul Wastewater Treatment Plant Reconveyance Lift Stations L65 and L74 Improvements, Contract 20P158

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Vento that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for South St. Paul Wastewater Treatment Plant Reconveyance Lift Stations L65 and L74 Improvements, MCES Project No. 809093, with S.M. Hentges & Sons for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$2,547,881.00.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. 2020 State Water Plan:

The Minnesota Legislature directed the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to coordinate comprehensive long-range water resources planning and policy through a State Water Plan that is to be prepared and updated every 10 years (Minnesota Statutes 103B.151, 103A.43, 103A.204).

The purpose of the 2020 State Water Plan is to establish a framework for aligning state agencies, legislative priorities, and local government policy, programs and actions for the coming decade. The focus of this plan is on setting an agenda for tackling the complex water problems that climate change will intensify for Minnesotans.

Comments / Questions:

Committee Member Zeran inquired if we have overcast days because we are in a wetter climate. Suzanne Rhees, Special Project Coordinator at BWSR stated she would need to get clarification from others on the question but shared that if we are seeing more intense rain events. Erik Dahl stated he would reach out to Kenny Blumenthal of the Department of Natural Resources as well as University of Minnesota partners to answer the question.

Chair Lindstrom recommended a case study for storage is available at the new bus garage in North Minneapolis. A 40,000-gallon cistern was installed to collect rainwater from the building's roof and use it to wash the Transit buses. It is estimated we will be saving 13,000 gallons of potable water each day.

Chair Lindstrom shared an example on planning and impacts on infrastructure. In District 10 (northern Ramsey County and southern Anoka County), Vadnais/Snail Lake Regional Park is partially under water. Public entities invested in building trails and thousands of visitors have been taking advantage of that, but now are unable to use all of the trails all of the time due to trails being partially or fully under water potentially due to climate change or other factors.

Committee Member Vento thanked presenters. She has heard this presentation previously. Shout out to Judy Sventek, Jen Kostrzewski, and Erik Wojchik who helped her better understand of the EQB responsibilities and the intricacies of the State Water Plan. Kudos to each of them. Each of the agencies provide experts and often don't get enough credit. Of note, the Metropolitan Council was originally not part of the Environmental Quality Board previously. Chair Zelle identified the need to have Metropolitan Council have a seat at the table to be engaged, informed, and contributing on the EQB. Pleased that we have the opportunity to be active in it. Kudos to the expertise that is provided.

Committee members would like to hear an update in the future on next steps that are planned.

2. General Manager Report

Pandemic update provided by Ned Smith, ES Incident Commander and Director, ES Finance

- There has been considerable uptick in positive cases among staff.
- We have the same vigilance we've had since day 1. "Covid fatigue" may be mental, but not physical.
- The uptick is mostly driven by asymptomatic employees.
 - Ill employees are doing a good job of staying home and reducing workplace transmission.
 - Employees are still practicing good mask, social distancing and hand hygiene but doesn't reduce risk 100%.
- Changes being made:
 - Refined location information on notifications.
 - Established weekend coverage for weekend alerts.
 - Exploring testing opportunities:
 - Better guidance for offsite testing.
 - Working with RA and Procurement to explore test kits so we can test on-site if needed (working on 100 kit pilot).
 - Chair Lindstrom asked how we know staff are asymptomatic. Staff stated it could be working in reverse.
 - GM Thompson if testing can get set up, we will have more extensive screening and hopefully make it easier for employees to get tested.

If Committee members have items they would like brought before this committee, please let leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us know.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee Meeting of November 10, 2020.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary