

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:06 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 with the following roll call:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Sterner to approve the agenda.

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

Motion carried.

It was moved by Wulff seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2020, regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

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

Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2020-149 JT, 2020-150 JT)

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

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

Motion carried.

1. 2020-149 JT: City of Edina 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22400-1

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 Edina’s Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
 2. Prior to adoption, the final Plan needs to include a map that clearly identifies the local pipe ID that corresponds to the connection to the regional system.
2. 2020-150 JT: City of St. Paul Park 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22308-1
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 St. Paul Park’s Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

3. 2020-141 JT: 2020 Unified Budget Amendment – 2nd Qtr
It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Fredson that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2020 Unified Budget – Authorized Capital Program (ACP) by \$20,000,000 as indicated and in accordance with the Unified Capital Program – Environmental Services (Table 10) and the Capital Program table - Attachment 3.

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

Motion carried.

4. 2020-169: Blue Lake Solids Management Assistance, Contract 19P211
It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Vento that the Metropolitan Council authorize award, negotiation and execution of Contract 19P211 with New England Fertilizer Company (NEFCO) in the amount of \$23,500,000 for Blue Lake Solids Management Assistance.

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

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Industrial Pretreatment Incentive Program Update
Ned Smith, Director, ES Finance & Revenue and Deborah Manning, Assistant Manager, Engineering Services presented an update on the Industrial Pretreatment Incentive Program. The Industrial Pretreatment Incentive Program (IPIP), authorized by the Metropolitan Council at its January 14, 2015 meeting, is a unique public/private partnership between the Council and qualifying industries that provides financial incentive to assist high-strength wastewater industrial dischargers to further pretreat their wastewater at their site. This additional pretreatment reduces the strength of the industry’s wastewater to its associated Metropolitan Council Environmental Services’ (MCES’) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), benefiting both the industry and MCES.

The Council and Kemps, an industrial discharger to the Empire WWTP, signed an IPIP contract for \$905,000 in May 2018. Kemps completed construction of its IPIP-related pretreatment facilities in December 2018. MCES has loaned Kemps the full amount of its contract. Kemps has made debt service payments totaling \$145,048. Kemps qualified for a 30% reduction in debt service payment due to its average 96% reduction in waste strength. The Council and Northern Star, an industrial discharger to the Blue Lake WWTP, signed an IPIP contract for \$11,297,185 in November 2017. Northern Star has been lent \$8,394,181, or 87%, of its total contract amount as of mid-March 2020. Startup of Northern Star's IPIP pretreatment equipment is anticipated this summer. Northern Star has made debt service payments totaling \$2.7 million. Other potential IPIP partnerships include Twin Cities Tanning, Twin Cities Hide, and Old Dutch Foods.

Questions/Comments:

Committee Member Vento inquired what the life of the investment is beyond the initial lease. From a financial perspective the Council is done with all debt and obligations at the end of the 10-year lease. From an industry and equipment perspective the equipment has an expected life expectancy of 20 years, so the equipment can still have a benefit.

Chair Lindstrom stated this is a win-win for industries and the Council. He urged staff to work with Council Communications staff to "tell the story" about the program.

Committee Member Zeran asked who completes the procurement of equipment for the projects. Staff stated procurement is completed by private industry. The Council offered guidelines for best practice, but it is up to the industry.

Committee Member Zeran inquired if there is a mechanism to help facilitate procurement from underutilized businesses such as disadvantaged- or minority-based business enterprises when implementing the program. Staff stated the Council encourages the use of these type of business enterprises but cannot mandate they be selected since the procurement is done by the specific industry.

Chair Lindstrom requested an update in 9 months to 1 year on the program.

2. General Manager Report

The 2nd budget webinar is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 2 p.m. Committee members are encouraged to attend as schedules allow.

Pandemic Update

Goals

We have been in Pandemic Response mode since early March which means while we are delivering on our essential services, we are also focused on modifying and adding practices that support 3 pandemic goals:

1. preventing the spread of COVID19 in the workplace,
2. reducing the risk of disruption of our essential services, and
3. supporting employee well-being.

Piloting Temperature Checks this week at Metro

Our latest additional practice is taking temperature of anyone who works or visits our facilities. This is being piloted this week at the Metro plant and we plan to roll it out to our other facilities in the near future.

Working on Plans for Bringing Remote Working Staff Back On-site

Several staff are developing a “return to on-site work” for those who have been working remotely.

Virtual Conversations with Staff

With all of the changes we have implemented and lots of questions from staff, we have added additional communication channels for employees. ES has held several virtual “town-hall” type sessions with all staff as well as smaller groups to allow more spontaneous dialogue. A staff member shared at one of the sessions they had compared their experience with several others and concluded that “we were doing the best job in our handling of the pandemic.”

Social Justice and Racial Equity

The death of George Floyd raised our awareness and focus regarding racial justice. We are supporting staff with the myriad of reactions and emotions they are experiencing and have started to dialogue on how we can Be the Change in ES. Chair Lindstrom expressed support of this effort and mentioned if there was anything Committee Members could do, to let them know.

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 5:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee Meeting of June 9, 2020.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary