

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 22, 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 4:04 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 with the following roll call:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Without objection agenda was approved.

It was moved by Vento seconded by Fredson to approve the minutes of the August 11, 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 2020-229 JT and 2020-230 JT)

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

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

Motion carried.

1. 2020-229 JT: City of South St. Paul 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22398-1
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 South St. Paul's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

2. The City shall submit to the Council a copy of the Resolution that adopts the revisions to the Sewer System Ordinance Section 62 requiring the disconnection of clearwater sources from the sanitary sewer system.
2. 2020-230 JT: City of Spring Park 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22200-1
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 Spring Park’s Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

3. 2020-245: MCES Vactor Services, Contract 18P127B Amendment 3

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Fredson that the Metropolitan Council authorizes a sole source amendment to vactor service contract number 18P127B with Goliath Hydro-Vac for an additional amount of \$100,000 increasing the total contract amount to \$980,000.

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

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Report from Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC):
Ali Elhassan, Manager, Water Supply Planning and Lanya Ross, Environmental Analyst presented a report from MAWSAC and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) who held a joint meeting on August 25, 2020. The topics discussed included:
 - Metropolitan Council’s 2020 report to the Minnesota legislature on water supply planning activities conducted since 2005. MAWSAC and TAC members were asked to 1) share their perspectives about how water supply planning changed because of Met Council and partners’ activities (guided by the committees), and 2) recommend what messages to highlight. The report was submitted to the MN legislature as an appendix to the EQB’s State Water Plan on September 15th, 2020.
 - An update on the work that has been done to prepare a work plan for the MAWSAC and TAC groups for 2020-2021. A work plan is being developed with the goal of producing, by 2022, a set of recommendations and supporting information around high-priority water supply topics to support the update of the regional development guide and related policy plans. The process to develop this work plan was presented, work so far was summarized, and MAWSAC and TAC members were asked to 1) participate in interviews to shape work plan, and 2) commit to future meetings to delve deeper into work plan topics and develop policy recommendations.
 - In State Fiscal Year 2022-23, the Metropolitan Council is requesting an appropriation from the Clean Water Fund to support the Council’s water supply sustainability work and water demand reduction efficiency grants, which was shaped by input from MAWSAC and TAC. MAWSAC and TAC members were asked to support this request by sending support letters, providing personal

testimony to the Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC) and Clean Water Council and/or supporting the request in the 2021 legislative session.

Information about past MAWSAC agendas and minutes are available at this link:

<https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Water-Supply-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

Comments & Questions:

Chair Lindstrom inquired if there is optimism that the funding will be approved. Staff stated they are hopeful. The agencies are coordinating among themselves very well and with the Clean Water Council to come up with a request that meets what is available from the Clean Water Fund. As you know, this is an iterative process; there will be another projection for how much money will be available from the Clean Water Fund in November and again in March of next year.

Chair Lindstrom stated he had heard the council had received support letters and asked how many applications had been received. Staff stated 15 support letters had been received. For the biennium, the next two fiscal years, we are requesting \$2.3 million out of \$220 million (current target for total Clean Water Fund spending, per Minnesota Management and Budget office). Again, that is the current target and could be changed if the tax revenue goes up or down.

Chair Lindstrom asked how water supply planning has changed since 2005. Staff stated in 2005, there was much less coordination. The level of collaboration has grown. Over time, we've laid out that the Council is in a role to provide technical assistance, to convene and bring communities together on shared water supply issues has been the most striking shift. The current report link and how we are bringing value to water supply planning efforts is available here: <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Publications-And-Resources/WATER-SUPPLY-PLANNING/Water-Supply-Planning-in-the-Twin-Cities-Metropoli.aspx>

Committee Member Wulff stated in 2005 she was a Lakeville City Council Member and remembers concerns expressed at the time from cities about what the Metropolitan Council was doing. Much has been learned about water supply and mapping out the aquifers since then as well as understanding where water is coming from, how to keep it safe, contaminants, etc. This is because of the work the Metropolitan Council has been doing.

2. General Manager Report

Summary of NACWA Peak Performance Awards recognize excellence in wastewater treatment measured by compliance with NPDES permits and recognizes staff on behalf of environment and the communities.

152 facilities across the country earned Platinum status in 2019, which is 5 or more years of continuous permit compliance.

- Metro Plant – 8 years
- Empire – 12 years
- Eagles Point – 14 years
- Blue Lake – 14 years
- St Croix Valley – 28 years
- Hastings – 29 years
 - 2 facilities have greater than 29 years –
 - Ames, IA has 30 years
 - Hanover, NJ has 31 years
- In addition, our remaining 3 facilities received Gold awards for completing 1 year of perfect compliance.

- East Bethel – 1 year
- Rogers – 1 year
- Seneca – 3rd year in a row
- Adding up the total years of perfect permit compliance it totals 110 years.

Thank you to the entire Environmental Services division for their continued outstanding work during these unprecedented times.

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 4:47 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee Meeting of September 22, 2020.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary