

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: June 14, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members Present:

- Chair, Peter Lindstrom D11
- Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff D16

- E Raymond Zeran, District 9
- E Susan Vento, District 11

- E Kris Fredson, District 14
- Phillip Sterner, District 15
- = present, E = excuse

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Environment Committee to order at 4:02 p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Phillip Sterner, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Phillip Sterner, to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted (Items 2022-140 JT and 2022-156 JT)

2022-140 JT: City of Vermillion 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22180-1

Requests that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and Advisory Comments and take the following actions:

Recommendation of the Environment Committee

1. Approve the City of Vermillion's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for wastewater.
3. The Plan indicates that the city's wastewater treatment facility has adequate capacity to accommodate the anticipated growth through 2040, but that it will be at capacity at that time. If additional growth beyond that reflected in the Plan is proposed in the future, the City will need to evaluate future options and begin the process of developing a Facility Plan for potential capacity improvements. If a future Facility Plan is developed, the City shall submit a final copy to the Metropolitan Council as an amendment to its comprehensive sewer plan.
4. The final submittal of the Plan should include the correct Appendix reference to the NPDES Permit, and should include the entire current NPDES Permit. The updated NPDES Permit once issued should be forwarded to the Council.

2022-156 JT: City of Bethel 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22307-1

Requests that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and Advisory Comments and take the following actions:

Recommendation of the Environment Committee

1. Approve the City of Bethel's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. The Plan indicates that the City will evaluate future options to ensure adequate capacity at the facility to accommodate future growth and will begin the process of developing a Facility Plan for the potential capacity improvements within the 20-year planning period. When the Facility Plan is completed and approved by the City, a copy shall be submitted to the Metropolitan Council as an amendment to its comprehensive sewer plan.

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Phillip Sterner.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

2022-167: Authorization to Hold a Public Hearing on the Draft Facility Plan for the 1-MN-320 Reconstruction Project, MCES Project No. 809205

Tim Wedin presented, providing historical context for the failing pipe.

Discussion / Questions:

Committee Member Sterner asked whether the proposed replacement facilities would last as long as the existing facilities. Staff responded that the reconstruction of the facility, which will utilize reinforced / lined concrete pipe or other resilient materials, should provide an additional 50-80 years before more major updates are needed.

It was moved by Phillip Sterner, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing in October 2022 to gather input on the draft facility plan for the 1-MN-320 reconstruction project, MCES Project No. 809205.

Motion carried.

2022-168: Ratification of Emergency Declaration for Seneca Headworks Belt Replacement

Discussion / Questions:

Communication best practices with and from cities and partner organizations, especially as it pertains to early alerting, was discussed. Had the Metro Plant been alerted prior to the event from the partnering city, the appropriate staffing could have been available to assist. Improvements to the communications workflow and expectations with partners is underway.

Tours of the facilities by Council Members is helpful as it provides them with a more accurate understanding of the nature of the work the Operations team members carryout daily, as well as emergency response scenarios such as what took place at the Seneca Plant.

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Phillip Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council ratify the attached Emergency Declaration for repairs to the Seneca headworks belt.

Motion carried.

Information Items

None at this time.



Reports

General Manager Report

Leisa Thompson noted how the challenge faced by the Seneca Plant is a great example of teamwork. The recent tour with Council members which took place at the Metro Plant sparked enthusiasm for more tours and was truly appreciated.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:25 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 14, 2022.

Council Contact:

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