

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: April 23, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

- Chair, Peter Lindstrom, D10
- Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff, D16

- E Tyronne Carter, District 3
- Yassin Osman, District 7
- E Anjuli Cameron, District 8

- E Diego Morales, District 9
- Gail Cederberg, District 11
- = present, E = excused

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Osman to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2024 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

None at this time.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2024-106: Blue Lake Polymer, Contract 23P355A** (Trevor Prater, 651-602-8297)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Osman, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P355A with Polydyne, Inc., to provide polymer to the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$4,480,000.

Discussion

CM Osman asked: Why wasn't an MCUB goal set?

Staff stated: During each contract initiation they look at the directory of businesses and their certification. A goal is established based on the amount of contractors and suppliers in that area. Typical when you don't see a goal with specified work like this it's because we don't have any companies registered in that specific category. We can follow up with the Office of Equal Opportunity to confirm whether there are any firms in that category to perform the work.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Update on the Metro Area Water Supply Plan, a part of the 2050 Water Policy Plan** (Judy Sventek 651-602-1156, Lanya Ross 651-602-1803)

Staff from Water Resources presented an update of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan, a part of the 2050 Water Policy Plan. Staff began the presentation by sharing an illustration of the Regional Development Guide Structure, which highlights major components and relationships of the different parts of the Regional Develop Guide, including policy and system plans. Statutory requirements for metro area water supply planning require the Metropolitan Council to be responsible for specific regional water supply activities. The Council must carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the metropolitan area as follows:

- Make recommendations regarding roles, responsibilities, streamlining and funding
- Develop a metro area water supply plan

The plan will be prepared in cooperation with and subject to the approval of the policy advisory committee Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and informed by Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendations. Once approved by MAWSAC, the plan can then be adopted by the Council. Components of the plan include desired outcomes, regional commitments, regional dashboard measures and subregional information.

Results of our Subregional Meetings included asks for the Metropolitan Council as follows as it relates to our water supply planning work:

- Research
- Technical assistance
- Financial assistance
- Convening for governmental collaboration (agencies, subregions, water supply and land use planning)
- Lobbying
- Coordinating messaging (education, workforce)
- Demonstration projects

Stakeholder input for the new Metro Area Water Supply Plan was received by wastewater & waters supply experts, watershed experts, as well as water supply committees; MAWSAC and TAC. Local stakeholders across the region have also provided input. Through subregional engagement 150 people were able to participate in 23 engagements over the span of 7 months. This included 76 cities and townships along with 44 non-community organizations. Staff discussed similarities and differences in focus areas by subregion.

The presentation concluded with an update on future water policy plan engagements. Engagements are scheduled to take place in Cottage Grove, Chanhassen and Shoreview in April and May, with a virtual information session in late May.

2. **Environmental Services 2023 Fat, Oils, and Grease Task Force Outcomes** (Martina Nelson 651-602-4728, Angie Peterson 651-602-4764)

Staff from Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention presented the 2023 Environmental Services(ES) Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Task Force Outcomes. Over the past five years ES has experienced increased volumes of FOG. A regional task force was launched to address

these issues. The task force consist of representatives from several metro communities, including representatives from the food service industry and industries that manage FOG.

Through education, source identification and reduction of FOG this task force aims to better serve its community partners by implementing less expensive but effective strategies. FOG comes from many sources including industries, businesses and residents. When discharged through the drain they stick to the inside of sewer pipes. Over time this leads to the restriction of waterflow, eventually causing blockage. Properly sized grease interceptors are needed to control FOG and should be cleaned out regularly to ensure they are operating most efficiently.

A toolkit was developed to help support communities and business with outreach and education. It included best management practices for controlling FOG, examples of codes that give cities authority to enforce installation and maintenance of grease interceptors, as well as educational materials in multiple languages. In addition to the toolkits an educational video for restaurants was produced to train kitchen staff about FOG management. Looking ahead the FOG task force hopes to continue their work through the continued development of toolkits, expanding outreach to underserved communities & schools, launching a second task force, as well as exploring how ES can secure funding and grants to support FOG efforts.

Reports

General Managers Report: General Manager of Environmental Services, Leisa Thomspom introduced Travis Numan. Numan is a researcher and PhD student at the University of Nevada. He gave two Earth Day presentations for staff at the Met Council titled, "Indigenous Environmental Practices Lessons From the Past". Thompson shared some positive feedback and reactions from staff and presented Neuman with a gift. Numan shared some insight with the committee on, "connecting the spiritual stories with the history and tribal ecological knowledge."

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of April 23, 2024.

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