

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: May 14, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

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

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

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 Morales to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted (2024-120)

1. **2024-120: Emergency Underground Excavation Services 23P163** (John Tierney 651-602-8307)

It was moved by CM Morales, Seconded by CM Osman that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P163 with Vinco Inc., to provide as needed emergency underground excavation services for all Metropolitan Council Environmental facilities in an amount not to exceed \$950,180

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2024-121: 2024-2026 Water Efficiency Grant Program** (Henry McCarthy 651-602-1946)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Moreles, that the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2024-121 and authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute the Water Efficiency Grant Program grants in the total amount of \$1,097,880.

Discussion

CM Cederburg asked: Why would you rank the when the application is received when there is a deadline in place?

Staff Responded: This was how we have done it in the past, going forward we would eliminate that criteria.

CM Wulff asked: Since we have more requests for the grant program this year, how are you determining how much would go toward the equity program and how can cities be a part of the equity program?

Staff responded: The plan for the equity pilot program is to connect with cities and find out how we can develop a program that would best fit their local needs. We have survey out right now to collect interest from cities. We have not set limits on who can participate at this point. We're planning on hosting conversations later this year to gather input from the cities.

CM Wulff asked: Any city that is eligible for the water efficiency grant program is eligible for the equity program?

Staff responded: If they meet the criteria that will be established by the group that creates the criteria.

CM Carter asked: What are typical uses for the grant money and do cities need to indicate what the grant money will be used for when they apply?

Staff responded: When cities apply, they submit in their application what sorts of water using devices they are interested in having in their program. Municipalities select devices from a list of eligible EPA WaterSense labeled or Energy Star certified products.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Preliminary Budget, Rates, and Workshops** (Matt Gsellmeier, 651-602-1802)

Matt discussed rate increases for wastewater charges, revenue sources for 2025 and the proposed operating budget. The dates for the 2025 rate setting schedule were shared with the council members.

Discussion

CM Carter asked: What are PAYGO funds?

Staff Responded: PAYGO is where we use \$11 million of operating funds to pay for capital projects, and SAC reserves to fund operations.

Matt shared that we had 13 people attend the IW workshops in person, and 59 attend virtually. After reviewing that number with staff, the correct number of attendees is 30 in-person attendees, and 70 virtual attendees. This is good news as we are always happy to have more people attend our workshops.

Reports

General Managers Report: Leisa Thompson, General Manager of Environmental Services, concluded the meeting by inviting the council members to attend policy meetings to go over the Water Policy Plan.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:50p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of May 14, 2024.

Council Contact:

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