

Business Item

Environment Committee



Committee Meeting Date: February 11, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: February 26, 2025

Business Item: 2025-51

Adoption of Facility Plan for the Crow River WRRF and Sanitary Sewer, Project No. 809900

District(s), Member(s):	District 1, Judy Johnson
Policy/Legal Reference:	PFA Loan Requirement
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Mark Lundgren, Principal Engineer, Plant Engineering, (651) 602-1868
Division/Department:	Environmental Services/Capital Design and Delivery

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for the Crow River Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) and Sanitary Sewer, Project Number 809900, per the attached Resolution No. 2025-3.

Background

The Facility Plan recommends relocating wastewater service provided by the existing MCES Rogers Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) located in downtown Rogers at 22200 S Diamond Lake Rd, Rogers, MN 55374, to the new Crow River WRRF located about 2 miles west on 141st Ave North. Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) purchased this property in 2016 for this purpose.

The MCES 2030 and 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan includes planned addition of the Crow River WRRF to serve the long-term service area, which includes land areas currently in Rogers, Dayton, and Corcoran. New pipelines to Crow River WRRF will offload flow in the existing Elm Creek interceptor, making capacity available for growth in the Metropolitan WRRF service area and allowing the region to develop in the most efficient and economical way.

The facility plan includes construction of a new lift station, conveyance system, and treatment facilities. Per the intergovernmental agreement between the City of Rogers and MCES; wastewater flow will be diverted to the new Crow River WRRF by December 2030 and the existing Rogers WWTF will be decommissioned by December 2031; the existing site other than land required for the lift station will be returned to the City of Rogers.

Implementation will involve multiple construction projects and has a planning level estimated capital cost of \$182,000,000.

A public hearing was held on January 8, 2025. Legal notices were published for the Draft Facility Plan public hearing in the Star Tribune and the Crow River News newspapers with public copies available at Rogers City Hall and Rogers Public Library. No written comments were received prior to the public hearing. During the public hearing, ten public comments were received. MCES staff have responded to all comments (see attached public comments summary). No members of the public were opposed to the project.

Rationale

Public Facilities Authority (PFA) loan funding eligibility requires formal adoption of the Facility Plan by resolution (attached) following a public hearing on the draft Facility Plan.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship and Sustainability by providing more capacity for development and investing in our infrastructure in an efficient manner.

Funding

Preliminary funds for the project's planning, design, and construction are included in the 2024 Capital Program. MCES intends to submit this project to Public Facilities Authority for inclusion in its 2025 Intended Use Plan.

Small Business Inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small businesses with the proposed action.



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1634

Phone (651) 602-1000 · TDD (651) 291-0904 · FAX (651) 602-1550 · Metro Info (651) 602-1888

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3
RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE
CROW RIVER WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY (WRRF) AND SANITARY SEWER
PROJECT
PROJECT NO. 809900

WHERE AS:

1. The Metropolitan Council is a public corporation and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota and has statutory responsibility for operating the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area regional wastewater collection and treatment system, and
2. The Metropolitan Council has determined it is necessary and convenient for the fulfillment of its statutory responsibilities to construct the Crow River WRRF and Sanitary Sewer, Project Number 809900, and
3. A draft Facility Plan for the project has been completed and a public hearing was held on January 8, 2025 to discuss the proposed project and the draft Facility Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL,

that the Facility Plan for the

CROW RIVER WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY (WRRF) AND SANITARY SEWER
PROJECT NO. 809900

is hereby approved and adopted.

Adopted this 26th day of February, 2025.

Charlie Zelle, Chair

Ginger Fride, Recording Secretary

Crow River Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) and Sanitary Sewer Facility Plan Public Comments Summary

The Metropolitan Council (Council) published legal notices for the Crow River Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) and Sanitary Sewer Facility Plan public hearing in the Star Tribune and the Crow River News newspapers. Paper copies of the Draft Facility Plan were available for the public to review from December 30, 2024 at the Rogers City Hall and the Rogers Public Library. The Draft Facility Plan also was available at the Metropolitan Council building in downtown Saint Paul, and on the Metropolitan Council website. A public hearing to share information about the project and receive verbal public comments was held on January 8, 2025 at the Rogers Activity Center from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Public comments were received from December 30, 2024 to January 18, 2025. This summary includes a compilation of verbal and written comments received during the public comment period and Council responses.

Public Hearing Verbal Comments

The following verbal public comments (bold) were received at the Public Hearing on January 8, 2025 and Council responses (italic font) are provided below.

Q: Why would the discharge go to the Crow River and not the Mississippi River?

A: Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) evaluated both discharge alternatives, one to the Mississippi River and one to the Crow River. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) also reviewed both discharge points. The MPCA informed MCES via a preliminary effluent limitation (PEL) study that there would be no significant difference in the effluent requirements between the two discharge points. The cost of building a discharge pipe to the Mississippi River would have increased the project cost by \$50 million (see Appendix F of the Facility Plan for details) due to length and multiple pump stations. Therefore, the Crow River discharge was the selected alternative.

Q: Are there going to be health impacts with the plant being installed? Are there going to be environmental impacts on birds and other wildlife with the new plant installation? Are you monitored by Federal or State Government?

A: The new facility will be designed to meet all requirements and regulations for facilities that discharge to Waters of the United States (WOTUS) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). For Minnesota, the NPDES is administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). NPDES permits contain pollutant limits for treated water discharges that are established by the MPCA to be protective of public health and the environment.

Q: How are the banks of the river going to change after the new plant is installed?

A: MCES plans to construct stabilization improvements for the riverbank on the northern parcel of council property. This will prevent riverbank erosion and protect the outfall.

Any erosion due to flow from the new facility will be limited to changes in the low flow channel (base of the river). Flood plain and riverbanks will be largely unaffected by the increase in flow from the WRRF.

Q: Are there going to be more plants installed in the Crow River further downstream?

A: MCES has no plans for additional MCES facilities on the Crow River.

Q: How will the new plant change the flow of the Crow River?

A: This facility plan proposes to construct a new facility to with capacity treat an average day wastewater flow of 2.8 MGD. The initial flow to the plant will be approximately 1.3 MGD. Respectively, these flows represent 18% and 9% of the lowest 7 day average river flow (7Q10) of 20 cfs for the period 1906-2020.

Q: What was the last plant built and have there been any environmental issues with that plant?

A: The last MCES facility to be built was the East Bethel Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) located in East Bethel, MN. The East Bethel facility was constructed in 2012 has not experienced environmental issues. It has earned a National Association of Clean Water Agencies Platinum Peak Performance Award for five consecutive years of perfect permit compliance.

Q: What plans do you have in place to allow for the Crow River to flood?

A: The Council plans to build all parts of the facility out of the 500-year flood plain.

Q: One of the concerns I have is truck traffic. How much truck traffic will this plant have?

A: MCES estimates that 100 trucks a year at 2.8 MGD flow will be needed to load out the solids from the plant. Initially, this number will be 45 trucks at 1.3 MGD flow.

Q: Another question I have is about the park land. Will the effluent pipe on the north side of the parcel be buried? And will that land be able to be used as a resource over the top? The effluent pipe will be under the river? How does that work?

A: The effluent pipe will be buried, and it will discharge under the water level of the river. No effluent pipe will be visible to the public. The land above and around the effluent pipe will need to be kept clear for future pipe maintenance. Other activities and site restoration on the northern parcel will not be prohibited by the effluent pipe.

Q: The solids that you store on site, will there be odor issues?

A: The solids will be stored in closed tanks. The tanks will be aerated and fitted with odor control devices to ensure odors do not escape the storage tanks.

