

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: February 11, 2025

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
 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

It was moved unanimously 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 CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

None at this time.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2025-51: Adoption of Facility Plan for Crow River WRRF and Sanitary Sewer, Project No. 809900** (Mark Lundgren, 651-602-1868)

It was moved by CM Morales, seconded by CM Cederberg, 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.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-52 SW: Approval of Application Process for Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Pilot Program** (Henry McCarthy 651-602-1946, Jen Kostrzewski 651-602-1078)

It was moved by CM Osman, seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2025-52 SW on the process for the 2025-2026 Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Pilot Program and authorizes staff to advertise the availability of grant funding and solicit applications.

Discussion

CM Wulff asked: The original grant program was for communities who got their water

supplies from groundwater. This one sounds like it's for everybody, is that correct? Are you saying we are only funding a few projects at \$100,000?

Staff responded: Yes, that is correct. Depending on how many people participate we hope to see many cities come back and apply and new cities also apply for this new opportunity. It depends on how many applications and participation we get to confirm how much the total distribution of funds will be. It can be up to \$100,000 per municipality.

CM Carter asked: What's the projected average award per person?

Staff responded: It depends on how each city designs its program, the level of support could fluctuate. It's difficult to determine average award per person prior to receiving applications from municipalities and determining their program award amounts.

CM Morales asked: None of the money for the grants are going towards municipalities' administrative costs, correct?

Staff responded: That is correct.

CM Osman asked: Is this the first time this program has been implemented?

Staff responded: Yes, this will be the first time it is implemented on a broader scale. Saint Paul Regional Water Services piloted a smaller scale version of this program last grant cycle.

CM Wulff: Is this going to be directed to low-income homeowners and people who pay for water as a part of their rent?

Staff responded: Our Water Resources staff have created a mapping tool using census tract-level data compiled by the Community Development Research Team. This tool can be used to identify priority areas for place-based equity work and may be useful for communities as they design their programs and prepare their applications. The intent is for the money to get to disproportionately burdened homeowners and renters who are paying their own water bills.

Motion carried

Information

None at this time.

Reports

General Managers Report: No report.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of February 11, 2025

Council Contact:

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