

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting date: April 8, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- Chair, Gail Cederberg, D11
- Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff, D16

- Tyronne Carter, District 3
- Diego Morales, District 9
- Peter Lindstrom, District 10

- Susan Vento, District 12
- Chai Lee, District 13
- = present, E = excused

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

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

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Cederberg.

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 Carter to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

None at this time.

Non-consent business

1. **2025-93 SW: Contract Amendment to Close out Lease of Metro 94 Facility** (Tina Nelson, 651-602-4828)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Lindstrom, that the Metropolitan Council

authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to Contract 09P158 that will add \$74,873.00 to close out the Metro 94 facilities lease which expires June 30, 2025.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-92: Purchase of Bulk Caustic Chemical, Contract 24P293** (Joe Ward, 651-602-8302)

It was moved by CM Vento, seconded by CM Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 24P293 with Hawkins, Inc. to provide bulk caustic at MCES Wastewater Treatment Plants in an amount not to exceed \$2,884,018.

Discussion

CM Wulff asked: Why is the authorization more than the actual bid?

Staff responded: The total budget allows room for inflation and possible price increases based on the annual contract extensions. The business item is for full approval to exercise all rights for extensions and anticipated usage throughout the extension period. Annual extension letters will be developed for each extension period based on the value and usage of the chemical for that year.

CM Vento asked: Are there other environmental services purchases impacted by tariffs?

Staff responded: I am not sure, we can look into it and get back to you. These are reviewed on a case by case basis to determine when tariffs do and don't apply. Hawkins is a US company but we are not certain of the country of origin is for all the specific materials with Hawkins chemicals.

CM Carter: Are there any unusual cost with disposing this product?

Staff responded: The chemical is all used during the process so none remains to be disposed of.

Motion carried.

3. **2025-94: Forest Lake Interceptor 7029 Rehabilitation Real Estate Property Acquisition and Condemnation** (Chris Remus, 651-602-4538)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Carter, that the Metropolitan Council adopt Resolution 2025-10 authorizing the acquisition and condemnation of real estate property for the Forest Lake Interceptor 7029 Rehabilitation, ES Project No. 808603.

Discussion

CM Cederberg asked: How long are you planning on being on the property?

Staff responded: The term of temporary easements are 2-3 years.

Motion carried.

4. **2025-95: Lift Station and ERS Communication Upgrade- Phase 1, Contract 25P227** (Tim Wedin 651-602-4571, Gretchen White 651-602-1443)

It was moved by CM Vento, seconded by CM Carter, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 25P227 with Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) for Environmental Services' Lift Stations and ERS Communications Upgrades – Phase 1, for the installation and reoccurring monthly costs of fiber optic services at 65 sites for an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000.

Discussion

CM Vento: Are any of the products or technologies impacted by tariffs?

Staff responded: There still a lot of questions that we have in relation to our projects moving forward regarding tariffs. We are trying to factor that in the best we can.

CM Cederberg asked: When is the estimated kick off for these projects?



Staff responded: We should start seeing activity for many of these sites in the summer.

Motion carried

Information

1. **White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Update** (Judy Sventek, 651-602-1156)

Judy Sventek, Manager of Water Resources, presented an update on the White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan. She discussed the plan legislation, legislative directives, schedules; including milestones, and work progress. Staff concluded with current and upcoming studies as well as next steps.

Reports

Chair

Committee Members

General Managers

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:55 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 8, 2025.

Council contact:

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