

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 27, 2016

Subject: Establish Ongoing Inflow and Infiltration Mitigation Task Force, Appoint Chair and Members

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Water Resources Management Policy Plan (WRMPP)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Adam Duininck, Chair

Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve Chair Duininck’s recommendation to establish an Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) Task Force to evaluate and make specific recommendations about the existing Ongoing I/I Reduction Program, and to discuss, study and recommend programmatic changes in order to address private property sources of I/I in the metropolitan area. Furthermore, that the following members be appointed with Council Member Sandy Rummel as Chair of the Task Force:

	<u>Community</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1.	Apple Valley	Saam, Matt	Public Works Director
2.	Bloomington	Cockriel, Bob	Utilities Superintendent
3.	Brooklyn Park	Struve, Jesse	City Engineer
4.	Chanhassen	Oehme, Paul	Director of Public Works
5.	Coon Rapids	Jorgenson, Kory	Finance Director
6.	Eagan	Matthys, Russ	Public Works Director
7.	Edina	Millner, Chad	Engineering Director
8.	Golden Valley	Tracy, Bert	Public Works Maintenance Manager
9.	Minnetonka	Wagstrom, Brian	Director of Public Works
10.	Mound	Hoversten, Eric	City Manager
11.	MetroCities	Nauman, Patty	Executive Director
12.	Metropolitan Council	Rummel, Sandy	Council Member, District 11
13.	Minneapolis	Cerney, Lisa	Director of Surface Water & Sewers
14.	Newport	Bruce Hanson	Public Works Superintendent
15.	North St. Paul	Ziemer, Jason	City Manager
16.	Plymouth	Fischer, Luke	Administrative Services Director
17.	Saint Paul	Elder, Bruce	Sewer Utility Manager
18.	Shoreview	Maloney, Mark	Director of Public Works
19.	St. Anthony	Rueckert, Shelly	Finance Director
20.	West Saint Paul	Beckwith, Ross	Public Works Director

Background

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) are terms that describe stormwater runoff and groundwater that makes its way into sanitary sewer pipes and eventually gets treated unnecessarily at wastewater treatment plants. Inflow is clear water that enters the wastewater system through rain leaders, sump pumps, or foundation drains that are illegally connected to sewer lines. The largest amount of inflow occurs during heavy rainstorms. Infiltration is groundwater that seeps into cracked or broken wastewater pipes.



The Metropolitan Council has previously convened task forces to work with regional communities to address inflow and infiltration. The first task force met in 2003/2004 and recommended that the Council establish the I/I Surcharge Program. The second task force met in 2009/2010 and recommended the Council's Ongoing I/I Program. Since I/I mitigation programs have been in place for over 10 years, it is appropriate and timely to establish a third I/I task force that will be assigned to:

1. Review the Metropolitan Council Ongoing I/I Program, including work accomplished to date by MCES and communities, observed flows and identify opportunities for improving the Ongoing I/I Program to assist communities in I/I reduction.
2. Identify and discuss challenges (technical, political, financial, etc.) of addressing private property I/I sources. Discuss options/opportunities for mitigating I/I from private property sources.

The recommended list of task force members were solicited with the assistance of Metro Cities. Members include representatives with public works, wastewater utility, finance or city manager experience. The membership is diverse in terms of community size, geographic coverage, and experience with the Council's I/I program.

Rationale

I/I is a problem for a number of reasons:

- It takes up fixed capacity in large regional sewer pipes (interceptors) needed for future households and businesses.
- It is costly to communities and their utility ratepayers. Once clear water gets mixed with wastewater, it all must be treated at the wastewater treatment plant. Communities are charged for these treatment costs, and in turn, the costs are passed on to property owners.
- It can result in public health and environmental concerns when wastewater is released into the environment or backed up into private property during storm events. Oftentimes, these outcomes are a result of capacity issues in the local (or community) collection system.

While the regional and local I/I mitigation efforts are having an impact on peak wastewater flows, continued efforts are needed. Without continued mitigation, MCES and our ratepayers will face capital expenses for infrastructure to convey and higher operating costs to treat excessive I/I.

Funding

The task force's administrative costs will be small and will be managed within MCES' adopted 2016 operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

Generally, community staff and MetroCities have expressed support for the task force and its mission.