

## Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 22, 2017

**Subject:** Wastewater Reuse Policy Task Force

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Thrive MSP 2040; 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Adam Duininick, Chair

**Division/Department:** Chair's Office

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the recommendation to establish a Wastewater Reuse Policy Task Force to review the Council's existing wastewater reuse policies and recommend clarifications needed to respond to requests for wastewater reuse. Furthermore, that the following members be appointed with Council Member Sandy Rummel as Chair of the Task Force.

Community	Name	Title
Bloomington	Mary Hurliman	Deputy Director of Public Works
Cottage Grove	Jennifer Leavitt	Community Development Director/City Engineer
Eagan	Jon Eaton	Superintendent of Utilities
Hugo	Bryan Bear	City Administrator
Lakeville	Chris Petree	Public Works Director
Maplewood	Michael Thompson	Public Works Director
Metro Cities	Steven Huser	Government Relations Specialist
Metropolitan Council	Sandy Rummel	Council Member, District 11
Ramsey	Kurt Ulrich	City Administrator
St. Paul	Beverly Farraher	Public Works Operations Manager
St. Louis Park	Debra Heiser	Engineering Director
Vadnais Heights	Mark Graham	City Engineer/Public Services Director

### Background

*Thrive MSP 2040* states that the Council will pursue wastewater reuse where economically feasible as a means to promote sustainable water resources. The *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan* states that the Council will strive to "maximize regional benefits from regional investments." One implementation strategy is to "Invest in wastewater reuse when justified by the benefits for supplementing groundwater and surface water as sources of nonpotable water to support regional growth, and by the benefits for maintaining water quality."

Environmental Services has received expressions of interest in wastewater reuse that raise policy-related issues for which guidance is needed. These issues include determining the regional benefit of the reuse, financial aspects, partnership such as joint partnerships with local water utilities, etc. An example of an expression of interest is the potential SKB/Enerkem project in the southeast Metro.

### **Rationale**

The issues described above pertain to many potential wastewater reuse scenarios. In accordance with Council policy, staff request that the Council authorize a task force of MCES customers to review existing wastewater reuse policy and recommend clarifications needed to respond to requests for reclaimed water service. Input to the task force will be sought from other stakeholders including the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and its technical advisory committee (TAC), the business community, and regulatory agencies.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

*Thrive MSP 2040* supports the Council's development of wastewater reuse where economically feasible to promote sustainable water resources and emphasizes working with the Council's partners. Authorizing a task force with representatives of MCES' member communities would enable the Council to address overall wastewater reuse policy issues. This supports the Thrive outcome of Prosperity by generating jobs and the Thrive outcome of Sustainability through wise use of water, resource recovery from solid waste, and generation of renewable energy.

### **Funding**

The task force's administrative costs will be small and will be managed within MCES' adopted 2017 operating budget.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition.