

Environment Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 28, 2018

Subject: Request for Public Hearing on Acquisition of Rogers Wastewater Treatment Plant (Rogers WWTP)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing to gather public input on the proposed acquisition of the Rogers WWTP.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Committee Member asked what we do with the facility once we acquire it. Staff stated we would operate the facility until approximately 2029. A new plant is planned to be constructed on property owned by the Council in Rogers south of I-94. It is anticipated that the existing plant would be decommissioned, and a lift station would be constructed on the site which would pump wastewater to the new Crow River Plant. The benefit of regionalizing is that wastewater treatment costs are spread across the region. Furthermore, the existing facility is facing capacity constraints and new permit requirements.

The existing Rogers wastewater treatment plant will continue to service Rogers for the next 10 years. The new Crow River Plant will service Rogers, Corcoran and Dayton that is forecasted to be commissioned in 2030. The Elm Creek interceptor will be conveying wastewater from the southern part of Rogers to the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant in St. Paul.

Environment Committee

Meeting date: November 13, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 28, 2018

Subject: Request for Public Hearing on Acquisition of Rogers Wastewater Treatment Plant (Rogers WWTP)

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan; Minnesota Statutes § 473.511

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jeannine Clancy, 651-602-1210

Division/Department: MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing to gather public input on the proposed acquisition of the Rogers WWTP.

Background

The 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan (“Plan”), adopted in 2014, states that the Metropolitan Council will “acquire wastewater treatment plants from suburban communities outside the current service area, based upon request through the comprehensive plan and comprehensive sewer plan process, after soliciting customer input and conducting a public hearing on the request.” Furthermore, the Plan recognizes that “Rogers is a suburban community that owns and operates its own wastewater treatment plant” and that the Metropolitan Council anticipates Rogers will request that the Council acquire the Rogers WWTP as local growth occurs.

The Metropolitan Council approved the City of Rogers’ 2030 Comprehensive Plan Amendment, which identified the City’s intent to request acquisition of the existing Rogers WWTP by the Metropolitan Council.

On October 23, 2018, the City of Rogers’ City Council approved a resolution requesting the Metropolitan Council acquire the Rogers wastewater treatment plant through an acquisition agreement.

Rationale

Metropolitan Council authorization is required to hold a public hearing.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The acquisition supports the Thrive Outcome of Stewardship by allowing for continued wastewater service to the City of Rogers. The acquisition also promotes the Thrive Outcome of Sustainability by supporting continued land development and growth within the City of Rogers, which is largely designated as Emerging Suburban Edge.

Funding

Funds for project planning and acquisition are included in the current authorized capital program.

Known Support / Opposition

The City of Rogers has requested that the Metropolitan Council acquire the Rogers WWTP. There is no known opposition.