

Committee Report

Environment Committee



For the Metropolitan Council: November 30, 2022

Business Item: 2022-311

Establish Private Property Inflow and Infiltration Mitigation Task Force, Appoint Chair and Members

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following recommendations for the roster for the Task Force addressing grant funding for private property inflow and infiltration (I/I) mitigation. The Task Force will design the grant program, discuss how to administer it equitably across the region, and discuss other ways to mitigate I/I from private property. Furthermore, that the proposed members be appointed with Council Member Wendy Wulff as Chair of the Task Force. Also, allow staff to identify replacements of roster members in the event a member(s) can no longer serve on the task force for unforeseen reasons.

Summary of Environment Committee Discussion/Questions

Kyle Colvin, Manager of Wastewater Planning & Community Programs and Ned Smith, Director of Pretreatment and Finance presented updates on the Private Property Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) Grant Task force. A timeline of historical I/I efforts helped showcase how local and regional investments help with the reduction of I/I.

Discussion

CM Vento noted: I want to applaud the efforts to include and expand the participation. I'm pleased that the Council has helped play a role in this.

CM Stern asked: What method are you using to recruit people for the Grant Task Force?

Staff responded: We reviewed the list of past I/I Task Force participation and we also reached out verbally. Minneapolis and St. Paul being the two largest contributors of wastewater in the system agreed to provide representatives. St. Anthony expressed an interest in serving on the taskforce in 2021.

CM Wulff noted: I would like volunteer to serve on the taskforce. She recommended reaching out to West Saint Paul to be involved since they have significant experience in private I/I.

CM Fredson asked: You referenced some communities that are outside of the metro and I'm curious to know to what extent this Task Force will be working with representatives of those communities?

Staff answered: the Task Force will help guide the Council in the guidelines, one of the considerations might be that since the funds are coming from a portion of revenues collected from our Municipal Wastewater Charges, the availability for the funds might be restricted to the 112 communities that are contributing to that funding source.

Chair Lindstrom asked: Is that part of the Task Force, to find out where the funds are coming from?

Staff answered: The source of the funding has already been airmarked as being PAY-GO. The PAY-GO is a dedicated reliable set aside funds that we feel we can utilize for the program. The amount will be discussed at the Task Force, the funding level will be a part of the discussion.

Chair Lindstrom asked: Is that part of the Task Force, to find out where the funds are coming from?

Staff answered: The source of the funding has already been airmarked as PAY-GO. The PAY-GO is a dedicated reliable set aside funds that we feel we can utilize for the program. The amount will be discussed at the Task Force, the funding level will be a part of the discussion.

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: November 30, 2022

Business Item: 2022-311

Establish Private Property Inflow and Infiltration Mitigation Task Force, Appoint Chair and Members

District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Statute 471.342
Staff Prepared/Presented: Deb Barber, Council Member
Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following recommendations for the roster for the Task Force addressing grant funding for private property inflow and infiltration (I/I) mitigation. The Task Force will design the grant program, discuss how to administer it equitably across the region, and discuss other ways to mitigate I/I from private property. Furthermore, that the proposed members be appointed with Council Member Wendy Wulff as Chair of the Task Force. Also, allow staff to identify replacements of roster members in the event a member(s) can no longer serve on the task force for unforeseen reasons.

	<u>Community</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1.	Apple Valley	Ron Hedberg	Finance Director
2.	Bloomington	Scott Anderson	Utilities Superintendent
3.	Chanhassen	Erik Henricksen	Project Engineer
4.	Columbia Heights	Jim Hauth	Public Works Superintendent - Utilities
5.	Cottage Grove	Jennifer Levitt	City Administrator
6.	Eagan	Russ Matthys	Public Works Director
7.	Edina	Chad Millner	Engineering Director
8.	Golden Valley	RJ Kakach	Assistant City Engineer
9.	Lauderdale	Heather Butkowski	City Administrator
10.	Minneapolis	Angie Craft	Director - Surface Water and Sewers
11.	Mound	Eric Hoversten	City Manager/Director of Public Works
12.	Newport	Matt Yokiell	Public Works Superintendent
13.	St. Anthony	Shelly Rueckert	Finance Director
14.	St. Paul	Bruce Elder	Sewer Utility Manager
15.	West St. Paul	Eldon Rameaux	I & I Inspector
16.	White Bear Township	Dale Reed	Public Works Director
17.	Metro Cities	Patricia Nauman	Executive 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. The third task force met in 2016 and made eight recommendations, one of which was "Support efforts to secure funding for public and private I/I mitigation projects including State Bond and Clean Water Legacy Funds. Consider the provision of financial assistance through regional sources, such as a portion of the wastewater fee, to provide assistance to communities for private property I/I mitigation".

With the update to Statute 471.342, the Metropolitan Council is now allowed to provide financial assistance through communities to private property owners for I/I mitigation activities. It is now appropriate to establish and convene a fourth task force that will be tasked with:

- Design a private property I/I mitigation grant program
- Review peak hour factors used to develop I/I goals

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

Rationale

Private property I/I is the next big challenge to reduce I/I in the system and extend the life and keep capacity of the wastewater system

- The US EPA estimates that up to 80% of inflow and infiltration comes from private property sources.
- Local communities, through their 2040 Comprehensive Sewer Plan submittals, indicate that at least 50% of I/I comes from private property.
- Service laterals connecting private properties to the wastewater collection system are the **largest source of inflow and infiltration but receive the least mitigation attention** due to several factors:
 - o Most property owners are not aware that they own the service lateral or the condition of the lateral.
There is a general lack of support from property owners and real estate agents for point-of-sale programs.
 - o Communities lack the financial resources to assist property owners with service lateral repairs.
- Case studies show that investing in **both public infrastructure and private property mitigation** yields the greatest reduction in inflow and infiltration. Regional communities and the Metropolitan Council continue to invest significant resources to mitigate inflow and infiltration from public infrastructure; it is time to **complement** those efforts with private property mitigation efforts.
- Failure to address private property sources of inflow and infiltration creates serious financial, environmental, and public health risks, especially as we anticipate more intense and frequent precipitation.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The work of this task force furthers the Thrive Outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, and Sustainability. This task force and resulting program will extend the service life of the Council's interceptor and wastewater treatment plant service life, reduce negative environmental impacts from potential wastewater spills and/or overflows, protect our environment, financially assist residents of the region with a potentially costly home repair, and invests in existing infrastructure. In addition to satisfying the Council's mission and vision, private property I/I mitigation has been a topic of conversation and request of Council members and communities for multiple years. By doing this work, we are responding to our customers and partners.

Funding

Funds for the grant program will come from the Council's revenue from the Municipal Wastewater Charge (MWC).

Small Business Inclusion

N/A





Business Item 2022-311

Private Property Inflow/Infiltration Grant Program Task Force



Metropolitan Council: November 30, 2022

Kyle Colvin and Emily Steinweg

2016 I/I Task Force Recommendations

Recommendation No. 3 of 8

- “Support efforts to secure funding for public and private I/I mitigation projects including State Bond and Clean Water Legacy Funds. Consider the provision of financial assistance through regional sources, such as a portion of the wastewater fee, to provide assistance to communities for private property I/I mitigation”



2022 Private Property I/I Grant Task Force

Recommended Roster

#	Community	Name	Title
1	Apple Valley	Ron Hedberg	Finance Director
2	Bloomington	Scott Anderson	Utilities Superintendent
3	Chanhassen	Erik Henricksen	Project Engineer
4	Columbia Heights	Jim Hauth	Public Works Superintendent - Utilities
5	Cottage Grove	Jennifer Levitt	City Administrator
6	Eagan	Russ Matthys	Public Works Director
7	Edina	Chad Millner	Engineering Director
8	Golden Valley	RJ Kakach	Assistant City Engineer
9	Lauderdale	Heather Butkowski	City Administrator
10	Minneapolis	Angie Craft	Director of Surface Water and Sewers

#	Community	Name	Title
11	Mound	Eric Hoversten	City Manager/Director of Public Works
12	Newport	Matt Yokiell	Public Works Superintendent
13	St. Anthony	Shelly Rueckert	Finance Director
14	St. Paul	Bruce Elder	Sewer Utility Manager
15	West St. Paul	Eldon Rameaux	I & I Inspector
16	White Bear Township	Dale Reed	Public Works Director
17	Metro Cities	Patricia Nauman	Executive Director

Task Force Timeline

Milestones

Date	Milestone
November 2022	Chair Recommends Membership
January 2023	First Meeting of Private Property I/I (PPII) Task Force
April 2023	Final Task Force Recommendation Report
June 2023	PPII Grant Program Developed
August 2023	PPII Grant Program Approved by Council
September 2023	Public Hearing
October 2023	Public Outreach and Program Notification
January 2024	PPII Grant Applications Accepted

Recommended Action



The Metropolitan Council approve the following recommendations for the roster for the Task Force addressing grant funding for private property inflow and infiltration (I/I) mitigation. The Task Force will design the grant program, discuss how to administer it equitably across the region, and discuss other ways to mitigate I/I from private property. Furthermore, that the proposed members be appointed with Council Member Wendy Wulff as Chair of the Task Force. Also, allow staff to identify replacements of roster members in the event a member(s) can no longer serve on the task force for unforeseen reasons.

Thank You

Kyle Colvin

Manager, Wastewater Planning & Community Programs

Kyle.Colvin@metc.state.mn.us

651-602-1151

Emily Steinweg

Principal Engineer, Wastewater Planning & Community Programs

Emily.Steinweg@metc.state.mn.us

651-602-1516

