

Committee Report

Environment Committee



Committee Meeting Date: October 22, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: November 13, 2024

Business Item: 2024-229

Ratification of Procurement After the Fact for the Repair of Seneca Water Hydrant & 6" City Water Line

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council ratify the Procurement After the Fact for repairs of the Seneca Service Water Hydrant and six-inch city water line at the Seneca Water Recovery Facility in Eagan in an amount of \$185,912.21.

Summary of Environment Committee Discussion/Questions

- CM Wulff asked: Was the water pipe leaking or was it coming up from the ground?
- Staff responded: The plant has very high ground water. At the time of the excavation we found out that it was the water line that was causing the majority of the leak.
- CM Wulff asked: Since the city pipe is on our property it is the Council's responsibility, correct?
- Staff responded: That is correct.
- Chair Lindstrom asked: You mentioned that the soil was contaminated and removed, what was it contaminated with?
- Staff responded: It was city water. We do test of the water to determine how best to approach the work.

Motion by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Osman. Motion carried.



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Ratification of Procurement After the Fact for the Repair of Seneca Water Hydrant & 6" City Water Line

District(s), Member(s):	District 15, Tenzin Dolkar
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 – Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate.
Staff Prepared/Presented:	John Tierney, Mechanical Maintenance Manager, (651)247-2076
Division/Department:	Environmental Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council ratify the Procurement After the Fact for repairs of the Seneca Service Water Hydrant and six-inch city water line at the Seneca Water Recovery Facility in Eagan in an amount of \$185,912.21

Background

A straightforward task of replacing a three-inch yard hydrant evolved into a significant challenge. In the fall of 2023, we identified the need for an out-of-service yard hydrant to facilitate essential maintenance of the Seneca process tanks. Unfortunately, the original hydrant and its associated piping are no longer supported or manufactured, necessitating the search for a suitable replacement.

To fulfill our government-to-government commitments to tribal nations, Environmental Services proactively conducted a literature review to evaluate the potential impact on areas of cultural or historic significance.

Once authorized to commence work in late February 2024, we encountered significant groundwater inflow at the excavation site. Although the contractor supplied large pumps, they were unable to manage the incoming flow. As a result, we decided to activate the plant's groundwater pumps to dewater the site. This decision led to further delays, as it required coordination with the Department of Natural Resources.

Adjacent to the Seneca Plant is the Nicol Calcareous Fen, a rare and protected peat wetland that relies on a consistent supply of upwelling groundwater rich in calcium and other minerals. Operating the plant's groundwater pump system has a considerable impact on the Calcareous Fen ecosystem.

Work resumed, and the excavator reached the area requiring repair. However, a substantial amount of water continued to fill the excavation. During this process, we discovered that a six-inch city water pipe had deteriorated at the tunnel wall, approximately 15 feet from the service water

hydrant.

As a result of this finding, larger excavation equipment was necessary to reach the new depth of the city water line, which was about 25 feet deep. The contractor had to disassemble a 48-inch diameter manhole column to access this location. All contaminated soil was removed, and new fill material was brought in. To provide support for the new piping during backfilling, a soft flowable concrete was added around it.

Once all repairs were completed and normal operations restored, the excavation site was backfilled, graded, and seeded. Additionally landscape fabric was laid over the site for protection against erosion.

Rationale

Procurement After the Facts exceeding \$175,000 requires appropriate Committee and Council ratification.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive Outcome of Stewardship. Public financial resources were invested efficiently and effectively to maintain and restore plant infrastructure, which protects the region's natural resources.

Funding

The final cost for this work was \$185,912.21. This work was funded from the Seneca Water Recovery Facilities annual operating budget.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity did not review this for a small business goal as it was initially done through a requisition due to the low dollar value.

