

Information Item

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: October 25, 2022

Topic

East Bethel Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Performance Update

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Statute or policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Karla Karls, 651-602-8763; Jason Peterson, 651-602-1614; Dan Henely, 651-602-8085
Division/Department:	MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

Background

The East Bethel WRF, which has been in operation since 2014, serves as a demonstration facility for wastewater reuse. The East Bethel WRF receives wastewater from homes, businesses and industries in East Bethel and uses membrane bioreactors (MBRs) and ultraviolet disinfection (UV) to produce high quality effluent suitable for reuse. Reclaimed water from the WRF is currently applied to rapid infiltration basins to augment groundwater in the local surficial aquifer (The Mazomanie Aquifer).

Although the facility is not permitted as a reuse plant, MCES voluntarily operates the East Bethel WRF to meet the disinfected tertiary level of treatment. Through this demonstration experience, MCES has gained permitting capabilities and has successfully demonstrated the ability to meet disinfected tertiary level of treatment—the highest level of treatment required for wastewater reuse—with no observed negative impacts on groundwater quality.

Rationale

Effluent infiltration provides regionwide benefits that shall be shared.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The East Bethel WRF demonstration supports the Thrive outcomes of stewardship by assessing the future needs, responsible planning and management of resources for Environmental Services, and of Sustainability for preserving existing regional water resources.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.

Attachment

East Bethel Water Reclamation Facility Fact Sheet