



# Information Item

## Launching the FOG Task Force



Environment Committee: May 9, 2023

Tina Nelson & Andrew Wiatros



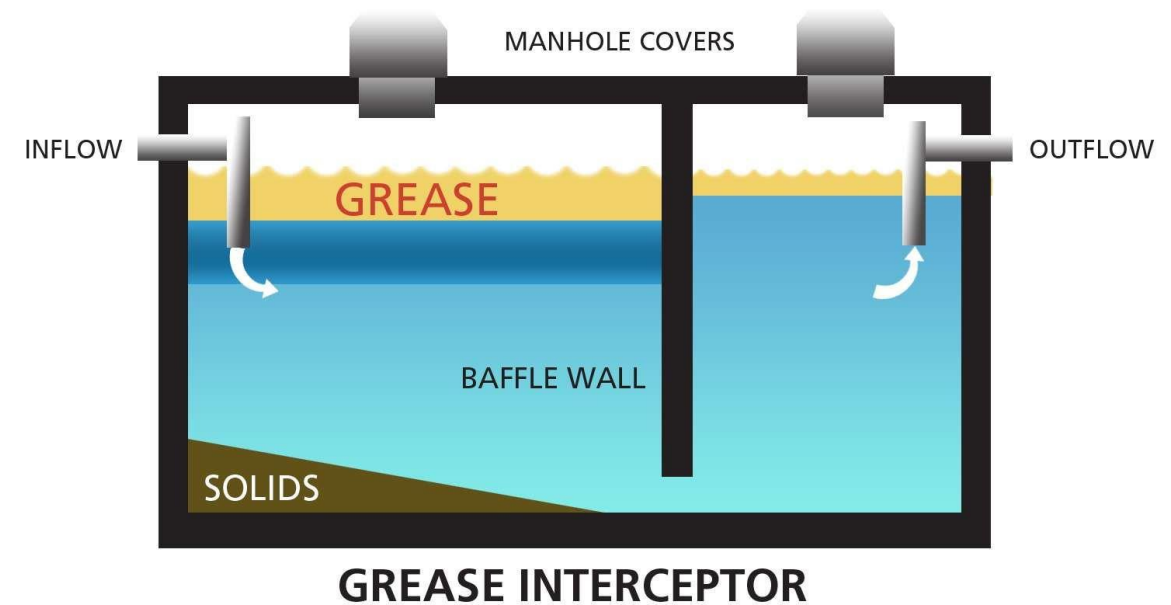
# Agenda

- What is FOG?
- Demonstrated need
- Desired outcomes
- Participant information
- Meeting schedule and scope
- Looking ahead
- Comments and questions

# What is FOG?

## FOG is Fats, Oils and Grease

- Includes animal and vegetable fats, as well as oils used to cook and prepare food.
- When FOG is discharged to a drain, it sticks to the inside of sewer pipes.
- Over time, the FOG will build up to restrict wastewater flow, eventually causing a blockage.
- FOG should be controlled by a properly-sized grease interceptor.
- Time is needed to cool wastewater so that solids can settle, and FOG can solidify and float





# There is great need for the task force



## Communities need support

- The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) continues to see an increase in FOG discharges in our conveyance system and at our liquid waste receiving sites.
- Over the past five years, MCES has received an increasing amount of request from customer communities to help them address FOG discharges from industry, food service establishments, and schools.
- Some Metro communities have well-resourced and successful FOG programs, but the majority do not have the resources or funding to establish one, despite the growing need.
- The most effective and least expensive strategy is always source reduction and elimination.
- FOG should be captured and repurposed in a beneficial manner.

# Possible Outcomes



- Identify how we can support our communities and business
- Develop a FOG toolkit for communities
  - List of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for FOG control at food service establishments and other businesses and institutions
  - Compile applicable code in a central location
  - Develop educational materials in multiple languages for effective outreach
- Gauge interest in developing a regional FOG strategy
- Develop and strengthen our relationships with customer communities and businesses

# Participant Information

Name	Affiliation
Matthew Haefner	City of Chaska
Patrick Sele	City of Crystal
Nick Wilson	City of Eagan
Travis Dunn Shawn Storey	City of Hastings
Ross Jonak	City of Minneapolis
Russ Lupkes	City of Richfield
Patrick Cahanes Shawn O'Keefe Aaron Hass	City of St Paul
Michael Klimers	City of Savage

Name	Affiliation
Bret Swan	Minnesota Petroleum Service
Chris Schulz	Drain King Inc
Emmanuel Nathan	Sanimax US LLC
Jennifer Anderberg	Pizza Luce
Jill Sims	Hospitality Minnesota



# Meeting Schedule and Scope

The Task Force will meet routinely for two hours.

4/20/23

- Characterize types of FOG issues
- Identify ways MCES can help support stakeholders, including barriers to success

5/11/23

- Share and assemble best management practices
- Determine best forms/methods of outreach

6/1/23

- Present compiled information
- Gather feedback
- Confirm deliverables are beneficial and useful

6/20/23

- Summarize deliverables
- Gauge interest/support for developing a regional strategy (future phase)

# Looking Ahead

## Potential Future Phase

- Developing a regional FOG strategy
  - Any strategy would be voluntarily
  - What is the best way to develop, implement and manage a strategy?
  - What are the barriers for a community to adopt a strategy?
  - How can MCES remove those barriers?
  - How can we partner to ensure recovered FOG has a beneficial reuse?
- Communities have inquired about grant money
- How could we secure funding/grants to:
  - Help communities build a dedicated FOG program
  - Assist businesses install a properly-sized grease interceptor and provide education on proper maintenance





# Questions?

## **Tina Nelson**

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## **Andrew Wiatros**

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Project Manager of MCES' FOG Task Force

