

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair; Kris Fredson; Phillip Sterner; Susan Vento; Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2019.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Raymond Zeran, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Raymond Zeran to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2019, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2019-230 JT, 2019-233 JT, and 2019-234 JT, 2019-236 JT)

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Susan Vento to approve the consent agenda business items. Motion carried.

1. 2019-230 JT: City of Richfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21949-1

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of Richfield's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Upon approval, the City shall submit to the Council a copy of the revised Ordinance regarding illicit clear water connections to require disconnection once they are identified.

3. 2019-233 JT: City of Lakeville 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22077-1

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of Lakeville's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

4. 2019-234 JT: City of Minnetonka Beach 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21938-1

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:



Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the Comprehensive Sewer Plan component of the City of Minnetonka Beach's Comprehensive Plan.
4. 2019-236 JT: City of Columbia Heights 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21956-1
That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the Comprehensive Sewer Plan component of the City of Columbia Heights's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

4. 2019-231 JT: City of Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22166-1
It was moved by Kris Fredson, seconded by Phillip Sterner that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

Recommendation of the Environment Committee

1. Approve the Comprehensive Sewer Plan component of the City of Minneapolis's Comprehensive Plan.

Motion carried.

5. 2019-235 JT: City of Oakdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22056-1
It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Phillip Sterner that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

Recommendation of the Environment Committee

1. Approve the City of Oakdale's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

Motion carried.

6. 2019-238 SW: Vactor Service Contract Amendments
It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Raymond Zeran that the Metropolitan Council approve amending Vactor service contracts 18P127A (to Scholmka Services in the amount of \$330,000) and 18P127B (to Goliath Hydro-Vac in the amount of \$70,000) for a combined additional amount of \$400,000 increasing total contract not to exceed amount to \$880,000. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Water Resources Section Overview

Judy Sventek, Manager Water Resources Assessment and Dan Henely, Assistant Water Resources Assessment provided an overview of the Environmental Services Water Resources section. The purpose of the section is to provide leadership and information to empower Council and local actions that ensure clean, healthy, and sustainable water resources. The work supports the Council's responsibilities as a regional water planning agency, Federal and State Statutes and policy direction from Thrive MSP 2040 and the Council's Water Resources Policy Plan area. All collected data and assessment reports are readily available through the Council's Environmental Information Management System which can be found at <https://eims.metc.state.mn.us/>.

Water Resources work is broken into two main areas:

- monitoring and assessment programs
 - Help assess regional waters to determine impacts from point and nonpoint sources over time. They address permit requirements as well as collect information on the quality of water resources to set goals and prioritize projects to protect and restore the quality of those resources. The current focus is high-level monitoring for area rivers, lakes, and streams.
 - River monitoring, which began in the 1920's, and stream monitoring, which began in 1989, allows tracking of successes in the region from wastewater treatment (point source) as well as successful non-point watershed management in the watersheds.
 - Lake monitoring, which began in 1980, utilizes partners to conduct monitoring efforts between 150-200 lakes per year.
- planning and policy work
 - Provides direction and support in surface water planning and management to ensure that management policies, programs, and stormwater management best practices are implemented to protect and restore water quality in the region. It also provides direction to communities for the preparation of their comprehensive plans and to watershed organizations for their watershed management plans. Grant programs have been available in the past to help communities and watersheds install innovative multipurpose stormwater management practices aimed at protecting and restoring valued water resources.

Planning, monitoring, and assessment work require outreach, education and collaboration such as work with Governor Dayton on the 25 by 25 initiative as well as serving over 21 years as active participants on the Children's Water Festival.

Comments and Questions:

Committee Member Vento commented she is an active volunteer with the Friends of the Mississippi River. They appreciate the work the Metropolitan Council does related water resources in the region. She thanked staff for being great partners.

Committee Member Fredson inquired about the reason Scott County was not included in the grant allocations. Staff stated they previously had not requested grants for this program. However, we have worked closely with Scott County on SWAT modeling, monitoring sites on lakes, rivers, and streams.

Committee Member Vento asked if there have been any significant findings with the Minnesota River since monitoring began and if it has been getting better. Staff stated the trend report that they will hear more about at the next meeting will show that it is getting better for some parameters and worse for others.

Committee Member Vento stated there is an increased energy related to water quality at present. She recently attended a meeting hosted by the Nature Conservancy and wondered if there are any collaboration efforts with other organizations to share data. As an example of collaborations staff stated we work closely with the Friends of the Mississippi River who utilize data we collect and use in their State of the River Report. We also collaborate with the Fresh Water Society but have not had an opportunity to work with the Nature Conservancy.

Committee Member Sterner asked if there are efforts to reduce the levels of chlorides. Staff stated there are many ways to address these levels. The State of Minnesota is currently addressing road salt and smart application as it is the largest way to impact the chloride levels. Water softeners are a big input to the wastewater system. The State is investigating ways to address this as well.

Committee Member Sterner asked if there is education with the water conditioning vendors to look at models that do not use salt. Staff stated the largest focus is on reducing road salt in the state at the moment. Conversations are occurring with information shared once available.

Committee Member Sterner inquired about the private sector use of the road salts. Staff stated the Pollution Control Agency is addressing the need for education for private applicators to reduce use of salts.

Chair Lindstrom asked about the release frequency of the lake report. Staff stated the report is an annual summary and does not reflect every lake in the region. It is reflective of lakes that are participating in our program.

Committee Member Fredson inquired about the high level of engagement from Washington County in the lake monitoring program. Staff stated Washington County has been a great partner over the years.

Committee Member Sterner asked if each city and county receive the annual lake monitoring report. Staff stated participants receive a copy of the report. Each agency that sponsors a participant also receive a copy of the report. It is also available online and through the EIMS website.

Committee Member Sterner inquired about best practices. Staff stated we do not currently monitor for herbicides. We monitor for nutrients and chlorides. Best practices being promoted focus on stormwater practices for sediments, phosphorus and nitrogen.

2. General Manager Report

Two budget briefing tours have been scheduled as a follow up to the forums held earlier this year.

- **Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant**
2400 Childs Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106
Thursday, September 26, 2019 – 2:00PM to 4:00PM
- **Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant**
6957 County Road 101 E., Shakopee MN 55379
Thursday, October 3, 2019 – 2:00PM to 4:00PM

Space is limited. An email was circulated with details, if you have not received it, please let Susan Taylor know. Committee members are encouraged to attend as schedules allow and should RSVP by September 20.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary