

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

#### Committee Members Present:

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

#### Committee Members Absent:

Kris Fredson

#### 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, September 28, 2021 with the following roll call:

Aye: 4 Lindstrom, Vento, Wulff, Zeran  
Absent: 2 Fredson, Sterner

Chair's statement was read at the beginning of the meeting as follows:

**NOTICE:** The Metropolitan Council Chair has determined it is not practical or prudent to conduct in-person meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, committee members will participate in this meeting via telephone or other electronic means and the meeting will be conducted under Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021 at the date and time stated above. We encourage you to monitor the meeting remotely. If you have comments, we encourage members of the public to email us at [public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us). We will respond to your comments in a timely manner.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Without objection the agenda was approved.

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

Aye: 5 Lindstrom, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran  
Nay: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 1 Fredson

Motion carried.

#### BUSINESS

**2021-261:** Design of a New Lift Station L32A, Contract #20P210

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Contract #20P210 with Brown and Caldwell to provide services for the design of the new lift station L32A in an amount not to exceed \$6,566,704.

Aye: 5 Lindstrom, Vento, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 1 Fredson

**Motion carried.**

**2021-262: Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Plat Approval**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to sign the final plat for the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Plat located at 3565 Kennebec Drive, Eagan, MN 55122.

Aye: 5 Lindstrom, Vento, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 1 Fredson

**Motion carried.**

**2021-265: MCES Process Bleach and Bisulfite Bulk Chemicals, Contract 21P122**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Zeran, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute Contract 21P122 with Hawkins, Inc., for bleach and bisulfite supply for a total award not to exceed \$5,400,000.

Aye: 5 Lindstrom, Vento, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 1 Fredson

**Motion carried.**

**INFORMATION**

1. Interceptor Program Management

Staff presented an overview of planning, condition assessment, maintenance scheduling, and capital improvement programming tasks performed by MCES in ensuring reliable interceptor wastewater conveyance. The presentation also included the performance measures used to assess the benefits of preventative maintenance in the system.

Comments and Questions:

Chair Lindstrom asked for clarification of cathodic protection. Staff stated it is the method used to protect the metal pipe.

Committee Member Zeran inquired if there have been any completed studies regarding key recovery on interceptor pipes to help reduce our carbon footprint. Staff shared there are studies on the United States and Canada on heat recovery. The Council does heat recovery from effluent at Eagles Point for our use. Looking for ways to do this elsewhere in our system.

Committee Member Wulff inquired what pipes looked like prior to 2009. Staff stated CCTV was done prior to 2009 but did not have information available at the time of the meeting. Conditions continue to improve.

2. Chloride Impacts

Staff presented an overview of chloride impacts. Chloride is found in commonly used products such as table salt and road salt. It is very easy to dissolve these salts in water. Once in the environment, chloride does not break down and it is toxic to aquatic life and disrupts normal lake processes such as turnover. Chloride concentrations are steadily increasing in metro area rivers and streams, lakes, and shallow groundwater. Because of the increasing trends and negative impact on aquatic life, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) set water quality standards for chloride. Wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) are conduits for, not sources of, chloride.

Source reduction is the best option for managing chloride. Chloride effluent limits in MCES WWTP NPDES permits are not anticipated in the foreseeable future. However, the Rogers WWTP's NPDES permit includes an intervention limit and a requirement for a chloride reduction plan. Finally, chloride is very challenging for wastewater reuse. MCES is getting ahead of the chloride issue would be technically very challenging, extremely expensive, and would result in concentrated brine for which there is no feasible disposal option. Because source reduction is the key to chloride management and would involve partnerships with local water providers, MCES is preparing for stakeholder engagement with these potential partners. An internal team has been preparing chloride management alternatives information such as cost estimates and benefits. Chloride will be one of the issues the 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan Advisory Group will address.

#### Comments and Questions:

Committee Member Vento commented it is good know MCES is focused and working hard on this issue. Are there other regions in the country that have addressed this and could provide guidance? Are there also other industries that recognize the challenges faced with chloride in their products? Staff stated the Madison Wastewater District is addressing the chloride issue. They discharge from their wastewater plant to a small stream that is impaired for chloride and MCES' internal team has relied on their work. They have done analysis and cost estimating that staff have discussed with them. They have turned to source reduction and are working through that. Our Industrial Waste division began monitoring for chloride for our permitted users to get a handle on industrial users. MCES' internal team will recommend to ES leadership that MCES work with MNTAP on chloride reduction programs for industries. What can individuals do? Staff stated those with softeners can evaluate the setting to help control how much salt is released to the system. If we "set it and forget it", too much salt could be released to the system unnecessarily.

Committee Member Sterner commented this was a timely presentation. He recently went on a Clean Water tour of the state. Pipestone has won awards for central softening at its water treatment plant. Central softening by water providers is something to look at; maybe work with City partners to see if it could work. He suggested if we had a program like this, much like the program that replaces 5-gallon toilets, it could make an impact.

Committee Member Wulff stated educating on a statewide level to work toward a solution is a great opportunity. Working with the Pollution Control Agency might be a place to start.

### 3. General Manager Report

No report at this time.

If Committee members have items they would like brought before this committee, please let [leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us) know.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

## **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee Meeting of September 28, 2021.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary