

Amended Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair, Harry Melander, Gary Van Eyll; Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Absent:

Lona Schreiber

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. Tuesday, September 23, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wendy ~~Wolff~~ Wulff, seconded by Marie McCarthy to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Wendy ~~Wolff~~ Wulff, seconded by Marie McCarthy to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, September 9, 2014 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

SW - 2014-235 Authorization to Award and Execute a Contract for Construction of 1-GV-461 Relief Lift Station L-81 Project 805730, Contract 13P258

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Edward Reynoso that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract to construct 1-GV-461 Relief Lift Station L-81 Project 805730, Contract 13P258, with Engineering and Construction Innovations (ECI) for their low, responsive bid of \$12,981,825. **Motion carried.**

2014-236 Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for Effluent Pump Repair at the Metro Plant

It was moved by Gary Van Eyll, seconded by Wendy Wulff that the Metropolitan Council ratifies the attached justification for and declaration of emergency for effluent pump repair at the Metro plant. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. Water Resources Policy Plan Update –

Public outreach meetings have been scheduled for three dates in October.

Tuesday, October 21, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Eagan Community Center in Eagan

Thursday, October 23, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Brookview Community Center in Golden Valley

Thursday, October 30, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Shoreview Community Center in Shoreview

Formal announcements will be sent to Committee members who are encouraged to participate in these events.

Staff spent time reviewing each section of the plan with the Committee stating an executive summary will be prepared by Communications and included with the final plan. A suggestion was made to add verbiage on page 2 expressing water availability for agricultural irrigation. Staff stated

water sustainability is being evaluated for all areas including agricultural needs adding the verbiage would help clarify the need. Concerns were brought up with the proposed SAC affordable housing credit, discussed during the prior meeting. Committee members expressed a desire to continue to work with the APWA and CEAM members who submitted letters about concerns with the master water supply planning efforts. There was a question about the proposed targeted stormwater grant program and whether or not it should be funded by tax levy money if watersheds are funding similar work. It was explained we are still working on the details of the grant program but the thought is it would fund best management practices and monitor those practices for the effectiveness. They would serve as demonstration projects. A suggestion was made to not focus only on White Bear Lake on page 13. We should list multiple sites to emphasize the focus on the region rather than solely White Bear Lake. The Committee inquired as to when we would be able to do more water reuse and whether we are required to wait for the Department of Health or other state agencies to approve new requirements to allow more of this to happen. Staff stated it depends on the type of reuse being proposed. The agencies have been meeting and discussing reuse requirements. An example of the type of discussions being worked on is the need to modify the plumbing code to allow some types of reuse. There should be changes soon that will allow more types of reuse. This committee will be kept aware of anything that transpires.

Committee comment included a desire to have the DNR water supply plan requirements included in the appendices. Staff stated the revised water supply plan requirements which DNR is responsible for updating may not be available when the draft plan is ready to be presented. Public input will be sought on the DNR segment once it becomes available. If it is not available, it will be included in the planning handbook. There was discussion on the amount of time communities will have to respond to the draft plan as part of the upcoming outreach meetings. The Council will continue to collaborate to update and develop plans.

Staff asked for feedback of the Committee as to whether we should include a link to the draft plan with the invitations being sent to decision makers for the upcoming public meetings. Those present agreed to include the link.

2. General Manager's Report –

Invitations will be forthcoming for the Water Resource Policy Plan meetings. Committee members are encouraged to attend the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary