

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Reynoso, Letofsky, Chávez, Elkins, Munt, Schreiber, Rummel, McCarthy, Wulff, Rodriguez, Tchourumoff

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Tchourumoff called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:06 on Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Chávez to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Letofsky to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2017 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Wastewater Reuse Policy Review

Jeannine Clancy and Deborah Manning presented on the wastewater reuse policy review. In March 2017, the Council authorized the Wastewater Reuse Policy Task Force to review the Council's existing wastewater reuse policies and recommend clarifications needed to respond to opportunities for wastewater reuse. The Task Force met from April to November, and submitted a report to the Council in December 2017. The Task Force reached consensus on the following items: reasons for MCEs' wastewater reuse program, responsive approach, cooperation and partnership rather than competition, cost-of-service basis for reclaimed water rate, regional benefit evaluation, and seeking funding from non-Council sources. The Task Force did not reach consensus on the issue of regional cost share for wastewater reuse projects with a regional benefit. Council members discussed the opportunities, benefits, and challenges related to wastewater reuse. Clancy and Manning shared three alternative amendments to the *Water Resources Policy Plan's* chapter on "An Integrated Strategy for Water Resources." Alternative number 1 is no regional cost share, alternative number 2 includes regional cost share based on regional environmental and development benefits, and alternative 3 includes regional cost share based on regional wastewater system benefit only. Council members discussed the alternatives. The next step is for the Council to authorize a public hearing on the proposed wastewater reuse-related amendments; this is scheduled to be addressed at the February 14, 2018 Council meeting. Policy amendments are scheduled to be addressed at the May 9, 2018 Council meeting.

25x25 Minnesota's Water Quality Improvement Goal Update

Emily Resseger provided an update on the 25x25 initiative. The Governor's goal is to see a 25% improvement in Minnesota's water quality by the year 2025. The 25x25 initiative is a call to action to provide flexible goals for each of Minnesota's eight local watershed regions; the individuals regions decide what pollutants to address and strategies to deploy. An interagency team including EQB, MPCA, MDH, MDA, BWSR, and the Met Council have been working on the project and held 10 town hall meetings across the state (Governor Dayton attended 8 of the 10 meetings). Four regional stakeholder meetings were held in the metro area.

Comments from meeting participants addressed a wide range of issues and focused on actions and strategies rather than goals. Next steps will include working with the Governor's office on putting together actions.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:30PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary