

# Minutes

Environment Committee



**Meeting Date:** October 25, 2022

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Steet

## Members Present:

Chair, Peter Lindstrom D11  
 Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff D16

Raymond Zeran, District 9  
 Susan Vento, District 11

Kris Fredson, District 14  
 Phillip Sterner, District 15  
 = present, E = excused

## Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

## Agenda Approved

It was moved by CM Vento, seconded by CM Wulff to approve the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

## Approval of Minutes

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Sterner to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2022 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

## Consent Business

**2022-261 JT: City of Mendota 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 22550-1** (Patrick Boylan 651-602-1438, Angela Torres 651-602-1566, Kyle Colvin, 651-602-1151) Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:

Recommendations of the Community Development Committee

1. Authorize the City of Mendota to place its 2040 Comprehensive Plan into effect.

2. Advise the City to

a. Within 60 days after receiving final DNR approval, the City must adopt the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) Plan and submit a copy of the final adopted plan and evidence of adoption to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Council, and National Park Service within 10 days after the adoption.

b. The city needs to send the Council the dates the Local Water Management Plan was approved by the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District and the Lower Mississippi River Water Management Organization, and the date the City adopted the final Local Water Management Plan.

c. Implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Forecasts. Recommendation of the Environment Committee

3. Approve the City of Mendota's Comprehensive Sewer Plan

**It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Vento.**

**Motion carried.**

## **Non-Consent Business**

### **2022-266SW: Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant Services Building and Site Improvements, Contract 21P015 (Tim Amstutz, 651-602-1221)**

It was moved by CM Sterner, seconded by CM Wulff that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Contract 21P015 with Adolfson & Peterson Construction to design and build the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant Services Building and Site Improvements project, in an amount not to exceed \$47,126,000.

#### **Discussion**

Chair Lindstrom asked: Any thoughts on why we only received one bid instead of three?

Staff responded: Environmental Services will have a total of three in a few years. It is an interesting and innovative contracting approach to allow for that. With this project we received 6 proposals and they were reviewed on the given criteria. Three were short listed, we had a complete range. The remaining three were then invited to respond to the follow up proposal. One firm had a change in staffing, and marketing condition and made the decision to not proceed in the process. The other firm failed to submit the proposal by the deadline. We received a quality proposal that we felt met our needs.

CM Sterner asked: What was the timetable for getting a qualified bid back?

Staff responded: We started with around 60-90 days initially, and then they asked for an extension. During the procurement process, we listened and responded to the request. If they had a rational for the extension, we would grant it. We wanted to help them out as much as we possibly could.

Motion carried.

### **2022-278: Metro Water Conservation Utilizing MnTAP Interns, Contract 14I007 Amendment No. 5 (John Clark 651-602-1452, Ali Elhassan 651-602-1066)**

It was moved by the consensus that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 5 to Contract 14I007 with Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) at University of Minnesota to extend contract until December 31,2025 and to increase the contract in an amount not to exceed \$315,500 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,062,500

#### **Discussion**

Chair Lindstrom asked: Is this entirely funded by the Clean Water Fund?

Staff responded: Yes, Mr. Chair

CM Sterner asked: How many companies have been recommended for the service or applied for the service since it started?

Staff responded: In 2022, at the beginning of the program when they advertised, they received about 9 applications and only had five spots. The remain four are put on the short list for next year. Over the years the number of years the participation of companies go up and down, for example during the pandemic. It's now not only the business but anyone who is seeing issues with their water use or energy use and they want to hire an intern via MnTAP.

General Manager Leisa Thompson: I wanted to thank Ali and John for their partnership and all that they've done in helping achieve our vision of, "Clean water for future generations." She wished Ali good luck as he moves on to the next chapter of his career in California.

**Motion carried.**



## Information

### **EPA Annual DBE Report** (Ashanti Payne, 612-349-7660)

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEEO) presented the EPA Annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Report. The presentation discussed, DBE utilization on Environmental Services (ES) projects, Women Business Enterprises (WBE), and Minority Business Enterprises (MBE).

#### **Discussion**

CM Stern: Is there a way to encourage more people to certified?

Staff: Yes, that is a focus being supported by our new unit in OEEEO. It something we are actively encouraging and measuring in our directory. We also offer resources to business who are not certified or aware of the certification.

### **East Bethel Reclaimed Water Performance Update** (Karla Karls, 651-602-8763, Dan Henely 651-602-8085, Jason Peterson 651-602-1614)

The East Bethel Reclaimed Performance Update presentation discussed detailed background information on its facility that began operating in 2014 and serves as a demonstration facility for water reuse. The presentation highlighted wastewater sources, treatments & discharge, reuse treatment requirements, as well as treatment performances. Groundwater monitoring will continue and its impacts will be reported annually by MCES.

#### **Discussion**

CM Zeran asked: Can you give us any information about how much solids are trucked from the plant?

Staff responded: We are currently trucking about three truckloads of semi solid liquids, perhaps four a week out of the facility. We are located next to a trucking company, so it's kind of an industrial area with a lot of trucking traffic.

CM Zeran asked: Of the bio solids that we are taking out, where are they going?

Staff responded: They are going to the Fridley station currently.

## Reports

Leisa Thompson, General Manager of Environmental Services stated: There is a lot of good work being done by staff, to achieve our goal of clean water for future generations. We had some challenges but in the end all the regions will benefit from being able to demonstrate and work with resolving the challenges that come with treating water at this level.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of October 25, 2022.

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### **Council Contact:**

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