

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 with the following roll call:

Aye: 4 Lindstrom, Fredson, Wulff, Zeran
Absent: 2 (joined after roll call) Sterner, Vento

Governor Walz notice was read at the beginning of the meeting as follows:

NOTICE: Governor Walz has declared a peacetime emergency (Emergency Executive Order 20-01) in response to COVID-19 and the Metropolitan Council Chair has determined it is not practical or prudent to conduct an in-person meetings for reasons stated in the Governor's Emergency Executive Order. 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. We will respond to your comments in a timely manner.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Without objection agenda was approved.

It was moved by Sterner seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021, regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Vento, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

None at this time

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

1. 2021-104: 2021 Odor Control Media Procurement, Contract 20P306

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Vento that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 20P306 with Purafil, Inc c/o MNX, Inc and Pure Air Filtration for the purchase of odor control media items in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Vento, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

2. 2021-105: Metropolitan Council HVAC, Piping, Mechanical, and Sheet Metal Services Rejection of Bids, Contract 20P240

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Zeran that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to reject all bids for HVAC, Piping, Mechanical, and Sheet Metal Services for all MCES Locations, Contract 20P240 and resolicit bids for this contract.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Vento, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

3. 2021-106: Metropolitan Council Mechanical Pipefitting Services Rejection of Bids, Contract 20P225

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to reject all bids for mechanical pipefitting services for all MCES locations, Contract 20P225 and resolicit bids for this contract.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Abstain: 0
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Interagency Cooperative Agreement for Surface Water Quality Monitoring

Dan Henely, Assistant Manager, Water Resources provided an informational item related to an interagency cooperative agreement for surface water quality monitoring that will soon be put into place. This item informed the Committee members about the agreement and outlines a joint approach between the Metropolitan Council and the state agencies responsible for surface water monitoring. The cooperative agreement details the various programs and their goals, highlights each organization's unique role in surface water monitoring, as well as highlights opportunities for collaborations going forward. In the agreement, the Council's work to monitor and assess the Metro Area's lakes, rivers, and streams is highlighted for its long-term and reliable programs in the Metro Area that complement and integrate with state-wide programs and efforts. This agreement has no funding attached to it but does reference other existing agreements between organizations. No decision is needed at this time.

Comments and Questions:

- Chair Lindstrom inquired where more collaboration can be done. Staff stated the Pollution Control Agency has been a prevalent collaboration. We are making progress in addressing potential duplication of efforts and making strides on the data we collect as well as what is collected by others. Does Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) need to be part of this or how do they fit in to this? Staff stated they have a representative on the

monitoring assessment sub-team but have elected to not participate in this program. What about the Environmental Quality Board? Staff stated he will investigate a little more on their status. ADDENDUM POST MEETING: Staff clarified the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is a group that does consist of agency leaders, staff, public appointees, and agency technical representatives, but they do not have surface water monitoring programs attributed to that group. The EQB does represent another collaborative and integrated approach across agencies, but their focus is primarily on environmental review for complex projects across the state and statewide water plans. This agreement does include many of the EQB member-agencies in coordinating the monitoring aspect.

- Committee Member Sterner inquired about soil and water and county governments. Staff stated the statewide programs outside of the metro area are working at the local level. The document does not specifically identify how they should engage. We are engaged with the metro area watershed districts.
- Chair Lindstrom stated with the number of lakes, streams, and rivers we are monitoring, it is good we have a seat at the table as of this cooperation agreement.

2. General Manager Report

The Cooperative Agreement is a great partnership example that demonstrates the other water agencies have confidence in us and will utilize our data, so we are able to avoid duplication.

General Manager Thompson commented on the earlier discussions about how we can advance equity within our business. We are committed to advancing and rethinking how to achieve our equity goals. Council Member Sterner stated he appreciates the path we are on and Chair Lindstrom also expressed his support of our efforts.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee Meeting of April 27, 2021.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary