

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair, Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Excused:

Marie McCarthy, Harry Melander, 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 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

Agenda amended to allow MAWSAC Report on Water Supply Planning Activities to be presented as first item of business prior to consent agenda.

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Edward Reynoso to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Edward Reynoso to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2017-49, 2017-50, 2017-51)

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Edward Reynoso to approve the consent agenda business items. **Motion carried.**

1. 2017-49 Vadnais Heights & Maplewood Interceptor Rehabilitation
That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for Vadnais Heights & Maplewood Interceptor Rehabilitation, Project 808810, Contract 16P177, to Lametti & Sons, Inc. for their low responsive responsible bid of \$11,352,022.00.
2. 2017-50 Facility Plan for Brooklyn Park and Champlin Regional Sewer Rehabilitation
That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for the Brooklyn Park and Champlin Regional Sewer Rehabilitation Project No. 809300 per Resolution No. 2017-1.
3. 2017-51 Interceptor Improvements Construction Cooperation Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation
That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a construction cooperation agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for maintenance access structure construction at interceptor crossings of interstate I35W within the City of Minneapolis, project number 807645.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

1. 2017-47 2017 Regional Stormwater Innovation Grant Program
It was moved by Edward Reynoso, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council approves the process for 2017 stormwater innovation

grants described in Attachment A, and authorizes staff to advertise the availability of grant funding and solicit applications for the 2017 grants. **Motion carried.**

2. 2017-48 Disposition of Surplus Property in South Saint Paul
It was moved by Edward Reynoso, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to re-convey property that was part of the original South Saint Paul Wastewater Treatment Plant site to the City of South Saint Paul at no cost in accordance with the original acquisition agreement. **Motion carried.**
3. 2017-52 University of Minnesota Phosphorus Study
It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Edward Reynoso that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to enter into a contract with the University of Minnesota for \$605,108 to conduct an evaluation of metro sewage sludge incinerator ash as a phosphorus source for crop production. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. MAWSAC Report on Water Supply Planning Activities:

Dean Lotter, MAWSAC Committee member and City Manager at the City of New Brighton and Lanya Ross, Environmental Analyst for MCES, presented a summary of the MAWSAC report on water supply planning activities required to the Metropolitan Council and to the legislature February 15, 2017.

The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) consists of 18 members and also has a technical advisory committee (TAC) they have appointed. MAWSAC is made up of representatives from state agencies, counties, municipalities and utilities and was created by statutory legislation in 2005 (MN Statute Section 473.1565); the TAC was created by an amendment to that legislation in 2015. The purposes of MAWSAC is to assist and guide Council water supply planning activities, approve the Master Water Supply Plan, and appoint the technical advisory committee.

Why worry about water supplies? We do not have an endless supply of water even though Minnesota is the Land of 10,000 Lakes. There are four extensive aquifers in the metropolitan area in Wright, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington Counties. Surface water resources are available through the St. Croix, Minnesota, and Mississippi Rivers. Other opportunities for reuse or recycling water through stormwater and wastewater collection and treatment. An average home can collect over 600 gallons of water during a moderate rain event rather than depleting water supplies.

More groundwater is being used compared to surface water today. In the 1970's and 1980's the Twin Cities utilized about the same amount of water from both sources. Public water systems represent 76% of users drawing on water supply. It makes sense to focus planning efforts on those local authorities. About 350 million gallons of water are used per day. It is anticipated we will increase by about 100 million gallons per day by 2040 due to an anticipated 30% population increase.

A target of 90 gallons per person per day of water usage from 125 gallons per day would make a big difference to assure we are having a sustainability impact on our water supply.

Other cities have been engaged in water conservation efforts. The City of Woodbury has engaged in a process that has saved a large amount of water. Shoreview has invested in software. Collaborative efforts have been introduced in the cities of Burnsville and Savage on drinking water supplies.

Future work needs support. Funding, efficiency, wise use of water, workable solutions, and collaboration for better results are important. By supporting local leadership and collaboration, our shared water supplies will sustain us through the challenges ahead.

Comments and Questions:

What would it take to reduce from 125 to 90 gallons per day? Committee Member Lotter indicated water conservation programs could be developed in communities. Taking small steps can make an impact. Capture rain water for watering lawns, shut the water off while brushing teeth, taking shorter showers are easy ways impacts can be made. Being careful of how we are using water is important.

Is there conversation at the legislature regarding the pricing of water? Nothing has been heard at the moment. Doesn't mean it isn't occurring. An update to the water rates study has been uploaded to the [website](#). With a tool developed, up to 3 different cities can be compared to see how pricing effects water rates in a community.

With water issues in Blaine, have we offered any support to Blaine? Metropolitan Council has not had a role in the resolution. That has been getting handled by the local officials and sounds like it may be a software issue. If there is assistance that could be offered, it would be helpful.

2. General Manager Report:

Attended NACWA Winter Conference and Board meeting. Focus was on affordability, which is getting a lot of attention across the county due to the costs of water and wastewater together have been going up. Rate increases across the country are averaging 3%. Minnesota is better positioned than some. Minnesota is in the \$600 range versus the \$700 range for others.

Two plant tours with members of Metro Cities occurred on February 10 at the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant. Great turn out. Committee members would be interested in seeing the Control Center at the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant. This can be included in future tours.

Months of continuous effluent compliance through December 2016 are as follows:

- Hastings – 26 years, 10 months
- St. Croix Valley – 17 years, 9 months
- Blue Lake – 11 years, 10 months
- Eagles Point – 11 years, 3 months
- Metro – 5 years, 2 months

Three plants have less than 5 years of continuous compliance and include:

- Empire had a misapplication of sludge in Oct. 2015.
- Seneca exceeded total residual chlorine limits in their permit in April, 2016. A Root-Cause Analysis was conducted for this issue and fixes put in place.
- East Bethel exceeded total coliform limits in their permit in October, 2016. Root-Cause Analysis has been conducted for this issue and fixes put in place.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary