

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: February 27, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

Chair, Peter Lindstrom, D10
 Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff, D16

Tyronne Carter, District 3
E Yassin Osman, District 7
 Anjuli Cameron, District 8

Diego Morales, District 9
 Gail Cederberg, District 11
 = 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

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 Carter to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 and February 13, 2024 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted (2024-43)

1. **2024-43: Purchase of Bulk Ferric Chloride, Contract 23P153** (Joe Ward, 651-602-8302)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P153 with Hawkins, Inc. to provide bulk ferric chloride at MCES Wastewater Treatment Plants in an amount not to exceed \$6,990,000.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2024-54: Master Contract for Engineering Services: Electrical & Steam Turbine Generator- Rejection of Proposals** (Katherine Heflin 651-602-1077, Craig Edlund 651-602-8383)

It was moved by CM Morales, seconded by CM Carter, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to reject all proposals for contract 23P048.

Discussion

CM Carter asked: Has the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal been missed in the past? How often does something like this happen?

Staff responded: This is very unusual. To my knowledge this is the first time it has happened. There is typically a normal workflow but in this situation a glitch occurred that IS looking into. It

bypassed the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) so they didn't have a chance to review it. We are looking into the entire system to ensure we close the gaps and that this doesn't happen again.

CM Wulff asked: What was the DBE goal supposed to be?

Staff stated: I cannot state at the moment due to the public nature of this meeting, but I can share this at a later time.

CM Cederberg asked: Did any of the selected proposals have DBE in their submission?

Staff responded: No they did not.

Motion carried.

2. **2024-56: Human Machine Interface (HMI) Software, Contract 22P273** (Roger Rehbein, Principal Engineer, 651-602-1568)

It was moved by CM Morales seconded by CM Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P273 with Inductive Automation, Inc. to provide Human Machine Interface (HMI) software, training, and support services in an amount not to exceed \$1,106,050.

Discussion

CM Cederberg asked: Is this a multi-year contract?

Staff responded: Yes, approximately half the cost would be for the actual license. The maintenance cost is 20 percent of the initial purchase price each year. The amount we will pay for this contract is far less than what we are currently paying.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Update on the Treatment Plant PLC/HMI Renewal Program** (Roger Rehbein 651-602-1568, Lon Coffey 651-602-8286)

Roger Rehbein, Principal Plant Engineer and Lon Coffey, Manager of Process Computer Groups presented an update on the treatment plant PLC/HMI renewal program. A Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) is an industrial computer that controls machines and processes. A Human Machine Interface (HMI) is a collection of software programmed to create visual displays which facilitates interaction between the process and the operator/attendant. Staff discussed that both PLC's and HMI's will need to be replaced. PLC' replacements are due to the fact that spare parts will no longer be available from the manufacturer. In addition, HMI's will need to be replaced because newer software packages offer better solutions for operations, more efficient support, and interface better with the new PLC hardware being installed.

Staff shared a high level schedule estimating that approximately 150 PLC's will be replaced over a 5-year period. Next steps include:

- Requesting bids for approximately 65 PLCs for Metropolitan, Seneca and Empire Wastewater Treatment Plants in the first quarter of this year – will come to you for action on those bids.
- 2025/2026 – Receive bids for remaining PLCs
- Award a Contract for a new HMI system. We came to you with a with a recommendation for that HMI system earlier in this meeting



2. **Waste Heat Recovery Project** (Sam Paske 651-602-1015, Jennifer Kostrzewski 651-602-1078)

Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager of Planning and Jen Kostrzewski, Assistant General Manager of Water Resources presented on the Waste Heat Recovery Project in collaboration with Ken Smith, CEO District Energy Saint Paul, and Russ Stark Chief Resiliency Officer, City of Saint Paul. This project would be accomplished by a partnership with the Metropolitan Council, City of Saint Paul, and District Energy, the heat provider for the city's downtown area.

A waste heat recovery unit is an energy recovery heat exchanger that transfers heat from process outputs at high temperature to another part of the process for some purpose, usually increased efficiency. Saint Paul is home to the Metro Plant, Minnesota's largest Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), and District Energy St. Paul, the nation's largest hot water district heating system. A 60-megawatt heat recovery system that pulls thermal energy from Metro's effluent prior to discharging in the Mississippi River.

Staff discussed some potential project benefits as follows:

- First application in North America
- Offset the approximately 50% of District Energy's annual heating load currently provided by fossil fuels.
- Reduces co-pollutant emissions improving local air quality.
- Causes minimal impact to Metro Plant operations
- Generate revenue for the Council.
- Position the City of Saint Paul, District Energy, and the Metropolitan Council as an innovative leaders in climate solutions and heat energy recovery.

This project is estimated to cost approximately 100 million dollars. The Grant Pollution Reduction Grant is hoped to be used in funding this project. The application deadline for this grant is April 1, 2024 with funding being awarded in October 2024. Next Steps include:

- Continue to work with District Energy and the City of Saint Paul to establish a system design and contractual agreements.
- Support the City of Saint Paul and District Energy in their application for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application.
- Funding decisions will come back from the Environmental Protection Agency in July 2024.
- We will come back to share progress with Council Members.
- Decarbonize a large portion of Saint Paul

Reports

General Managers Report: Leisa Thompson, General Manager of Environmental Services, concluded the meeting by sharing her optimism and excitement regarding the progress of the Waste Heat Recovery Project. Thompson stated, "This is an idea that has been around and we'd hoped would have a dream team to carry out, timing is everything and this looks to be the right time."

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of February 27, 2024.

Council Contact:

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