

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair

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, March 9, 2021 with the following roll call:

Aye:	5	Lindstrom, Fredson, Vento, Sterner, Zeran
Nay:	0	
Absent:	1	Wulff

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 Metropolitan Council meeting for reasons stated in the Governor's Emergency Executive Order. Accordingly, Metropolitan Council members will participate in this meeting via telephone or other electronic means and the Metropolitan Council meeting will be conducted under Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021 at the date and time stated above. This [meeting will be streamed live and recorded](#). We encourage you to monitor the meeting remotely. If you have comments, I 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 Vento to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021, regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

Aye:	5	Lindstrom, Fredson, Vento, Sterner, Zeran
Nay:	0	
Absent:	1	Wulff

Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

There were no items on the consent agenda for this meeting.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

- 2021-63: Electrical Maintenance Services at MCES Facilities, Contract 20P205

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Zeran that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with Premier Electrical Corporation to provide electrical maintenance services at Environmental

Service facilities for an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000 for a term of 5 years.

Aye: 5 Lindstrom, Fredson, Vento, Sterner, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Wulff

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Water Sector:

Roger Knuteson, Manager, Process Computer shared an information item related to cybersecurity. Safe water is a prerequisite for protecting public health, and essential to modern life and the Nation's economy. There are many aspects in providing safe water. This item addresses the necessary Cybersecurity considerations needed within a water facilities' computer control system for process equipment as well as look at the recent Oldsmar Florida water treatment plant cyber-attack. Lessons learned parallel the cybersecurity practices already implemented in the computer control systems within the Environmental Services Wastewater collection system and treatment plants.

Comments/Questions:

Chair Lindstrom stated the presentation shared "good cybersecurity hygiene" and a great presentation.

Committee Member Vento said the presentation was fascinating and that she has been interested in the last several months. From the reading of the regular emails received, has there been an uptick in sensitivity. Staff confirmed yes, there has been. The email only reports hardware and software manufacture recently discovered vulnerabilities. There are other reports that showed there were 111 such types on attacks in the last six months of 2020. There are over 54,000 water providers for communities with a population of 50,000 or less. Many of these smaller utilities do not have the needed resources to be cyber secure. More communities are reluctant to report cyber-attacks.

Committee Member Vento inquired about the February 2 data breach and when the data breach was discovered. Staff stated the database was leaked and discovered by the cybercrime community on February 2, three days before the cyber-attack.

Chair Lindstrom asked about the impact of 11,100 parts per million of lye going into Tampa Bay? Staff stated this is drinking water and it would go into the taps of community members. It is very caustic and would make people very sick.

Chair Lindstrom stated he was glad we took measures to protect our system last fall. Staff concurred.

2. General Manager Report

No report at this time.

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 4:51 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee Meeting of March 9, 2021.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary