

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair; Phillip Sterner; Susan Vento; Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Kris Fredson

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Vice Chair Wulff called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2019.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Phillip Sterner to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Phillip Sterner, seconded by Susan Vento to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2019, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2019-198 JT, 2019-199 JT)

It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Phillip Sterner to approve the consent agenda business items. Motion carried.

1. 2019-198 JT: City of Excelsior 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22016-1

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of Excelsior's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

2. 2019-199 JT: City of West St. Paul 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Review File 22157-1 and Comprehensive Sewer Plan

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of West St. Paul's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Require the City to submit to the Council a copy of the final adopted Ordinance that requires the disconnection of any identified prohibited discharges to the sanitary sewer system.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

4. 2019-202: Final Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for Flood Mitigation of Environment Services Wastewater Treatment Plants

It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Raymond Zeran that the Metropolitan Council ratifies the Emergency Declaration attached to the

business item for flood mitigation at Environmental Services Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) in the final amount of \$233,596.64. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. MCES Flow Metering

Kyle Colvin, Manager, Engineering Programs and Ryan Vial, Assistant Manager, Interceptor Metering and Alarm presented an overview of the regional metering system. Information presented included characterization of the regional collection system including size, extent and the technology used to measure, collect, store and utilize flow data for various purposes but primarily for the allocation of regional flow to communities for cost allocation. System metering was tied to the fact that 99% of community flow allocation is based on metered flow data, and that over 75% of Environmental Services annual budget comes from the municipal wastewater charges to communities. Various types of metering technology were presented to the Committee, and the steps to validate the accuracy of the data collected. Examples were also shared with the Committee that demonstrated how regional metering have been used to identify local community inflow sources, that reflected potential cost increases to the community if left uncorrected.

Comments and Questions:

Staff clarified interceptors are pipes that are part of the system.

Committee Member Sterner requested a summary of the sources of revenue. Staff clarified that 77% of the revenue is a result of municipal wastewater charges, 15% sewer availability charge, 4% industrial waste charges, and the remaining 4% grant funding from the state.

Committee Member Zeran expressed his appreciation for the information shared. Are there any creative ideas put forward that might be useful in finding more inflow and infiltration that could help mitigate the infiltration? Staff stated the Council has an Inflow and Infiltration program in place that can identify peak flows in the system. This is helpful during wet weather events. It helps us be able to notify communities if needed to identify sources that could be addressed.

Vice-Chair Wulff clarified when the Inflow and Infiltration Program was started, the Council stepped up a televising program to evaluate the condition of pipes in the system to determine if this was a possible cause of infiltration. There were a few spots located. Communities televise their own pipes.

Committee Member Zeran asked if cities were receptive to the Program and are there other programs in the communities where Inflow and Infiltration is being evaluated? Vice-Chair Wulff stated communities are doing the same work educating residents and businesses that the Council does such as regarding flushable wipes, industrial discharge. The Council partners with Communities whenever possible. Staff shared an example with the City of West St. Paul who has been engaged in local Inflow and Infiltration mitigation efforts. They responded to significant storm events in 2014 with back ups in area homes. Prior to 2014, the City deployed multiple meters and identified areas that were problematic and addressed the concerns.

Committee Member Sterner asked about the determination process for the type of meter used. Where there was higher flow, how often are adjustments needed? Staff stated meter types include transit time meters clamp on the outside of the meter and area velocity meters. For data correction, some areas are more problematic than others.

2. Declaration of Emergency for Repair of Rosemount Interceptor 7112 and 9208

Adam Gordon, Manager, Interceptor Engineering provided an update on the emergency project to replace a section of the failed interceptor pipe conducted in Rosemount. The existing soils on-site consisted of a saturated silty clay. The conclusion as to why the pipe had failed was due to

improper installation. In recent years, Environmental Services has improved its specifications for installation of pipe and has improved construction observations.

Comments and Questions:

Committee Member Zeran expressed appreciation for the presentation with the visual props. He stated it appears we are learning from past failures.

Committee Member Sterner inquired if concrete piping would be installed in the system rather than plastic piping. Staff stated that plastic piping is difficult to install in deep applications and concrete pipe may have a role in a future pipe installation where corrosion is not an issue.

3. General Manager Report

General Manager Thompson provided a recap of the NACWA conference held in Minneapolis on July 18 and 19. Attendees expressed gratitude for the outstanding conference. Staff were involved several presentations during the conference sessions. A tour of the solids management building at the Metro Plant was conducted on a very hot Friday afternoon. Those who attended enjoyed the tour and hung in with the extreme heat index.

Peak Performance awards were presented at an awards reception on Thursday evening. There are 152 facilities across the country with 5 or more years of consecutive compliance. MCES has 6 facilities with Peak Performance:

- Hastings – 28 years
- St. Croix Valley – 27 years
- Eagles Point and Blue Lake – 13 years
- Empire – 11 years
- Metropolitan (Metro) – 7 years

There are 2 facilities across the country with more years of consecutive compliance:

- Hanover, NJ – 30 years
- Ames, IA – 29 years

Collectively our plants have reached perfect compliance total of 101 years. Our Platinum level plants have a total of 99 years of continuous compliance.

Of note:

- 3 of our facilities are working toward Platinum level compliance:
 - Seneca has received Gold status for 2 years of perfect compliance.
 - East Bethel has earned a Silver for the 4th consecutive years of compliance with no more than 5 violations in the calendar year.
 - Rogers came online in July 2019 and has not been evaluated.
- It takes all staff within MCES to help us reach this level of performance.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary