

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair; Kris Fredson; Phillip Sterner; Susan Vento, 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 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Kris Fredson, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2019, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

BUSINESS

1. 2019-125: ERS-04 & 1MN344 Tunnel Rehabilitation

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Susan Vento that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for project ERS-04 & 1MN344 Tunnel Rehabilitation, MCES Project No. 807629, Contract No. 18P431, with Lametti and Sons, Inc. for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$18,506,300.00.

INFORMATION

1. MCES 2019-2024 Capital Program:

Presented by Jeannine Clancy, Assistant General Manager, Technical Services; Rene Heflin, Manager, Plant Engineering; and Adam Gordon, Manager, Interceptor Engineering.

Actual costs of past capital ES projects and estimated costs of future ES projects were presented. The average of actual costs of ES capital projects for the past 4 years is \$125M per year. Looking forward, the average budget cost of ES capital projects for the next 6 years is \$165M per year.

In the current Capital Improvements Program, 87% of cost is associated with asset preservation, and 6% of cost is associated with capacity increases. Six (6%) of cost is associated with quality improvements, such as responding to more stringent regulations, reusing wastewater, increasing system reliability, and conserving and generating energy.

Capital Program Drivers include business process improvement, infrastructure coordination, environmental sustainability, customer service, performance assessment, condition assessment. Project funding comes from the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) Loans (\$45M each year), Council General Obligation Bonds, and Pay-As-You-Go, which is funded from current revenue (\$9M set aside for 2019).

Currently, ES has 43 projects under construction, which range from \$500k to \$25M.

The following major wastewater treatment plant projects/programs were presented by Rene Heflin:

1. Services and Analytical Laboratory Buildings Project
2. Metro Plant Solids Management Improvements
3. Rogers Wastewater Treatment Facility Acquisition; Crow River Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction
4. Empire Solids Improvements
5. Solids Management Assistance
6. Industrial Waste Pretreatment Incentive Program (IPIP)

The following major interceptor wastewater treatment plant projects were presented by Adam Gordon:

1. Brooklyn Park – Champlin Interceptor Renewal
2. Replacement Meter Vault M228
3. Coon Rapids L34 Improvements
4. Waconia Forcemain 7508 Phase 2 Replacement
5. Orono Area Lift Station & Force Main Improvements (L46 and L49)

Comments and Questions:

Chair Lindstrom requested clarification on temporary conveyance. How are the pumps powered, what is the noise level, how do we work with the neighbors? Staff stated MCES has diesel pumps that are used when work is being done in non-residential areas. In residential areas, electric pumps are used and connected to overhead power that are quiet, or hospital-type generators are used where there is no power source. We work with neighbors in the areas where these types of generators would be used.

Council Member Vento asked if it would be feasible to have a mini tour to see a project up close. Staff stated they would work to set something up and will follow up.

Council Member Fredson asked about preservation of assets versus other needs such as expansion. Does it vary year to year and is it based on need? Staff stated we have been able to balance the needs reflective of long-term system planning.

Committee Member Fredson asked what the internal process to prioritize projects. Staff stated our process currently involves working with business unit managers to determine long range planning. We are currently shifting to a facilities team approach to better determine needs while balancing the comprehensive planning process.

Chair Lindstrom commented there must be a great deal of communication with the Council, counties, and cities. He stated projects must be adjusted if needed to work in conjunction of their projects. Staff concurred.

Committee Member Fredson asked about the Waconia project. The line is under the former Highway 5. How does that work without going under the new Highway 5 during the build process? Staff stated Carver County and the City have determined a way to reconstruct the park. They are developing a different route for the utilities through the park. MNDOT also did not want the route under the new roadway. We collaborate to install the facilities while allowing the park to be utilized for a recreational facility.

Committee Member Sterner asked how much solar we have in our system. Staff stated they were unsure of the total solar use throughout our system, but thought it was approximately 10 megawatts. What is the percentage of our power? Staff will clarify and provide an energy picture to the Committee.

Committee Member Sterner asked if we will have staff attending information sharing in Sweden. Staff stated MCES representatives will not be attending.

Committee Member Sterner asked if we are aware of microplastics that are coming into the plants. What are we doing to address this? Staff agreed there are a lot of contaminants in the wastewater coming into the plants. MCES is focused on complying with current permit requirements. Staff recommended providing an information item at a future meeting to clarify what is being done to address microplastics and other contaminants of concern. General Manager Thompson stated we have often partnered with the University of Minnesota to address a variety of contaminants. MN Tap occasionally contacts us to help with research.

Committee Member Zeran asked how the public and private partnerships function in the industrial pretreatment incentive program (IPIP)? Who owns the facility once it is completed? Staff stated they will follow up. A suggestion was made to have information items on Solar and the Industrial Pretreatment Incentive Program (IPIP). Staff will arrange.

2. General Manager Report

Leisa was recently invited to visit Great Lakes Water Authority in Detroit. They are in the process of developing a regional water and wastewater utility. A handful of utilities from across the United States were invited to share leading practices. She stated their facility serves a 988 square mile service area with 1 plant in operation. It is the largest single site wastewater treatment facility in the United States with a current capacity to process 1700 million gallons per day. In comparison, MCES serves a 3000 square mile service area with 8 plants and an estimated combined design flow capacity of 358 million gallons per day including a portion that is part of a water reclamation facility. From an infrastructure perspective, it was insightful to see the significance that our sewer separation and inflow and infiltration program have made on the capacity needs for our region. All attendees learned a great deal and felt value in the shared insights.

Open houses for budget meetings in the community have been going well. They are transparent and useful. Next one is scheduled for June 6, 1:30 to 3:00 at the League of Minnesota Cities. Council members are encouraged to attend as schedules allow.

River levels have been going down over the past couple of weeks but has started to rise again with recent heavy rains and is anticipated to rise 3-4 feet in the coming weeks. The temporary road that had been built during the flooding of Child's Road a few weeks ago has been removed. At this time Child's Road heading to the Metro Plant is not expected to flood.

Effluent pumps have been running continuously 24 hours a day, 7 days a week since the end of March and are forecasted to be run this way for approximately 2-3 additional weeks until the river levels drop enough to no longer need them. Running the pumps at this capacity adds an additional \$3000 to \$4000 per day in electricity. Electricians continue to be staffed on site around the clock to address urgent needs that arise.

Blue Lake is once again running their effluent pumps as well.

Committee Member Fredson commented it might be helpful to address the removal of the temporary access road until it is determined additional flooding will not occur in order to minimize possible extra expenses during the season. Staff took this comment under consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary