

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Cara Letofsky, Marie McCarthy, Harry Melander, Edward Reynoso, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair

Committee Members Absent:

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 4:01 p.m. on Tuesday, August 28, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Cara Letofsky, seconded by Harry Melander to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2018 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2018-216 JT SW: Sole Source Procurement for e-Builder

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Cara Letofsky, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute a sole source procurement contract with e-Builder, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$1,820,000 over a 5-year period from September 2018 to November 2023 with cost divided between Environmental Services (\$1,183,000) and Metro Transit (\$637,000). **Motion carried.**

2018-220 JT: City of Landfall Village 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Review File 21800-1

It was moved by Marie McCarthy, seconded by Harry Melander, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee

1. Approve the City of Landfall's Comprehensive Sewer Plan component of the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.
2. Advise the City to implement the Environment Committee Advisory Comments on Page 2 of this report.

Motion carried.

2018-230: Empire Polymer Contract

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Edward Reynoso, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract to Polydyne, Inc. of Riceboro, GA to provide Clarifloc polymers at a unit price of \$0.89 per pound delivered to the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant. This contract will be for a period of two years with an option to extend for three additional one-year periods with the total procurement not to exceed \$1,000,000. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. MCES Intern Spotlight:

Karen Neis, Director of Administration, introduced two interns who shared a detailed summary of the projects they focused on over the course of the summer.

Erin Wetzstein, Intern, Environmental Quality Assurance presented her project on conducting a survey of the Empire Wetland using an approach developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency called Rapid Floristic Quality Assessment Approach to assess the health of the wetland and to use the results to inform management decisions. The restoration of the wetland has been a great environmental and financial asset to the Council so preserving it through proactive maintenance and monitoring is important. This wetland and the management practices in place can be used as a case study for future wetland projects undertaken by the Council, and as a demonstration project to show other organizations that a wetland restoration project can be a sound investment.

Catie Kollath presented on her summer contributions to the Support Services Strategy Mapping initiative, specifically within the Process Computing Group (PCG) team. This initiative was designed to define a clear purpose, vision, and set priorities for the next 2-5 years through a collaborative, visual process. The maps will help to align and focus staff on current work priorities, engage staff in defined goals, and enhance department communications regarding what we do with internal and external stakeholders. This project is being led by Cristine Leavitt and sponsored by Larry Rogacki.

Comments / Questions:

Committee Member McCarthy inquired of Ms. Wetzstein why there is a decline in native species between 2006 and 2018. Ms. Wetzstein stated that there were some disturbances when the Empire Plant Effluent Diversion Pipe was run through the wetland which may have allowed for other species to take over. Milkweed was a commonly found plant and it tends to out-compete other native species. She also stated that a prairie burn was conducted in 2017 and some species may have been present, but not visible during the walking survey that was conducted.

An inquiry by Committee Member Melander to Ms. Kollath asked about the number of employees that were interviewed as part of her project. Ms. Kollath stated 56 Environmental Services staff were interviewed.

Ms. Kollath stated the response rate to the survey inquiry was 32%. Committee Member McCarthy asked what a "good" percentage would be. Ms. Kollath stated she would prefer responses beat least 50%.

Committee Member McCarthy asked Ms. Kollath if strategy mapping has been conducted within Environmental Services before. As part of this project, Support Services has completed theirs. General Manager Thompson stated that during the strategic planning process in 2013-2014 work was begun at that time and continues to evolve leading to this mapping process.

Committee Members express appreciation for both Ms. Wetzstein and Ms. Kollath have put in to their projects and the passion they have for the subject matter. Congratulations to both of you as you continue to pursue your chosen career paths.

2. General Manager Report

No report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary