

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

#### Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Harry Melander, Lona Schreiber; Edward Reynoso

#### Committee Members Absent:

Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair, Marie McCarthy

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2015.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Lona Schreiber, seconded by Edward Reynoso to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Edward Reynoso, seconded by Lona Schreiber to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, August 11, 2015 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

#### CONSENT BUSINESS

Motion to approve consent agenda items 2015-214 and as amended 2015-216 by Edward Reynoso, seconded by Harry Melander. **Motion carried.**

**1. 2015-214: Authorization to Award and Execute a Contract for Construction of North Area Interceptor (NAI) Rehabilitation Phase 6, Project No. 808660, Contract 15P059**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract to construct North Area Interceptor (NAI) Rehabilitation Phase 6, Project No. 808660, Contract 15P059, to Insituform Technologies for their low, responsive bid of \$9,628,733.00.

**2. 2015-216: Authorization to Approve Contract Amendment with Allied Barton Security Services**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to amend contract 12P0024 with Allied Barton Security Services for an additional \$200,000 from \$786,245 to \$986,245.

#### NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

**3. 2015-215: Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Agreement to Purchase Land Adjacent to Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant**

It was moved by Edward Reynoso, seconded by Harry Melander that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an agreement to purchase land adjacent to the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant. **Motion carried.**

**4. 2015-209: Approval of changes to the Metropolitan Council Policy 3-2-5, Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) Management**

It was moved by Lona Schreiber, seconded by Edward Reynoso that the Metropolitan Council approve changes to the Metropolitan Council Policy 3-2-5 Sewer Availability Charge Management so that the General Manager, MCES and Council CFO may have discretion in

the frequency of community reviews in the event of excessive SAC determination requests or SAC staff shortages. **Motion carried.**

## INFORMATION

### 1. Master Water Supply Plan Summary of Public Comments –

Chair Rummel commended Lanya Ross for work well done on the summary of the public comments. The comments are categorized by themes as well as changes that resulted from the comments.

Principal Environmental Scientist Lanya Ross provided an update of the Master Water Supply Plan, including comments heard during the public review process and draft revisions being discussed with the Community Technical Work Group (CTWG). The timeline of what has occurred to this point follows:

- Spring 2014, meetings were held with city planning and utility staff to kick off the development process and learn more about what the updated Master Water Supply Plan should look like as well as how it should function.
- Summer of 2014, meetings were held with elected officials to hear perspectives on challenges, opportunities, and questions associated with the region's water sources.
- Winter 2015, meetings were held again with city staff to preview technical information in the draft plan and hold one-on-one meetings. Many emails and phone calls were exchanged to discuss technical work in more detail.
- Spring 2015, convened the CTWG which reviewed technical work and the plan in general in great detail.
- Summer 2015, the draft plan was released for public review. Informational meetings were held to answer questions about the draft.

What will be reviewed during this presentation is what was heard during the public review period with examples of how the plan may be revised based on comments heard.

The draft Master Water Supply Plan update was approved for public review on June 24, 2015 with public comments accepted through August 21, 2015. In summary, 17 individuals or organizations provided their comments on the draft plan during the public comment period. One individual provided oral testimony at the public hearing and the remaining submitted written comments. Individuals who contributed their comments represented a range of constituents, including:

- 12 City, Township, or Local Government
- 2 County Governments
- 3 Organizations

Comments were summarized and preliminary responses drafted by MCES staff, which were then shared with the CTWG, MAWSAC, and the Environment Committee, and will be shared with the Metropolitan Council on 9/9/15. Input from all committees will help shape the final responses which will be integrated into the final revised Master Water Supply Plan.

Common themes were summarized as follows:

- About 20% of the comments were related to roles and responsibilities.
- Approximately 15% provided information with which to update the local data reported in Appendix 1 (water supply profiles).

- 10% were about conservation.
- 10% were about collaboration.
- 10% were about coordination.
- The remainder were general comments and various other topics.

Comments received were overwhelmingly positive. Some examples include:

“We appreciate the work of the Metropolitan Council staff that developed the plan as well as the efforts of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Group (MAWSAC). **We commend you on developing a strong document and taking leadership** in renewing the Master Water Supply Plan. The plan should serve the region well.” – *City of Minneapolis*

“... the **process that integrated local subject matter experts** helped the Plan reflect the realities of the water "business" here in the Twin Cities area, and accordingly, will realistically guide water supply planning efforts to accommodate the expected growth in our region.” – *City of Shoreview*

“The City of Richfield commends the Metropolitan Council on its responsiveness to the regional concerns that were raised during the early development of the plan and its willingness to pause and reshape the direction of the plan. The City is also supportive of the Council's **holistic and integrated planning efforts** to develop the region in ways that are sustainable and cost-effective.” – *City of Richfield*

Commenters also suggested revisions to clarify information and to correct local data. A few examples, although not all inclusive, included multiple comments requesting more clarity about the roles of the Metropolitan Council and partners in implementing the Master Water Supply Plan as well as comments and text change requests to better describe the roles of counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Several commenters provided updated local information and requested additional information be included on community water supply profiles. A suggestion was made to revise the water supply profiles to include per capita residential water use, correct well information, and to include local notes where they have been provided. In addition, changes to the language were recommended so the water supply profiles sound less prescriptive.

Several commenters supported efforts to enhance water conservation and reuse work in the region, which has been a recurring theme heard throughout the plan development process. The plan did not previously discuss reuse of pollution containment water; however, a suggestion was made to include this in Chapter 7, Strategy 5. A good suggestion was made to consider partnering with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in the WaterSense program, which is proposed for inclusion in Strategy 5.

The value of collaboration was repeatedly mentioned in the comments. One example of where changes can be made is reflected in comments for Chapter 7, Strategy 4. It is proposed to revise and reflect a request that the Metropolitan Council support efforts to analyze the viability of regional partnerships (City of Ramsey).

Multiple comments asked for more clarification about how the Metropolitan Council and DNR work together to review plans and permits. The Council has been working closely over the past year with DNR to address some of these questions. One outcome is a more streamlined process for communities to submit local water supply plans and a more coordinated review process by the Council and DNR.

Next steps are:

- Revise the draft and finalize the plan.
- MAWSAC approval of content anticipated the week of September 14.
- Environment Committee approval and Council adoption the week of September 21.
- Implementation with partners after adoption.

Comments/Questions:

I read the letters and comments. The overall tone was positive throughout. It shows all the work and preparation that everyone did as well as the continual meetings paid off. I think we're on the right path. Terrific job. Great work. *Sandy Rummel, Chair, Environment Committee*

2. General Manager's Report –

Received word today that three permits are being issued on Friday, September 11, 2015. A Mississippi Basin Total Phosphorus Permit is being issued for 5 wastewater treatment plants which included Eagles Point, Empire, Metropolitan Plant, Seneca and Hastings which authorizes MCES to aggregate the total phosphorus loading limit established for the 5 wastewater treatment plants. A second permit is being issued for Hastings setting limits and monitoring requirements for mercury, phosphorus, nitrogen, total dissolved solids monitoring, and industrial stormwater. The third permit covers the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant setting limits and monitoring requirements for mercury, phosphorus, nitrogen, salty discharge, perfluorochemicals, conditional limits, and industrial stormwater. These permits allow us to look the facilities to time improvements to remove phosphorus based on projects and look at phosphorus as a whole for the plants. It is a good financial and environmental decision.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary