

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Marie McCarthy, Harry Melander, Lona Schreiber, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair, Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Absent:

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. on Tuesday, August 23, 2016.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Lona Schreiber to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2016 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2016-170: Construction Contract for Bloomington Interceptor Rehabilitation

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Marie McCarthy, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for construction of the Bloomington Interceptor Rehabilitation, Project No. 808060, Contract 16P079, with Geislinger and Sons, Inc. for their low responsive and responsible bid of \$5,702,756.02. **Motion carried.**

2016-171: Construction Contract for Richfield Interceptor– Airport

It was moved by Lona Schreiber, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for Richfield Interceptor – Airport, Project No. 808710, Contract 16P075, to Minger Construction, Inc. for their low, responsive bid of \$11,162,907.43.

Motion carried.

2016-172: Construction Contract for St. Paul – Phalen Interceptor Renewal

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Lona Schreiber, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for the St. Paul – Phalen Interceptor Renewal, Project No. 808820, Contract 16P128, to Visu-Sewer for their low, responsive bid of \$8,730,553.75. **Motion carried.**

2016-173: Construction Cooperation Agreement with the City of Golden Valley

It was moved by Lona Schreiber, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a construction cooperation agreement with the City of Golden Valley for forcemain replacement and relocation at Rhode Island Avenue and Medicine Lake Road, MCES Project No. 809087, Contract No. 16I024 in the requested amount of \$1,800,000.

Amended action to include requested amount of \$1,800,000.

Motion carried.

2016-174: Construction Contract for Shorewood Lift Station

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Edward Reynoso, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for construction of Lift Station L-18 and Meters M458A and M458B, Project No. 802855, Contract 16P077, with Magney Construction, Inc. for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$2,971,780.00. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. 2016 Environmental Services Intern Program:

Larry Rogacki, Assistant General Manager of Support Services introduced three individuals who served as interns over the summer.

Sara Bosak, graduated from Minnesota State University, Moorhead, with a B.A. in English with a technical writing emphasis. She has worked in academic and public library settings and worked in the college's library in the interlibrary loan department. She stated most of her tasks at the Regional Maintenance Facility were related to the "special library". She inventoried the library and gave it a deep cleaning. She sorted through the collection to remove duplicate copies and items such as VHS tapes no used. Materials not cataloged were inventoried. She was able to free up almost forth linear feet of space in the library (about 17% of the total space available). She has also been focusing on importing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) from Microsoft Word to Arbortext. In the last few months of her internship, she will continue to work on projects including optimizing space in the library, cataloging, making digital Operations and Maintenance Manuals more user friendly, continuing the Arbortext import project and authoring SOPs in the near future. Plans are to begin scanning Operations and Maintenance Manuals from the lift stations and compare with what is housed at the Regional Maintenance Facility. She stated the benefits of this internship have provided her an opportunity to use computer programs that are used in workplaces, gave her hands on experience, and it has allowed her to network with a group of people she wouldn't would not have been able to. She stated the internship was incredibly beneficial and a positive experience and is grateful for the opportunity.

Kendra Fallon interned with the Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention group focusing on veterinary clinics and their wastewater discharge. Kendra earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering from the University of Minnesota and a minor in Earth Science. Her graduate degree will be in Environmental Engineering of which she expects to graduate in May 2017. Her project was addressed following goals: (1) to understand the extent of wastewater discharges from veterinary clinics, including disposal practices for hazardous waste (2) to decide if veterinary clinics should be permitted by MCES and (3) to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for veterinary clinics. In order to meet these goals, a list was compiled of veterinary clinics within the Metropolitan Council's service area and added any new clinics to the internal database of customers. It was determined there are approximately 200 veterinary clinics in the metropolitan area, which includes humane societies, but not mobile or residential practices. Four initial inspections were done to gather general information used to compile a survey which was sent to all the veterinary clinics in our database. Once the surveys are returned they will be compiled and analyzed to determine if these clinics warrant permitting by Environmental Services. Regardless of the determination of permitting, BMPs will be developed and sent out to help the clinics properly dispose of hazardous waste. In addition to working on this project, Kendra also worked with the sewer cleaning waste hauler, or Vactor permit applicants and shadowed staff on inspections to a

number of different industries. One of the most beneficial aspects of this internship was meeting with ten different government employees to conduct informational interviews, and even getting a chance to meet Governor Mark Dayton. Kendra stated she had a great experience working for the Council this summer and was lucky enough to get extended part time until the end of the year. She will be walking away from this internship with new friends, new professional connections and a new level of excitement about what is to come in her career.

Ben Vargo interned with Community Programs within the Technical Services area of MCES this summer. He was a student at Macalester College and earned a degree in Urban Studies and GIS which he stated resided at the intersection of social and environmental sustainability. Ben's area of focus this summer was a strategic initiatives map that reflected initiatives occurred in communities that the Council had plans to meet with. Through this effort, staff is able to quickly see Council projects occurring in specific communities allowing them to better prepare for meetings and be able to answer questions. The map is interactive and allows a user to click on a symbol that will provide specifics about the project such as who the project manager is, project status and the specific location. Environmental Justice Screening is also available. This helps us understand community characteristics and helps the Council tailor project outreach efforts. Through this internship, Ben stated his GIS skills were deepened and broadened his thinking while applying them to new scenarios. He has built great relationships with the interns and supervisors and was offered a chance to continue in to the winter.

Comments/Questions:

- Ben brought out the numbers geek in members of the Committee. Has there been consideration doing per capita rather than household income when conducting Environmental Justice evaluation. Ben stated he has not, but stated he will address as it is an ongoing project.
- Committee members were impressed with the caliber of the interns represented and their knowledge and willingness to jump in to the work as well as staff for providing direction.
- Regarding the veterinary providers, how well were you received and do the providers have special permits? How did you learn about the intern program? Kendra stated they were received well. The MN Zoo and U of M have permits and were welcoming. Other facilities had questions and required communication to reassure purpose. Facilities were kept in the loop and provided information on what the project was about. Communication was important. The interns learned about the intern program through a job search website, through the U of M, or through the network of geographers at Macalester who are connected with the Metropolitan Council.
- How do mobile veterinary clinics dispose of hazardous waste? Unsure how this is occurring. Currently focusing on facilities before addressing mobile clinics.
- Committee members stated the interactive strategic initiative maps would be beneficial to have for public meetings. The library project has saved us a lot of space.
- All three of you brought something to the table and helped the Council think of our processes differently. Kudos to you for a job well done.

2. General Managers Report:

- Compliance – Seneca had a non-compliance issue after 15 years of compliance. Root cause analysis was done, changes were implemented, and identified improvements that

could be made. The likelihood of a repeat has gone down and made other facilities better in the process

- Six plants have been platinum compliance winners. It appears the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant may be earning platinum status next year and may replace Seneca on the list keeping us at six plants with platinum compliance awards.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary