

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair; Kris Fredson; Phillip Sterner; Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Susan Vento

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Vice-Chair Wulff called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Kris Fredson, seconded by Ray Zeran to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Ray Zeran, seconded by Kris Fredson to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2019-310 JT and 2019-352 JT)

It was moved by Kris Fredson, seconded by Ray Zeran to approve the consent agenda business items. Motion carried.

1. 2019-310 JT: City of Rosemount 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22286-1
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 Rosemount's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

2. 2019-352 JT: City of St. Francis 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22287-1
That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

Recommendation of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of St. Francis's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

3. 2019-355 SW: Authorization to Amend the 2019 Unified Budget
It was moved by Kris Fredson, seconded by Phillip Sterner that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the amendment of the 2019 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with Attachment A and authorize the amendment of the 2019 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the table attached to the business item. Motion carried.

4. 2019-358 SW: Maple Plain, Medina and Independence Improvements
It was moved by Phillip Sterner, seconded by Kris Fredson that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction Contract 19P258, for Maple Plain, Medina and Independence Improvements, MCES Project No. 808100 with Meyer Contracting for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$2,739,619.19. Motion carried.
5. 2019-359 SW: Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids Renewal & Improvements Project Rejection of Bids
It was moved by Ray Zeran, seconded by Kris Fredson that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to reject all bids for construction of Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Solids Renewal & Improvements, Project Numbers 805947 and 808920, Contract 19P187, and rebid the project. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Information Item: Water Resources Education & Outreach:
Jennifer Kostrzewski and Casandra Champion, Principle Environmental Scientists in the Environmental Quality Assurance section of Environmental Services shared the outreach and education efforts of Environmental Services Water Resources staff. Employees manage MCES-sponsored programs (Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program, Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program), collaborate with other ES business units (ES-Admin Workforce Development), partner with external state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations (Technical Advisory Committees, Twin Cities Water Monitoring and Data Assessment Group, Children's Water Festival, local universities,) to provide resources and materials to help achieve our primary goal of improving the water quality in the region. In the process of improving the water quality, the region also gains from the multiple benefits of our efforts including, but not limited to advancing water policy, equitable water education, and increasing regional water literacy and advocacy.

Comments and Questions:

Committee Member Fredson asked if staff have a list of attendees that have attended education and outreach functions. He appreciates and thanked the staff for the work that is being done. He stated he enjoyed the Metro Plant tour, Battle Creek and interceptor tours this past year.

Committee Member Wulff asked about brown trout in the Vermillion River and if there is a reason the river is stocked just before the fishing season begins. Staff stated the stocked Rainbow Trout population is added to the river each year for sport fishing. The current conditions of the Vermillion cannot sustain a reproducing population of Rainbows, so the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) needs to stock the fish annually. It does seem a little unfair to the fish to stock them so close to the fishing opener, it might not give them time to acclimatize. Water Resources staff can follow up and reach out to the DNR to find out their reasons for this schedule. The river conditions do support a reproducing population of Brown Trout, which are fun to catch as well.

2. General Manager Report
Collaboration efforts have been increasing and Committee Members should be seeing the connection between what is being presented at Committee of the Whole and Environment Committee efforts. We have many great scientists, technical staff who have been stepping up and presenting at a variety of meetings representing Environmental Services.

We are winding down for the year and feeling grateful for the staff in Environmental Services and for Committee Members for the work that has accomplished this year.

The Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government toured the Metro Plant on 12/10/19.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary