

**Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Committee Members Present: Sandra Rummel-Chair, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair, Harry Melander, Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber, Gary Van Eyll

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2013 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2013-335 Adoption of Facility Plan for Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids Processing Improvements, MCES Project No. 807500, Resolution No. 2013-44

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Schreiber that the Metropolitan Council adopt the facility plan for the Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids Improvements, MCES Project #807500, by Resolution No. 2013-44. **Motion carried.**

2013-336 Authorization to Award and Execute a Construction Contract for 1-MN-341 Interceptor Rehabilitation, MCES Project No. 807617, Contract No. 13P139.

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Reynoso that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for construction of the 1-MN-341 Interceptor Rehabilitation, MCES Project Number 807617, Contract No. 13P139, with Michels Pipe Services, a division of Michels Corporation, for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$7,349,623.00. **Motion carried.**

2013-337 Authorization to Acquire Permanent/Temporary Easements and File Condemnation Petitions, Elm Creek Interceptor Rehabilitation Phase 1 and Phase 2, Project No. 809062, Resolution 2013-45

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber that the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution 2013-45 that authorizes acquisition of permanent and temporary easements necessary for the Elm Creek Interceptor Rehabilitation Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects, and authorizes Council legal staff to initiate condemnation proceedings for those parcels that staff cannot acquire by negotiation. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) Grant Program Update

John Atkins, MCES Budget Manager, explained the program, the funding sources, and the types of properties and expenses that are eligible for grants. There are 50 cities that are eligible to participate.

2. City of Saint Paul Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Water Reuse

Brian Davis, Senior Environmental Scientist, described the opportunity that exists to reduce potable water use in connection with the Saint Paul Saints Stadium and the Metro Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF). The intent is to harvest rainwater from two acres of the OMF roof and deliver it to the City of Saint Paul to be used for ball field irrigation and non-potable use in bathrooms. The city would design and install the rainwater reuse system, with the Metropolitan Council providing \$75,000 to the city and funds for OMF alterations. Council member Wulff asked about the source of the funds, and staff clarified that funds are not coming from wastewater fees. OMF roof reconstruction would take place in late summer 2014.

3. Water Supply Policy

Ali Elhassan, Water Supply Planning Manager, provided an update of the Water Supply portion of the Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP), beginning with examining the aquifers used by metropolitan communities and the management concerns with each of them. The current approach to water supply management and development is unsustainable, with aquifers declining and lakes, streams and wetlands being damaged. The increased reliance on groundwater is putting strains on aquifers.

The master water supply plan for the metropolitan area was approved by the Council and the DNR in 2010 and will be updated by staff in 2015. Elhassan explained that the Council's Thrive Sustainability Goal provides the framework to develop water supply policy and strategies. He reviewed the process to update the WRPP, and informed the committee that they would be sent draft policies for their consideration and input. The policies include: Growth, Assessing and Protecting Water Supplies, Cost-effectiveness and Funding, and Leadership and Regional Collaboration. It is anticipated that a draft WRPP will be ready for review and public comment in late spring.

4. General Manager's Report

Leisa Thompson informed the committee that all plants met NPDES permits.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Susan Harder
Recording Secretary