

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Cara Letofsky, Marie McCarthy, Harry Melander, Lona Schreiber

Committee Members Absent:

Edward Reynoso, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair

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 14, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Cara Letofsky, seconded by Lona Schreiber to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2018 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2018-215 JT SW City of Medina 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Review File 21831-1

It was moved by Cara Letofsky, seconded by Marie McCarthy, that the Metropolitan Council That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

Recommendations of the Environment Committee (EC):

1. Approve the City of Medina's Comprehensive Sewer Plan component of the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.
2. Adopt the revised post-2040 Long-Term Sewer Service Area as shown on Figure 3 of the Review Record.
3. Advise the City to implement the EC Advisory Comments on Page 3 of this report.
4. Advise the City that when it has amended the local ordinance to require the disconnection of existing foundation drains, sump pumps, and roof leaders from the sanitary sewer system, an executed copy needs to be forwarded to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Summer Intern Presentation:

Karen Neis, Director of Administration, shared with the Committee members that MCES had 17 interns and urban scholars plus 2 high school students that came to us through the Step Up/Right Track Program. Interns were available prior to the start of the Environment Committee meeting to answer questions from staff and Council members on the wide variety of projects they have been involved in over the summer. Interns also attended the Environment Committee meeting where they introduced themselves, where they go to school, sharing their major and a brief topic summary of their project.

Comments / Questions:

Committee members expressed their support in the efforts on the projects as well as the usefulness of the projects in a variety of areas and specialties within Environmental Services.

2. MCES – Minneapolis CSO Permit Termination:

Jeannine Clancy, Assistant General Manager, Technical Services and Katrina Kessler, Director of Surface Water and Sewers for the City of Minneapolis shared details of the MCES & Minneapolis CSO permit termination. A joint NPDES/SDS permit was first issued in 1984 with reissuance in 1986, 1991, and 1997. MCES and Minneapolis have since defined their responsibilities regarding connected infrastructure. The City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park Board will hold a joint “integrated” MS4 permit going forward. MCES has applied for the permit termination and the City of Minneapolis concurred with this application. After review of the application and the system performance, the MPCA has terminated the joint CSO permit.

Next steps include continued investment in regional wastewater assets, inflow and infiltration program tailored to address challenges in each community, financial support for private property inflow and infiltration mitigation and public infrastructure, and joint studies with Minneapolis and St. Paul to understand system response to wet weather and optimize investments.

Comments/Questions:

An inquiry was made as to the definition of a significant storm? It is a 100-year event? A 500-year event? What are the amounts of rain? Katrina stated it depends on what is being evaluated. The example shared was looking at flooding across the City of Minneapolis.

What is being required of the cities for consent decrees? Katrina stated there was a point in the history of the Council with the City of Minneapolis and St. Paul where the EPA designated a specific dollar amount that needs to be spent to address consent decrees (a legal agreement between the EPA and the Community) over a duration of years to meet investment levels. There are only two cities in the Country that have discontinued CSO (Minneapolis and St. Paul). Staff stated green infrastructure practices have been occurring prior to requirements by the EPA.

A Committee Member asked if this information would be taken to the Legislative Water Commission. A holistic positive story is important to help show the importance of the work we do. Staff stated it could be considered.

Committee Member expressed appreciation for the work that has been done.

3. General Manager Report

Many people have approached the General Manager about the One Water Summit and the work we are doing. Minnesota provided a great deal of value hosting the event. We are on the right track and getting the stories out there.

Intern work reminds us of the “cool” work we do. This will help us with the work we will be accomplishing going forward.

The General Manager attended the budget meeting at the Council meeting and presented highlights of what we have accomplished. Please let us know if there are any specific updates to include in meetings prior to the end of 2018. Committee Member Melander stated there are so many good stories of the work we are doing and suggested hearing more about them before the end of the calendar year.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary