

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Melander, Van Eyll, Munt, Elkins, Brimeyer, Rodriguez, Wulff, Commers, Rummel, Kramer, Chávez

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Vice Chair Melander called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:00PM on Wednesday, August 6, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Van Eyll to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2014 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

Policy Plans

Water Resources Policy Plan Update

Leisa Thompson introduced the presentation by explaining that the current Wastewater Resources Policy Plan (WRPP) is made up of four parts: Water Supply, Surface Water Management, Wastewater Service, and Wastewater System Plan. The first part, Water Supply, focuses on ensuring the quantity and protecting the quality of the region's water supply. The second part, Surface Water Management, explains how the Council assesses and protects water resources, as well as the coordination that goes into surface water planning. The third part, Wastewater Service, has a great deal of information, covering everything from rural growth centers, cost sharing, and waste discharge rules, to private wastewater systems. The updated Water Resources Policy Plan takes direction from *Thrive MSP 2040* and the EPA sustainability model, which builds on a sustainable infrastructure and maintains a strong foundation of core services. The updated plan will include operational changes to address climate change, including energy reduction goals and the management of storm water discharge from treatment plants. Thompson included a slide illustrating the Minnesota Water Governance, and explained that water is not just one agency's responsibility; it is shared among many different entities, making it a complex issue. There is an emphasis on equity in the updated plan, which is reflected in low, uniform rates and a SAC Affordable Housing Credit. The Council, along with the DNR, has been given a charge by the legislature to equitably deal with the water supply issue across the region. Keith Buttleman explained that State law specifies that water is a resource of the State and the DNR is in charge of the allocation of that resource.

MCES staff has been working with the Watershed Administrators Advisory Committee, the Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC), Metro Cities, and LUAC for their input. A public hearing is scheduled to take place at the December 9 Environment Committee meeting. The Council will be asked to approve the new WRPP at its January 28, 2015 meeting.

2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan

Jan Youngquist and Rainry Salk presented on the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan (RPPP). The RPPP is required as part of the Regional Development Guide. It is the Regional Parks System response to *Thrive MSP 2040* and will provide guidance for local comprehensive plans. Minnesota Statute 473.147 requires the Council to prepare

and adopt a long-range system policy plan for regional recreation open space. The Council has the authority to decide which parks and trails in the region are part of the Regional Parks System based on regional importance and balance. There are over 55,000 protected acres of land in the RPS and it had over 47 million visits in 2013. The updated plan will promote expanded multi-modal access to regional parks and trails. Community engagement and outreach occurs via stakeholder meetings with our park implementing agencies, focus group research with communities of color and follow-up policy discussions with participants, public meetings, and park user on-site surveys/interviews. Key changes to the new plan will include policy language to address *Thrive* directives, strengthened system protection language, and proposed regional trail additions. Salk explained that as part of strengthening equitable usage, one idea is to allow new special recreation features to be developed as “bridging facilities” where individuals can be introduced to specialized or single-purpose recreational activities. They presented a map illustrating the acreage, regional trail miles, regional parks, park reserves, and special recreation features that are existing and those that are planned for 2040.

A public hearing is scheduled to occur at the October 20 Community Development Committee meeting, and the Council will be asked to adopt the plan on January 14, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:47PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary