

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Kris Fredson; Phillip Sterner; Susan Vento, Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair; Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 with the following roll call:

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Absent: 0

Chair's statement was read at the beginning of the meeting as follows:

NOTICE: The Metropolitan Council Chair has determined it is not practical or prudent to conduct in-person meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, committee members will participate in this meeting via telephone or other electronic means and the meeting will be conducted under Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021 at the date and time stated above. We encourage you to monitor the meeting remotely. If you have comments, we encourage members of the public to email us at public.info@metc.state.mn.us. We will respond to your comments in a timely manner.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Without objection the agenda was approved.

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2021 regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Item 2021-270 JT SW)

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Sterner to approve the consent agenda business items.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

2021-270 JT SW: City of Robbinsdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22039-1

Requests that Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:

Recommendation of the Environment Committee

1. Approve the Robbinsdale’s Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Advise the City to:
 - a. Incorporate Chapter VII of the City Code for Public Utilities as part of the final locally adopted version of the Comprehensive Plan.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

2021-323: Interceptor 1-MN-320 Improvements Land Acquisition

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council adopts Resolution 2021-40 authorizing the acquisition and condemnation of real property for the Interceptor 1-MN-320 Improvements, MCES Project No. 809205.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

2021-324: Land Acquisition for 8567 Forcemain Replacement at Channel Crossings Project No 802863

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution 2021-41 authorizing the acquisition of permanent easements for the 8567 Forcemain Replacement at Channel Crossings, Project No. 802863 and to initiate condemnation proceedings if direct purchase efforts are unsuccessful.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Priority Waters Project Update

Staff presented an update on the Priority Waters project, which was first introduced to the Environment Committee through an information item in February. The Priority Waters project is an internal Council staff effort to prioritize the region’s lakes, rivers, and streams. The list will be used for staff and financial resource decisions, as a key lens for policies and activities included in the 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan and will be able to offer insights to other organizations as they spend their own valued resources. Staff have produced a draft Priority Waters list which includes 156 lakes and 78 rivers and streams. The list is currently available for internal staff to provide feedback and will be released to external partners and stakeholders through a GovDelivery email later this month. Feedback can be submitted through the project website: <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Projects/Priority-Waters-List.aspx>.

Comments and Questions:

Chair Lindstrom recommended the communications include additional benefits received if a lake, river or stream is or is not on the list. Staff appreciated the feedback.

Committee Member Wulff stated she was surprised at the number of unnamed water bodies there are. Staff stated the information was obtained from another source and a number were unnamed. We are not releasing the information to the public until after Thanksgiving and are hoping to go back and take a look at those streams.

Chair Lindstrom indicated that it is a bit more involved than saying we are going to evaluate the dirtiest lakes, streams, and rivers. Staff agreed.

2. General Manager Report

No report at this time.

If Committee members have items they would like brought before this committee, please let leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us know.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee Meeting of November 9, 2021.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary