

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair

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, February 8, 2022 with the following roll call:

Aye:	5	Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Absent:	1	Lindstrom

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 Sterner, seconded by Vento to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2022 regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

Aye:	5	Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Absent:	1	Lindstrom

Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

None at this time

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

2022-41: Adopt Facility Plan for the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant, MCES Project No. 809800

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the facility plan for the Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant, MCES Project No. 809800 per Resolution No. 2022-3.

Aye:	5	Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay:	0	
Absent:	1	Lindstrom

Motion carried.

2022-42: Ratification of After-the-Fact Purchase Order #21012387

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council ratifies the After-the-Fact Purchase Order #21012387 in the amount of \$544,533.35 to CenterPoint Energy for relocation of gas main.

Aye: 5 Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Lindstrom

Motion carried.

2022-43: TH13 MnDOT Coordination

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Utility Agreement 211069 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Interceptor 8560.

Aye: 5 Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Lindstrom

Motion carried.

2022-44: Water Supply Technical Analysis & Outreach for Hydrologic & Hydrogeologic Services, Master Contracts 21P208A & 21P208B

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute master contracts 21P208A for \$500,000 with Barr Engineering, Inc., and 21P208B for \$300,000 with Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc., to provide hydrogeologic research to support water supply planning for a total not to exceed procurement value of \$800,000.

Aye: 5 Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 1 Lindstrom

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. 2020-2021 Water Resources Monitoring Update

Farquar Lake and Long Lake, in Apple Valley were listed as impaired for aquatic recreation due to excessive nutrients in 2002. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study was approved in 2009, and the Long and Farquar Lakes Nutrient TMDL Implementation Plan was created in 2010. The implementation plan was updated in 2017. The City of Apple Valley is leading the actions outlined in the implementation plan with assistance with grant dollars from the state of Minnesota and the Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization. A general trend of improving water quality has been observed since the lakes were listed in 2002, such as reduced concentrations of total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a and improvements in water clarity. However, the lakes' water quality does not yet meet water quality standards so additional work needs to continue. The city has various implementation activities either completed, on-going, or planned for the future, such as installation of watershed best management practices (for examples: infiltration basins, street sweeping,

stormwater system retrofits) and in-lake management techniques (for examples: fish surveys, fish stocking, rough fish removal, whole lake drawdowns (Long Lake), aquatic plant management activities). The city plans to continue making progress on the implementation plan through “adaptive management strategies and by leveraging grant dollars to complete projects”.

Comments and Questions:

Committee Member Sterner inquired if landowners have been educated on fertilization of land that is adjacent to the lakes. Staff stated we will look into that to see if it is part of the implementation plan or if it is part of their comprehensive plan.

Post meeting addendum:

In response to Committee Member Sterner’s request regarding how shoreline management is being utilized to improve water quality in Farquar and Long Lakes in Apple Valley, here are a few techniques the City of Apply Valley is using to improve water quality with shoreline management:

- In the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation plan for both lakes, shoreline buffers are identified as helpful practices to evaluate and support but noted even 50 ft buffers alone wouldn’t be sufficient to meet water quality goals. As part of the TMDL study, all shoreline was evaluated priority for best shoreline management practice locations which includes buffers.
- The City of Apple Valley requires a 16.5 ft buffer on all new construction projects that require a plat.
- The City of Apple Valley also has outreach materials on their website about yard management (<https://www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us/374/At-Home-and-In-Your-Yard>) which includes links to workshops run by Dakota County and the city’s Rainwater Rewards Program.

Rainwater Rewards Program offers financial assistance to landowners to install improvement projects like shoreline buffers. Projects receive 50% of the cost not to exceed \$500 per lot or project.

2. Water Efficiency Grant Program Update

Staff provided an update on the water efficiency grant program information item presented at the January 11, 2022 Environment Committee meeting. A question was asked about receiving a list of communities who currently participate in the program. A regional map was provided and attached to the materials for the meeting. There are currently 39 participating communities in the Program. Talking points for Council members are being put together to assist with communication with constituents.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022-2024 version of our program. The application form is available here: [Available Funding/Grants - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](#)

A newsletter article announcing the program was released via GovDelivery on January 27: [Water efficiency grants available for municipalities beginning Jan. 31 - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](#)

Emailed grant program announcement messages to currently participating communities and non-participating communities are being sent during the week of February 7, 2022.

Applications are being accepted through March 31, 2022.

Comments and Questions:

No comments or questions.

3. General Manager Report

Environmental Services has received public attention recently about our COVID wastewater testing. We have been referenced in the New York Times and in January we broke a record for hits to our website homepage. We received 10,975 views of wastewater testing and the Council homepage had 10,087 views. This speaks volumes of the importance of continuing to engage in this work as another way for us to help protect public health.

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 4:53 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee Meeting of February 8, 2022.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary