

## **Minutes of the**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Cara Letofsky, Harry Melander, Lona Schreiber, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Cara Letofsky to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Lona Schreiber, seconded by Cara Letofsky to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2018 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

#### **CONSENT BUSINESS**

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2018-88, 2018-89, 2018-90)

It was moved by Lona Schreiber, seconded by Cara Letofsky to approve the consent agenda business items. Motion carried.

1. 2018-88 Land Application Spreaders for the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant  
That the Metropolitan Council approve the sole source procurement of two land application spreaders for the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant from UFC Farm Supply in the amount of \$760,773.00.
2. 2018-89 System Scaffolding and Appurtenances Contract for All Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Locations  
That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with Safway Services LLC, to provide system scaffolding and appurtenance services for all Metropolitan Council Environmental facilities as needed in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 over a 5-year period, contract number 17P271A.
3. 2018-90 Industrial Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Service Contract  
That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award Contract 18P016 in the amount of \$1,865,747.00 to Waste Management for solid waste collection services for various industrial waste streams and recyclable materials generated at Environmental Services Division facilities.

## NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

4. 2018-91 Golden Valley & Minneapolis Interceptor Rehabilitation Contract Award  
It was moved by Cara Letofsky, seconded by Wendy Wulff that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for Golden Valley & Minneapolis Interceptor Rehabilitation, Project 807635, Contract 17P030, to SAK Construction, LLC for their low responsive responsible bid of \$2,764,874. Motion carried.
5. 2018-92 SW Southeast Metro Water Reclamation Facilities Facility Plan Public Hearing Authorization  
It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Lona Schreiber that the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing to gather public input on the Facility Plan for the Southeast Metro Water Reclamation Facilities. Motion carried.

## INFORMATION

### 1. Public Comments & Proposed Policy Amendment to the Water Resources Policy Plan:

Jeannine Clancy, Assistant General Manager, Technical Services presented an update on the proposed policy amendments to the Water Resources Policy Plan.

The 3 policy plan amendment alternatives for the Water Resources Policy Plan are as follows:

- Alternative 1: No regional cost share.
- Alternative 2: Regional cost share based on regional environmental and economic benefits
- Alternative 3: Regional cost share based on regional wastewater system benefit only

Workshops were held on Tuesday February 27, 2018 at the Inver Grove Heights Community Center and on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at the Brooklyn Park Library. These workshops were followed by the public hearing which was held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at the Metropolitan Council offices.

Today, a summary of public comments on the policy alternatives was reviewed with this Committee. This information will be shared with the Committee of the Whole and the draft policy on April 18, 2018. The Environment Committee will then be presented with recommended policy language on April 24, 2018, with it being presented for consideration at the full Council on May 9, 2018.

Comments were received from the following and summarized:

- State Representatives Garofalo and Barr
- Labor-related organizations:
  - North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
  - St. Paul Building Trades
  - International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49
  - Iron Workers Local 512
  - IBEW Local 110
- Local Cities (MCES wastewater customers):
  - Minneapolis
  - Lakeville
  - Burnsville
  - Hugo

- Cottage Grove
- Rosemount
- Metro Cities
- SKB Environmental
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Conclusions shared from the public comments:

- Comments reflect varied opinions about regional cost share issue
  - Consistent with task force findings
  - Consistent with previous Council discussions
- Council's wastewater customers (i.e., cities) either support Alternative 3 (cost share based on wastewater system benefits) or have provided comments on what they would want to see if Council proceeded with Alternative 3
- For pilot program, projects under consideration could proceed equally well under Alternative 2 (cost share based on environmental and economic benefits) or Alternative 3
- Given Council's commitment to collaboration and not competition overall and particularly in its wastewater reuse activities, staff recommend Alternative 3

Staff recommend a wastewater reuse pilot program with a cost share component based on wastewater system benefits (Alternative 3). This recommendation reflects:

- Listening to public comments
- Thrive's commitment to sustainability and collaboration with local communities as its wastewater reuse initiative develops
- Department of Natural Resource's comments

Comments and Questions:

Committee Member Wulff stated she appreciates staff's efforts and the work done on the proposed amendments.

2. One Water Summit Update:

Staff member Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager, Environmental Quality Assurance, provided an update on the One Water Summit planning initiatives currently underway. The Metropolitan Council is the local host partner with the US Water Alliance.

The event will bring water leaders from across the country from July 10-12 at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis for thought provoking conversations on how to achieve a sustainable water future for all. The US Water Alliance is a non-profit agency that advances policies and programs focused on sustainable water future and is driving a one water movement, of which the summit is a major component. Their mission is to bring diverse interests together to be stronger together. This includes water providers, wastewater treatment, public officials, business leaders, environmental organizations, community leaders, policy organizations and researchers. He stated that the summit is the only venue that is focused at a policy level with all the right voices to help water management approaches evolve for multiple benefits.

Last year, Chair Rummel and Vice-Chair Wulff attended the summit to help with pre-planning. It was discussed being the local host fit our mission at the Council. We took the approach of convening partners in the region to demonstrate good things we are doing and learn how we could do better. Currently a regional planning team is guiding involvement by including the Governor's office, Minnesota

Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Employment and Economic Development, local industries including Pentair, the University of Minnesota, Nature Conservancy, American Public Media, the Science Museum and Minnesota Zoo, and the McKnight Foundation.

With the summit 3 months away, planning activities are at their peak. Council staff are providing input on the workshops, agenda and tours. A video highlighting our region for the opening plenary is being created. We are also helping form Minnesota delegations to represent the water interests important to the region.

Workshop details shared included:

- Resilience from weather events, focus on strong recovery and adaptation
- Smart water and the cities of tomorrow
- Mississippi nutrient dialog focused on productive agriculture/municipal partnerships
- Reuse and recovery
- Advancing one water principles
- The urban waterfront as an asset
- Business leadership and the value of water
- Ag leader perspectives on One Water
- A full track and institute session on Equity and water
- Utility partnerships and cooperation
- Jobs and workforce development
- Safeguarding source waters
- Engaging elected officials on water
- Green infrastructure and multiple benefits
- Financing best practices
- City/cross agency collaboration
- Senior EPA Q/A
- Water clusters

Tour details shared included:

- Advanced water reuse at Target Field
- Green infrastructure in Minneapolis with Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
- One Water Research in Minnesota with the University of Minnesota
- One water and sustainable local food and agriculture
- Perennial crops as food and fuel
- Water reuse and Native Nations (Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community)

Delegation details with a goal of having the majority defined by the end of April included:

- Six or more people connected together who are collaborating and want to publicly commit
- Community connection
- Higher Ed
- One Watershed One Plan
- Sustainable Growth Coalition
- Water Technology

Attendance by Council members is encouraged, and we will coordinate registration.

### Comments and Questions:

- Environment Committee and/or Council members interested in attending can provide their names to Sam Paske at 651.602.1015 or via email at [sam.paske@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:sam.paske@metc.state.mn.us) or Leisa Thompson at 651.602.8101 or via email at [leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us) .
- Committee Member Wulff stated she learned a lot and gained a much better perspective on what we do by being a part of last year's event. She also offered to help host segments of the event if needed.
- Chair Rummel expressed interest in the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux event. She also stated she is glad we are a member and hosting in Minnesota.

### 3. General Manager Report:

Cost and quality are two key component indicators. General Manager Thompson shared details that were published in a 1991 Metropolitan Waste Control Commission newsletter, *The Link*, that boasted 99.4% record high performance. Then Governor Arne Carlson, with an acting Chair Charlie Weaver, attended to congratulate staff in 1992 when the compliance rate increase to 99.5%. While these are impressive statistics, our present long-running record of 100% compliance is to be celebrated just as much. Senior leaders are making the rounds to celebrate accomplishments with staff.

Each year NACWA completes a cost of clean water index. A milestone was reached this year when the national average went to \$501/year. Of note is our Twin Cities rate at \$274/year. Wastewater services rose 3.6% in 2017 bringing the average to \$501. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year wastewater service charges have increased faster than inflation using the consumer price index. The projection is a 3.0 to 4.6% per year increase for the next 5 years with rehabilitation and repair as the primary driver. We are working hard to keep our rates down thanks to our staff who are staying on top of this topic.

Committee Member Melander commented on the complementary article printed in the Pioneer Press recently about SAC.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary