

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

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 4:01 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Cara Letofsky to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

BUSINESS

1. 2018-26 SW Wastewater Reuse-Related Amendments to the Water Resources Policy Plan
It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Harry Melander to present alternative 1 and 3 outlined on the attachment to the business item for public hearing. Motion failed.

It was moved by Cara Letofsky, seconded by Lona Schreiber that the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing to gather public input on alternative wastewater reuse-related amendments to the Water Resource Policy Plan with proposed verbiage updates discussed. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Inflow and Infiltration Program Update:

Jeannine Clancy, Assistant General Manager, and Marcus Bush, Principle Engineer, provided an update on the Inflow and Infiltration program. Recommended task force initiatives are to continue to balance regional standards with community needs, support efforts for funding public and private inflow and infiltration mitigation, develop a robust public outreach program for communities, develop best practices and model ordinances, and provide technical assistance, including a demonstration program.

Staff shared that while annual amounts of rainfall and populations have increased since the beginning of the program, there is a slight decrease in the regional wastewater flow. MCES and our community partners have completed a combined \$264 million of investments since 2007 to address the need and will continue working on additional plans even though there may be limited funding. For 2018, a general obligations bond was requested to address public infrastructure for \$9.5 million. Allocation of these funds will depend on the 2018 bonding bill.

Staff stated a public outreach toolbox is being created with the aid of stakeholder input and will be available for communities to use as needed to access information such as public service announcements, newsletter inserts, photos, and videos that can assist communities to address inflow and infiltration efforts with residents and area businesses. Other ongoing efforts include assisting on a draft model ordinance for the League of Minnesota Cities and research for best practices for service

lateral inspection and repair. The group indicated that technical assistance for communities includes a demonstration project to measure impacts of private infrastructure repairs and developing a web-interface for communities to access flow data.

The group included an expected schedule for 2018 related to the task force recommendations. It is anticipated in early 2018 for the model ordinance, support grants, public outreach rollout, scope demonstration project, and support of legislative initiatives to be ready. By mid-2018 staff is anticipating provide property best practices and the data access portal to be available. Finally, in late 2018 the award of a demonstration project, communications moved to a web-interface, and study of regional inflow and infiltration flows should be available.

Comments and Questions:

Committee Members thanked the staff for the hard work that has gone in to this project. We have come a long way in the past 10 years. It is for public good and the 2018 forecast is helpful.

Bonding is not the way to go on private property.

2. General Manager Report:

No report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary