

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Marie McCarthy, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair, Cara Letofsky, Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Absent:

Harry Melander, Lona Schreiber

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 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 Cara Letofsky, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2018 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

BUSINESS

2018-130 SW Sole Source Procurement for Motors and Drives for Effluent Pumps and Aeration Compressors

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Edward Reynoso, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a sole source procurement contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 over a 5-year period from May 2018 to April 2023 with WEG Electric Corporation to provide original equipment manufactured parts and services for EM Motors 900 horsepower – 5500 horsepower and Regutron Eddy Current Drives used at Metropolitan Council Wastewater Treatment Plants. Motion carried.

2018-132 Lift Station L73 Roadway Easements

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Edward Reynoso, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to proceed with the sale of two permanent easements along the northern and eastern boundaries of the property located at 4850 Woodbury Drive within the City of Woodbury to the adjacent property owner and the City for a combined amount equal to no less than the appraised value of \$107,925. Motion carried.

2018-135 St. Paul Beltline Interceptor Rehabilitation Project

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Marie McCarthy, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for project SPIS 8566-370 & 7705 Rehabilitation, MCES Project No. 808821, Contract No. 17P355, with Geislinger and Sons, Inc. for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$10,764,386.25. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Water Supply Planning Briefing:

Dr. Ali Elhassan, Manager, Water Supply Planning in Environmental Quality Assurance provided an update on the implementation of Master Water Supply Plan activities.

Collaborations have been increasing with participation in MAWSAC and TAC committees as well as the sub-regional workgroups that have engagement from across the 7-county Metro area from a variety of state agencies,

watershed districts, and community water suppliers. Lawn irrigation practices have been addressed to save water and money. MCES receives Clean Water Fund support to help communities implement water efficiency measures that have helped save 60 million gallons of water annually. Cumulative water savings is estimated at 780 million gallons per year. Stormwater grants also leverage local funds to help reuse 50 million gallons of water per year. Increased awareness and community efforts with assistance of wet weather has reduced water use in the Metro Area. There is currently no funding source for regional planning, MAWSAC/TAC coordination, support and planning, and water efficiency grants.

Comments and Questions:

Since the industrial water use program is so cost effective, are there opportunities or interest in having an organization pay for the cost of the intern? Staff stated there is a trend moving in that direction. There are a couple of entities who would be willing to pay for the intern directly to the University as well as a couple of nurseries who want to add an intern as well. We will continue our program with them.

A brief video was shown from the University of Minnesota Extension Turfgrass Science group that shared information regarding water reuse and conservation. For more information visit the Water Supply Planning page at www.metrocouncil.org or link directly to the video at <https://metrocouncil.org/News-Events/Wastewater-Water/Newsletters/Partnership-with-U-of-M-promotes-water-savings.aspx>. Another version of the video is being produced and shared at City fairs and festivals around the Metro area.

A committee member stated it is possible to have a beautiful lawn without an irrigation system. A suggestion was made to be strategic when cutting the grass as well as when it is irrigated and for how long.

Committee member stated the presentation misses getting grass to grow properly with less water as well as the type of soil in a given area. Staff stated this is a good point. There is a longer version of the video that addresses how to handle soil in addition to mowing heights. Staff will circulate to Committee Members.

Thank you to staff for the work being done.

2. General Manager Report:

MCES has a workforce that is reaching retirement age. One program we have is developing utility leaders of the future called "Core Growth". Graduation of the recent cohort took place May 14 and 15. There were 20 participants from NACWA's Region 5 (Chicago, Milwaukee, Racine, Madison, Green Bay, and Minneapolis/St. Paul). Leisa spoke at the graduation and shared that it is amazing to see the leaders and how they have developed a network of support from the beginning of the program to the end of the program.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary