

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

#### Committee Members Present:

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

#### Committee Members Absent:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Kris Fredson

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Vice-Chair Wulff called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 3:58 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Ray Zeran to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Ray Zeran, seconded by Susan Vento to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. Motion carried.

#### CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2019-251 JT, 2019-252 JT, and 2019-253 JT, 2019-254 JT, 2019-255 JT, 2019-256 JT, 2019-264 JT, and 2019-265 JT)

It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Ray Zeran to approve the consent agenda business items. Motion carried.

1. 2019-251 JT: City of Tonka Bay 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21869-1  
That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

##### Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of Tonka Bay's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Require the City to submit to the Council a copy of the final adopted Ordinance that requires the disconnection of any identified prohibited discharges to the sanitary sewer system.

3. 2019-252 JT: City of Mound 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21916-1  
That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

##### Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of Mound's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. If the City adopts a new private service lateral investigation and remediation ordinance, a copy of this ordinance needs to be submitted to the Council upon adoption.

4. 2019-253 JT: City of Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21980-1

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

**Recommendations of the Environment Committee:**

1. Approve the City of Lauderdale's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

4. 2019-254 JT: City of Greenfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21991-1

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

**Recommendations of the Environment Committee:**

1. Approve the City of Greenfield's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

5. 2019-255 JT: City of Inver Grove Heights 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 21996-1

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

**Recommendations of the Environment Committee:**

1. Approve the City of Inver Grove Heights's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Require the City to submit to the Council, capacity and design flow information for its lift stations, and each trunk sewer that connect to the regional system after completion of its evaluation of system capacity of its trunk system using projected design flow information. Implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Wastewater.

6. 2019-256 JT: City of Stillwater 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22281-1

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

**Recommendations of the Environment Committee:**

1. Approve the City of Stillwater's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

7. 2019-264 JT: City of Shakopee 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22004-1

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

**Recommendations of the Environment Committee:**

1. Approve the City of Shakopee's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

8. 2019-265 JT: City of Vadnais Heights 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22173-1

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

**Recommendations of the Environment Committee:**

1. Approve the City of Vadnais Height's Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

## NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

### 9. 2019-259 JT: 2019 Budget Amendment – Third Quarter

It was moved by Susan Vento, seconded by Ray Zeran that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2019 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the tables attached to the business item. Motion carried.

### 10. 2019-267: 2019 Stormwater Grant Funding Recommendations

It was moved by Ray Zeran, seconded by Phillip Sterner that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute the stormwater management grants recommended in Attachment A of the business item in the total amount of \$500,000.

## INFORMATION

### 1. Water Resources Stream Sampling and Biomonitoring Work

Cassie Champion, Principal Environmental Scientist presented information regarding the water resources stream sampling and biomonitoring work conducted within Environmental Quality Assurance.

In 2019, The MCES stream monitoring program celebrates 30 years of monitoring and assessing regionally significant streams. In 1998, MCES developed a nonpoint source pollution monitoring network in the Lower Minnesota River Basin, the first automated stream monitoring stations in the region. From 1996 – 1999, the monitoring network expanded across the metro area, including local partners in the monitoring work.

The stream monitoring program addresses three elements of water quality monitoring: hydrology, chemistry and ecology. The data is compared to water quality standards and aquatic life use standards and assessed to determine changes in water quality over time. The information from this program is used to inform wastewater treatment plant upgrades, support regulatory strategies, and guide local water management decisions.

#### Comments and Questions:

Committee Member Wulff asked what the level of phosphorus was in 1988 in the river versus now. Staff stated total phosphorus reflects improving water quality in most Minnesota River basins. In the recent regional river assessment report released in June 2018, Total Phosphorus concentrations on the Minnesota River near Fort Snelling have reduced 50% since 1976 (adjusted for flow concentrations dropped from 0.32 mg/L to 0.16 mg/L). (Source: [www.metrocouncil.org/river-assessment](http://www.metrocouncil.org/river-assessment))

Committee Member Sterner requested elaboration on the streams that were marked as having increasing phosphorus trends and what actions are being done to improve those areas. Staff stated it is difficult with the general trend report that was provided as the trends calculated are not able to pinpoint a single practice but demonstrate impacts from the entire watershed. More detailed reports on individual watersheds can be found online: <https://metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Water-Quality-Management/Stream-Monitoring-Assessment.aspx?source=child>.

Staff clarified point source pollution is reflective of permit regulated discharge.

### 2. General Manager Report

A copy of the MCES Performance Report was provided to committee members. Feedback is welcome. Additional copies can be obtained by contacting [bobbie.chong@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:bobbie.chong@metc.state.mn.us)

The Children's Water Festival is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at the State Fair Grounds. It begins at 9 a.m. Details can be found at [www.metrocwf.org](http://www.metrocwf.org).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary