

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair, Harry Melander, Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber, Gary Van Eyll

Committee Members Absent:

Marie McCarthy

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, February 11, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by VanEyll, seconded by Reynoso to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by VanEyll, seconded by Schreiber to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2014 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2014-39 Adoption of the Facility Plan for St. Bonifacius L24 System Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project, MCES Project No. 808200, Resolution No, 2014-1

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for St. Bonifacius L24 System Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project, MCES Project No. 808200, per the attached Resolution No. 2014-1.

Motion carried.

2014-40 Adoption of the Facility Plan for Seneca Area System Rehabilitation Phases 3, 4 and 5, MCES Project Nos. 808030, 808040, 808050, Resolution No. 2014-2

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for Seneca Area System Rehabilitation Phases 3, 4 and 5, MCES Project Nos. 808030, 808040, and 808050 per the attached Resolution No. 2014-2.

Motion carried.

2014-41 Authorization to Award and Execute a Construction Contract for System-Wide Arc Flash Mitigation Project, MCES Project Numbers 807800, 805995 and 809064, Contract 13P269

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by VanEyll, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for construction of the System-Wide Arc Flash Mitigation Project, MCES Project Numbers 807800,805995 and 809064, Contract Number 13P269, to Premier Electric Corporation in the amount of \$4,650,857.00.

Motion carried.

2014-42 Authorization to Award and Execute a Contract for Miscellaneous Biofilter Rehabilitation, Contract 13P304

It was moved by Vaneyll, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for miscellaneous biofilter rehabilitation, Contract 13P304 with Geislinger and Sons, Inc. for their bid of \$770,730.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Interceptor Condition Assessment and Rehabilitation Program

Scott Dentz, Manager of Interceptor Engineering Design, and Karen Keenan, Manager of Interceptor Project Delivery, provided details of the current interceptor system and its condition. Of the 481 miles of gravity sewer in the system, 317 miles were inspected between 2003 and 2013. 164 miles will be inspected in 2014-2015. 135 miles are over 50 years old, and 300+ miles are over 30 years old. The oldest pipe (made of brick) in the system was built in 1886. Staff reviewed the cause of the poor pipe conditions (Hydrogen Sulfide, pipe materials, poor soils) and rehabilitation technologies. Based on lessons learned, the current approach for new interceptors includes using corrosion resistant materials, using chemicals, oxygen/ozone injection to reduce the sulfides in the wastewater, minimizing force main length, and minimizing turbulence by minimizing use of drops and highly sloped pipe.

2. Regional Water Quality Update 2012

Judy Sventek, Manager of Water Resources Assessment, reviewed the water quality of the lakes, rivers and streams as measured in 2012. She explained factors that contribute to the water quality of the region's water resources: weather; population growth; point sources; nonpoint sources. During 2010-2012 the seven-county metropolitan area population has increased by 59,000 people. Nonpoint source pollution is caused by bluff erosion, storm water runoff from impervious surfaces, farm field runoff, urban lawn runoff that carry pollutant such as fertilizers which are high in nitrogen.

MCES' lake monitoring program began in 1980. Results of the 2012 measurements: 33% of the metro area lakes had relatively good water quality. 31% received a water quality grade of "C". The remaining 36% had relatively poor water quality.

The stream monitoring program began in 1989 to determine the extent of nonpoint source pollution entering the major rivers. Today the program also assists in developing water quality management objectives, evaluating the effectiveness of watershed management practices for reducing nonpoint source pollution, and documenting long-term trends and changes in water quality.

The river monitoring program began in 1927. The program determines if metro area waters meet state water quality standards, assesses the performance and effectiveness of MCES treatment plants, and documents long-term trends and changes in water quality.

Summary: In 2012, over 64% of the lakes monitored in the metro area had a passing grade for water quality. Lakes were mostly eutrophic (which can cause oxygen depletion in waters); nutrients were primarily highest in agriculture-dominated watersheds; solids were highest in southwestern metro area; chlorides highest in urban watershed; nonpoint source contributors added a greater portion of solids and phosphorus to the rivers than MCES treatment plants.

3. General Manager's Report

Leisa Thompson informed the committee that all plants were in compliance.

She also said that in the next couple of months staff will update the committee on the strategic planning that Environmental Services has been doing to line up with Thrive goals.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Susan Harder
Recording Secretary