

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair; Kris Fredson; Phillip Sterner; Susan Vento; Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent:

None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 with the following roll call:

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Vento, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Without objection agenda was approved.

It was moved by Wulff seconded by Sterner to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021, regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Vento, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

CONSENT BUSINESS

There were no items on the consent agenda for this meeting.

NON-CONSENT BUSINESS

- 2021-33: Adopt Facility Plan for the Lake Minnetonka Area Regional Interceptor Improvements Project, MCES Project No. 802891

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Zeran that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for the Lake Minnetonka Area Regional Interceptor Improvements Project, MCES Project No. 80289, per the attached Resolution No. 2021-3.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Vento, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

- 2021-34: Interceptor Chemical Odor and Corrosion Control Project Public Hearing Request, MCES Project No. 819011

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Sterner that the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing to gather input on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Interceptor Chemical Odor and Corrosion Control project.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Fredson, Vento, Sterner, Wulff, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Advanced Technology Engagement with the Wastewater Workforce:

Scott Bowes, Manager of Training and Program Supervisors, Kim Borman-Krinhop, Assistant Manager for Performance Excellence and Analytics, Tyler Naughton, Business Systems Analyst, and Todd Tokar, Assistant Business Unit Manager presented an information item that discussed advanced technology engagement with the wastewater workforce. This presentation was previously presented as part of the Environmental Protection Agency's December 2020 National Workforce Webinar Series, which focused on investing in utility employees by providing training and support to ensure the water workforce remains efficient and resilient. Using advanced technologies, such as the 3D Digital Twins and Augmented Reality, the Environmental Services division is piloting new technologies that are anticipated to bring about a transition to the way that training is being developed and presented.

Comments/Questions:

Committee Member Fredson inquired how many staff had been involved in this project as well as if there were any security concerns and the level of involvement by the safety committee that was needed. Staff stated the number of people who have access to the training spaces is limited in number and by password access. A number of departments across the Council have been involved in the planning for this tool including Safety, IS, and Support Services and has had upwards of 40+ staff involved.

Committee Member Vento thanked Chair Lindstrom for including this on today's agenda. It was as thorough & interesting as the great presentation given to the EPA! Kudos to all.

2. General Manager Report

This week Radhika Fox was sworn in as the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of Water with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Radhika served as the CEO of the US Water Alliance since 2014. In 2018, Environmental Services worked with her on the planning team for the US Water Alliance One Water Summit held locally. She is passionate about sustainable water, water quality and climate change. She is a big system thinking leader and we look forward to seeing her in her new role.

If Committee members have items they would like brought before this committee, please let leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us know.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee Meeting of January 26, 2021.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary