

# Minutes

Environment Committee



**Meeting Date:** July 12, 2022

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Steet

## Members Present:

- Chair, Peter Lindstrom D11
- Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff D16

- Raymond Zeran, District 9
- Susan Vento, District 11

- E Kris Fredson, District 14
- Phillip Sterner, District 15
- = present, E = excused

## Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Environment Committee to order at 4:02 p.m.

## Agenda Approved

With no requested changes, the agenda was approved by consensus.

## Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Committee Member (CM) Vento, seconded by CM Zeran to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2022 regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

**Motion carried.**

## Consent Business

### **2022-200 Alfa Laval Dewatering Equipment Maintenance Contract 22P196 (John Tierney, 651-602-8307)**

It was moved by CM Zeran, seconded by CM Vento, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 22P196 with Alfa Laval Inc., to provide parts, labor, refurbishments, and services for Alfa Laval Sharples DS-706 Dewatering Equipment for MCES facilities in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 dollars.

CM Zeran made note that although this item was on the Consent Agenda, the dewatering equipment is vital, and we need to ensure it functions well at all times.

**Motion carried.**

## Non-Consent Business

### **2022-201: Adoption of MCES Wastewater Rates and Charges (Ned Smith, 651-602-1162)**

Chair Lindstrom asked what was covered in the \$600,000 - \$700,000 pandemic expenses FEMA reimbursement. Staff replied Covid-19 testing was a hefty expense given their unit price and the frequency at which they needed to take place. Mitigation efforts such as plexiglass, testing stations, and extra masks were also included.

Chair Lindstrom asked if Met Council can assess a charge for the incident which impacted our facilities in February (Seneca Plant). Staff replied that we could discern who was responsible for this particular incident, and they are being assessed a charge.

Chair Lindstrom became aware that Elko / New Market pays an additional SAC charge. Staff replied that Elko New Market and East Bethel both asked to be connected early due to their own growth projections and environmental concerns. Both asks were earlier than the long-term plan at the time. When a municipality asks to connect earlier than planned, they assume a portion of the capital cost, which is recovered through an additional SAC surcharge.

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Zeran, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the wastewater rates and charges outlined on page one of the business item, to be effective January 1, 2023.

**Motion carried.**

***2022-159A: Ratification of Updates for the Emergency Repairs of Brooklyn Park Interceptor 7015 A&B***

CM Zeran asked what the size of the pipe which had become clogged. Staff replied that he believed it was a 36-inch pipe.

CM Zeran followed up asking if we were to have another collapse at this scope, and had taken the conveyance system away, if we would essentially have to double our cost(s) of the project. Staff replied in agreement, noting it is still considered a fragile pipe especially for the areas downstream. Leaving the temporary conveyance in place is most prudent.

CM Zeran followed-up as to how this incident impacted our schedule. Staff replied that it sped up the timeline as we have been able to request the materials come earlier given that we have the temporary conveyance in place and knowing the fragility of the pipe.

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Vento, that the Metropolitan Council ratify the updates for the emergency repairs of the sinkhole and Interceptor 7015 A&B in Brooklyn Park.

**Motion carried.**

## Reports

### ***General Manager Report***

Leisa Thompson, general manager, thanked staff for the commitment and the great teamwork with our University of Minnesota, state, and community partners for the ignitable liquid response which took place over the holiday weekend.

She spoke of the evolution of the division's Vision and Mission statements, and how this work of living the legacy of providing clean water for future generations is being carried out.

**Vision:** Clean water for future generations

**Mission:** We partner, plan, and provide services to protect our region's water.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of June 12, 2022.

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### **Council Contact:**

Tessa Wegenke, Recording Secretary  
[Tessa.Wegenke@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Tessa.Wegenke@metc.state.mn.us)  
651-602-1274