

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Committee Members Present: Chair Sandra Rummel, John Đoàn, Harry Melander, Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber, Gary Van Eyll, Vice-Chair Wendy Wulff

Committee Members Absent: None

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, October 9, 2012.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Van Eyll, to approve the agenda. **The motion carried.**

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Wulff, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2012 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2012-313 Authorization to Award and Execute Contract 12P016 for Solids Waste Disposal services at the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant

It was moved by Melander, seconded by Đoàn, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a two-year contract (12P016), with an option to extend for one year, with Veit Container Corporation to provide solids waste disposal services at the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWWTP), beginning November 1, 2012 through October 31, 2014, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000.

Motion carried.

2012-314 Direction to Hold Public Meeting on Changes to Sewer Availability Charges (SAC) Credit Rules

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Van Eyll, that the Environment Committee directs staff to hold a formal public meeting to gather input and discuss the proposed changes to SAC rules.

Motion carried.

2012-315 Final Ratification of Expenditures for Emergency Repairs of Interceptor MSB 69U1

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council ratify the expenditures made for repairs to interceptor MSB 69U1 in Fridley.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Construction Update on Hopkins Forcemain along Midtown Greenway (Lake Calhoun/Lake of the Isles)

Scott Dentz, Interceptor Engineering Manager, reviewed the scope of the 1-MN-330 Rehab project. The work will start in November 2012, and there will be temporary impacts to traffic and park use.

There are two contracts (A and B) for the Hopkins System improvements. Contract A will be substantially complete mid-November 2012, and street restoration will take place in the spring. The Notice to Proceed for Contract B was issued the week of October 1, and construction will take two years. Challenges will include: minimizing construction impact; successful public process for playground equipment replacement; maintaining traffic detours and property access, and maintaining a high level of public communication and outreach.

Industrial Waste Incentive Program

Jason Willett, ES Director of Finance and Energy Management, explained that there is a company in Shakopee that wants to increase its high strength discharge which causes a loading issue for the Blue Lake Treatment Plant. Staff is looking at technical options to handle that.

Staff is also looking at financial options related to the strength charge. Strength charge options include: 1) status quo; 2) increase strength charge to full cost; 3) offer incentive to encourage high-strength industrial customers to reduce strength of their discharges.

He reviewed the Council's strength charge formula, compared its strength charge rate to those of peer agencies, the impact of adding debt service to the formula, and incentive program ideas and savings to ratepayers.

Staff is looking for direction from the committee relative to the development of the incentive program.

Council members were supportive of the idea, and directed staff to explore further and obtain public input. Some were in favor of limiting the program to larger users; others would like to include smaller companies. A maximum dollar amount of \$2M was suggested.

Willett informed the committee that a consultant is developing program details and staff will return to the committee with specifics and recommendations in a month or so.

General Manager's Report

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

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary