

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

#### Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Marie McCarthy, Harry Melander, Lona Schreiber, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair

#### Committee Members Absent:

Edward Reynoso

#### 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, July 12, 2016.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Marie McCarthy to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Lona Schreiber to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2016 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

#### BUSINESS

2016-141: Review of Customer Input and 2016 Rate Adoption Recommendation

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Lona Schreiber, that the Metropolitan Council adopts the following wastewater rates and charges to be effective January 1, 2017:

- \* Metropolitan Wastewater Charge (total of municipal wastewater charges) of **\$211,941,538**;
- \* Industrial Strength Charge: **\$.22** per excess pound of TSS (total suspended solids);
- \* Industrial Strength Charge: **\$.11** per excess pound of COD (chemical oxygen demand);
- \* Brewery Strength Charge: **\$.69** per barrel;
- \* Standard Load Charge: **\$60.24** per thousand gallons;
- \* Holding Tank Load Charge: **\$10.30** per thousand gallons;
- \* Portable Toilet Waste Load Charge: **\$77.46** per thousand gallons;
- \* Collar County Load Charge: **\$75.24** per thousand gallons;
- \* Strength component of Industrial Load Charge **\$.4130** per excess pound of TSS;
- \* Strength component of Industrial Load Charge **\$.2065** per excess pound of COD;
- \* Out-of-Region Load Charge Component for hauled waste: **\$15.00** per thousand gallons;
- \* Industrial Permit Fees as shown on Attachment A; and
- \* I&I Exceedance Rate: **\$421,000** per million gallons /day (rate of maximum measured flow within an hour over allowed flow rate).

**Motion carried.**

2016-142: City of Lexington 2030 Comprehensive Plan & Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan Update, Review File No. 20486-1

It was moved by Marie McCarthy, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following action to approve the City of Lexington's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

**Motion carried.**

## 2016-143: Bulk Chemical Contracts for MCES Wastewater Treatment Plants

It was moved by Harry Melander, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute unit price contracts, for up to four year terms, to the following companies:

Hawkins Chemicals, Inc. for the procurement of Sodium Hydroxide Solution (Caustic Soda) in an amount not to exceed \$1,510,354;

DPC Industries for Sodium Hypochlorite in an amount not to exceed \$2,075,429;

Hydrite, Inc. for Sodium Bisulfite in an amount not to exceed \$955,056;

C&S Chemicals, Inc. for Liquid Aluminum Sulfate in an amount not to exceed \$2,557,522; and

PVS Technologies, Inc. for Ferric Chloride in an amount not to exceed \$1,599,840

**Motion carried.**

### INFORMATION

#### 1. Minnesota Sustainable Growth Coalition:

Jason Willett introduced members of the Minnesota Sustainable Growth Coalition. Presenters included

- Mike Harley, Executive Director, Environmental Initiative
- Sam Hanson, Director, Sustainability Program, Environmental Initiative
- Amy Skoczlas Cole, Chair, Minnesota Sustainable Growth Coalition
- Raj V. Rajan, PhD, Global Sustainability Technical Leader, Ecolab

A group of leading Minnesota businesses, more than 20 organizations, formed the Minnesota Sustainable Growth Coalition for the purpose of harnessing their areas of expertise in order to advance corporate and global sustainability. This business-led partnership builds upon the leadership of members to work toward a more circular economy. The Coalition is convened by Environmental Initiative. A circular economy is an economic system that values and preserves all types of capital – financial, natural, manufactured, human, or social. In this system, nothing is lost or wasted, and all resources and talents are utilized to their highest potential.

The Coalition mission states, “We are actively working together to advance a circular economy that enhances regional growth and competitiveness,” and has a vision of being “an inspiring example of collaboration advancing a thriving circular economy that promotes a healthy environment and sustainable growth.” The Coalition has structured itself to have a steering team and has a communication plan in place.

Over the last year the Coalition has established a charter and identified three key areas of focus – clean energy, converting organic waste into resources, and greening gray infrastructure. The work being done includes implementing projects with lasting results, telling our regional leadership story, and designing the circular economy. Only the clean energy subteam has commenced, the other two subteams are to commence fall 2016.

In the area of Clean Energy, members of the coalition are addressing areas such as:

- Adding more renewable energy to our existing systems by:
  - Aggregating our collective demand for renewables for group purchasing.
  - Committing to investments in behind-the-meter and community renewable energy projects.
  - Setting internal price on carbon.
  - Partnering with our utilities to increase their renewable energy production.
- Electrifying systems that are currently fossil fuel dependent, and have a viable electric alternative, starting with transportation through:
  - Facilitation of collective purchasing of EV fleets and infrastructure.
  - Support for expansion and electrification of public transit.
  - Helping the region become Transport 2.0 (car sharing, EVs, AVs) ready.
- Deploying next generation efficiency and smart technology to improve energy performance and rationalize electricity consumption through:
  - Collective action on technology adoption and demand response.
  - Employee education and incentives for home applications of highly-efficient, smart technologies.
- Advancing adoption of distributed energy and storage through:
  - Exploration and adoption of facility energy storage opportunities with current and evolving technology.
  - Partnering to evolve utility rate structures and incentives to support distributed energy resources.

Initial project priorities include:

- Aggregating the clean energy interests of members and working to develop tangible projects that increase access to renewable energy and modernization of our grid.
- Collaboratively managing organic waste and turning it in to valuable fuels and resources.
- Utilizing green infrastructure, which is designed to mimic the natural water cycle, to be cost-effectively deployed in a way that better reflects the true costs of those services.

Dr. Rajan shared what is valuable to Ecolab for participating in the Coalition is being able to attract the best and brightest talent and retain them in the region. The more the region can be banded as a sustainable growth region, the better opportunity to attract the talent. Ecolab was interested in proof of concept and scale. They desired to participate in efforts collectively rather than alone in order to “move the needle”. Because they are not an energy intensive organization, they did participate in the community solar garden program to offset 90% of their electricity use in the State

of Minnesota. They signed on with a 12 megawatt subscription. When considering water, the over extraction of groundwater is important. The Met Council treats wastewater, which is discharged and flows to the Gulf of Mexico. Ecolab is looking into using treated wastewater as an alternative water use. Ecolab was one of the first to sign on to the Minnesota Headwaters Fund. Unresolved issues have to do with non-point source pollution.

Comments/Questions:

- Committee members were impressed with the vision. A circular economy and the role of water is very exciting. The Star Tribune has run an article on the topic. Keeping a “circular economy” visible is important. Good to know there are agencies pulling together to address.

2. General Managers Report:

Nothing to report

**ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary