

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting date: May 13, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Gail Cederberg, D11
- ☒ Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff, D16

- E** Tyronne Carter, District 3
- ☒ Diego Morales, District 9
- ☒ Peter Lindstrom, District 10

- ☒ Susan Vento, District 12
- E** Chai Lee, District 13
- ☒ = present, E = excused

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Cederberg called the regular meeting of the Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Chair Cederberg.

Agenda approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Approval of minutes

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Vento to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2025, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

None at this time.

Non-consent business

1. **2025-116 SW: Approval of Awards for Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Pilot Program** (Jennifer Kostrzewski 651-602-1078, Henry McCarthy 651-602-1946)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2025-116 SW, which:

1. authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute the Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Pilot Program awards in the total amount of \$209,720.
2. and releases the remaining \$190,280 to be used for either the Equity-Focused Pilot Program or the Water Efficiency Grant Program if additional funding is requested by participating municipalities.

Discussion

CM Wulff asked: Can you share more details about different community approaches?

Staff responded: A few are building their grant pilot programs into existing city programs. Others have developed equity criteria using datasets compiled by the Council. We are leaving the determination of equity criteria to the cities but providing guidance through maps and data.

CM Morales asked: Are the savings being passed on to the tenants or the developers?

Staff responded: The savings are being passed on to the tenants. In this applicant's case, the city will facilitate the installation of WaterSense-labeled toilets in manufactured homes connected to city water. These toilets will use less water and therefore lower water bills for residents.

CM Wulff asked: Do cities know that they can ask for additional funds?

Staff responded: Once we have award amounts we will reach out to the 7 cities that applied and let them know there is an amendment form they can submit to increase their amount.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-117: Intergovernmental Agreement with Brooklyn Center** (Chris Remus, 651-602-4538)

It was moved by CM Vento, seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Construction Agreement with the city of Brooklyn Center for the replacement of their pipe segment upstream and downstream of Meter 112 along with rehabilitation of adjacent city sewer pipes as a part of Meter 112 Rehabilitation, ES Project No. 805611, for an amount not to exceed \$950,000.

Discussion

CM asked: What is the cost share for Brooklyn Center?

Staff responded: That is still being decided it will ultimately be determined by bid cost.

Motion carried.

3. **2025-118 SW : Seneca Site & Pipe Restoration, Project No. 807864, Contract 24P242** (Jason Peterson, 651-602-1614)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute Contract 24P242 with PCI Roads for the Seneca Site and Pipe Restoration project in an amount not to exceed \$10,466,727.

Motion carried.

4. **2025-119: Metro WRRF Primary & Secondary Rehabilitation & Renewal Phase 1, Contract 24P096** (Luke Holifield 651-602-6017, Rene Heflin 651-602-1077)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Lindstrom, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 24P096 with Shank



Constructors, Inc for Metro WRRF Primary & Secondary Rehabilitation & Renewal Phase 1 project in an amount not to exceed \$44,042,500.

Motion carried.

5. **2025-120: Fridley Interceptor 4-NS-521 Rehabilitation Real Estate Property Acquisition and Condemnation** (Tom Jauquet, 651-602-4542)

It was moved by CM Wulff , seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council adopt Resolution 2025-12 authorizing the acquisition and condemnation of real estate property for the Fridley Interceptor 4-NS-521 Rehabilitation, ES Project No. 808612.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **ES Preliminary Budget, Rates, and Workshops**(Matt Gsellmeier 651-602-1802)

Matt Gsellmeier, Budget Manager, presented Environmental Services preliminary budget, rates and workshops. The presentation included preliminary regional municipal wastewater charge increase drivers, revenue sources, proposed budgets, projected debt services change, SAC rates, and municipal wastewater charges. The presentation concluded with the 2026 rate setting schedule.

Discussion

CM asked: Why has Flushing, NY come off our comparative rates chart?

Staff responded: Several peer agencies have had higher rate increases and are choosing not to report on the NACWA survey. And our chart only shows peer agencies that treat over 100 mgd, so it could be that Flushing is falling into one of those two categories.

CM asked: Are there any communities that stand out for decreasing their flow volumes?

Staff responded: Our flow and rate setting team is not here today, but we do see fluctuations year-over year for wet and dry years. We will look into evaluating flow success stories in the future and work to incorporate that in future presentations.

Reports

1. Chair
2. Committee Members
3. General Manager

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of May 13, 2025.

Council contact:

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