

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: July 11, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

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

- E** Tyronne Carter, District 3
- Anjuli Cameron, District 5
- Yassin Osman, District 8

- Diego Morales, District 9
- Gail Cederberg, District 12
- = present, E = excused

Call to Order

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

Agenda Approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda, with no objections the agenda was approved **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

None at this time.

Non-Consent Business

1. 2023-153: 2023 Private Property Inflow & Infiltration Task Force Report (Kyle Colvin 651-602-1151, Emily Steinweg 651-602-1516)

It was moved by CM Cederberg, seconded by CM Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council accepts the 2023 Private Property Inflow and Infiltration Task Force Report (Attachment A) and authorizes ES to implement the recommendations of the Report for the Private Property Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Grant Program.

Discussion

CM Cederberg asked: Did you consider a sliding scale for people of lower income to pay a lower percent? What is the total amount of grant money you were thinking for this pilot?

Staff responded: Yes, we did consider a sliding scale as a potential way to distribute funds. We didn't choose to pursue that this year, for privacy reasons related to income. We chose to hold off until we looked into it a little more but our task force has been thinking of how they can more equitably implement the funds in their communities.

CM Wulff stated: The equity component in this program is that a city can provide 100 percent for people that can't afford it. Different communities have different needs and this gives flexibility to communities to implement equity that is impactful in their community.

Staff responded: In regard to the grant money, we have identified that we have the capacity to fund at least 1.5 million dollars. This comes from an existing revenue source and does not impact rates.

CM Lindstrom asked: Out of our 100 plus communities, there is a fair amount that meet these requirements. Around what percent is that?

Staff responded: I believe it is around 80-81 communities, out of the total, that would be eligible to apply.

Motion carried.

2. 2023-157: Adoption of MCES Wastewater Rates and Charges (Ned Smith 651-602-1162)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council adopts the following wastewater rates and charges to be effective January 1, 2024:

- Regional Wastewater Charge (total of municipal wastewater charges) of **\$281,587,000**;
- Sewer Availability Charge (SAC): **\$2,485** (\$3,185 for East Bethel and \$4,685 for Elko/New Market);
- Temporary SAC: **\$1.25** per thousand gallons;
- Industrial Capacity Charge: **\$2.31** per 1,000 gallons (\$2.96 for E. Bethel, \$4.35 for Elko NM);
- Industrial Strength Charge: **\$.310** per excess pound of TSS (total suspended solids);
- Industrial Strength Charge: **\$.155** per excess pound of COD (chemical oxygen demand);
- Brewery Strength Charge: **\$.972** per barrel;
- Standard Load Charge: **\$61.60** per thousand gallons;
- Holding Tank Load Charge: **\$12.74** per thousand gallons;
- Portable Toilet Waste Load Charge: **\$78.45** per thousand gallons;
- Collar County Load Charge: **\$76.60** 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
- Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Surcharge Exceedance Rate: **\$519,000** per million gallons per day (rate of maximum measured flow within an hour over allowed flow rate).

Motion carried.

Information

Introduction to Metro Area Water Supply Plan Update and first chance for input on Chapters 1 and 2 and concepts for Subregional chapters (Lanya Ross 651-602-1803, Jen Kader 651-602-1114) Staff from Water Resources presented an update on the draft Metro Water Supply Plan. They discussed chapters 1 and 2 as well as the concepts from the subregional chapters and asked for feedback and input from the committee members. The desired outcomes of this plan are to connect water supply implementation work to strong regional water policies and goals to support and track progress toward sustainable water supplies for 2050. The presentation concluded with an overview of the overall process and timeline, including next steps:

- Revise draft content based on committee and staff input
- Summer engagement to support subregional chapters
- TAC and MAWSAC input to water policy development and projects
- Development and approval of Metro Area Water Supply Plan

Discussion

CM Lindstrom asked: Looking at the number of cities that plan to build new wells in the years ahead, could you clarify if they taking some wells out of line, or are they just building new wells?

Staff responded: Some communities know they have to rehab or replace their wells to protect public health. The map includes all new wells that are planned for both replacement and to expand community water supply systems.

CM Cederberg stated: It feels like groundwater is becoming more of a scarce resource. We should think about how to avoid creating a mentality of scarcity, so that people aren't concerned that they are not going to get theirs.

Reports

General Managers Report: Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager of Environmental Services made an announcement reminder for the Summer Intern Program presentations that will take place on August 8th at the Environment Committee Meeting. He stated, "It is a session not to be missed."

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of July 11, 2023.

Council Contact:

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