

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Cara Letofsky, Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair

Committee Members Absent:

Harry Melander, Lona Schreiber

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, June 12, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Cara Letofsky to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2018 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2018-131 Interceptor Sewer Tunnel Engineering Master Contact

It was moved by Cara Letofsky, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Engineering Services Master Contracts 17P047A and 17P047B for the design and construction support of interceptor sewer improvements projects to CNA Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$1,000,000 and to Brierley Associates in the amount of \$500,000. **Motion carried.**

2018-151 Minneapolis System - R04/Tunnel Adoption of Amended Facility Plan

It was moved by Cara Letofsky, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan Amendment for the Regulator 04 & 1-MN-344 Tunnel Rehabilitation, MCES Project No. 807629, per the attached Resolution No. 2018-6.

Motion carried.

2018-152 Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for Repair of Interceptor 7015D

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Marie McCarthy, that the Metropolitan Council ratify the Justification for and Declaration of Emergency attached to the business item for repairs to Interceptor 7015D in Brooklyn Park.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Proposed Industrial SAC Changes:

Ned Smith, Director of Finance, and Bob Nordquist, Industrial Waste Manager, presented an informational item regarding changes being proposed to the industrial sewer availability charge (SAC) program. New options for industrial waste customers allow them to choose to pay SAC or an industrial capacity charge (ICC) at any time. Benefits of the change include reducing up-front costs while the industry's production is established, ongoing costs better match the business cycle, permit renewals will not include SAC payments, water conservation efforts will provide a SAC benefit as well as savings from reducing volume costs and is revenue neutral to MCES. Outreach is planned

among communities that charge local SAC and water availability charge (WAC). Proposed changes will be brought before the Environment Committee and Council for formal approval with potential implementation January 1, 2019.

Comments / Questions:

The proposed changes sound great. Hope we find a good way to work with the cities. Residents are being billed anyway for water and sewer. Sounds fair and likes giving businesses a choice on how to structure their payments.

Committee member shared appreciation for the efforts being made in the SAC program balancing the needs of the customers. It takes extra effort and appreciate the work being done.

Thank you to staff who have done a tremendous job.

2. Water Resources Section Briefing Implementing the Water Resources Policy Plan:

Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, presented a briefing about the Water Resources section and the work they are doing to implement the water resources policy plan. The Water Resources section purpose is to provide leadership and information to empower regional communities and MCES actions that ensure clean, healthy, and sustainable resources for the region. This supports the overall vision to assure our region's waters fully support public and ecosystem health, economic growth, and all recreational uses for current and future generations. Specific actions they are taking to fulfill their purpose and vision are:

- Leading and supporting collaboration and planning efforts across the region;
- Coordinating, collecting, and analyzing monitoring information as well as sharing of the information among area stakeholders;
- Building awareness, understanding, and advocacy of water issues;
- Innovate and improve processes and services; and
- Building and aligning workforce talent.

Comments / Questions:

It was noted there is a large concentration of lake monitoring sites in Washington County versus some other counties such as Anoka County. Staff responded that overall, we have monitoring information for nearly 200 of the 900 lakes in the region. There are several reasons it appears we have monitoring gaps in the region. Monitoring sites change over the years, not every partner includes their lake in the program every year and the map shown was just for the lakes we monitored in 2017. Also, we partner with others in the region to ensure coverage and not duplication of coverage. At this time Ramsey and Hennepin Counties have their own programs and cover many of the lakes with their programs.

Staff clarified partners include: watershed organizations, soil and water conservation districts and cities, townships, and counties. The partner is responsible for enrolling the lake into the CAMP program and soliciting either citizen volunteers who live on the lake to collect the samples, or staff from their organization to collect the samples. MCES trains the volunteers on proper techniques for sample collection, provides the equipment needed for sample collect, collects, and delivers the samples to the MCES lab for analysis, and is responsible for all data handling, management, and reports related to the lake where the sample is collected.

A Committee Member shared that she has seen a great deal of value realized with the work the Met Council is doing with no duplication of efforts related to monitoring data. She also mentioned that she attended the TC-WaMoDaG (Twin City Water Monitoring and Data Group) training on May 30th and heard at that meeting about the need for this collaborative effort that brings partners in the region together for workshops, trainings, and meetings to share information about water quality and quantity monitoring in the region and that attendees were very excited that the Council staff were able to get this effort going.

Chair Rummel stated convening has been done better and better.

Staff clarified that regular citizens are able to volunteer to collect samples through the Citizen Assistant Monitoring Program (CAMP). For further information contact Brian Johnson at 651-602-8743 or brian.johnson@metc.state.mn.us.

3. General Manager Report:

General Manager Thompson shared an example of team work and problem-solving staff has been working on regarding phosphorus reduction. Beginning Summer 2017 we started to see an increase in the discharge of phosphorus. In 2018 we were predicting an exceedance of our limit by May; however, we evaluated root causes and identified unintended consequences from energy savings work at the Metro Plant as well as changes to laboratory sampling methods. As a result, we have modified our energy savings process as well as reviewed and amended our laboratory sampling procedures, which addressed the root causes. In addition, we had increased chemical treatment in Hastings and the Solids Management Building at the Metro Plant and temporarily diverted an industrial phosphorus waste source which allowed us to rapidly lower phosphorus discharge.

In addition, our summer interns and Urban Scholars started the week of June 4. MCES has 13 interns and 4 urban scholars working across MCES for the summer. We are planning a poster presentation is planned in August. More information will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary