

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: December 12, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

Chair, Peter Lindstrom, D10
 Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff, D16

E Tyronne Carter, District 3
 Yassin Osman, District 7
E Anjuli Cameron, District 8

E Diego Morales, District 9
 Gail Cederberg, District 11
 = 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

It was moved by consensus to approve the agenda. 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 Osman to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

None at this time.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2023-298 SW: Amendment of Declaration of Emergency Repair of Interceptor 1-MH-401B Lilydale Siphon** (Tim Wedin, 651-602-4571)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Osman, that the Metropolitan Council amend Emergency Declaration 2023-178 for repairs to Interceptor 1-MH-401B Lilydale Siphon in Saint Paul in the amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.

Discussion

CM Wulff asked: Does the extra two million dollars affect our budget or is it within what we have to work with?

Staff responded: We've reviewed our budget from last year, this can be accomplished within the current ACP budget.

CM Lindstrom asked: Is this cured in place product?

Staff responded: It is not a cured in place product. The water pressure inflates it into a round shape. The water pressure in the pipe and the existing siphon pipe will prevent any soil from collapsing.

Motion carried.

2. **2023-299: Contract 19P187A Metropolitan WWTP Solids Renewal and Improvements – Increase of Contract Value** (Craig Edlund 651-602-8383, Dan Abelson 651-602-1713)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Osman, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes an increase in the contract value for Contract 19P187A Metropolitan WWTP Solids Renewal and Improvements, project numbers 805947 and 808920, from \$19,303,100 to \$21,363,047.

Discussion

CM Wulff asked: Did we do the design in-house or was it contracted out?

Staff responded: It was contracted out.

CM Wulff asked: Shouldn't the contractor have been aware of the waiver?

Staff responded: The Metropolitan Council, Environmental Services (MCES), is ultimately responsible for obtaining the waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), not the consultant or contractor. We completed the Lessons Learned from the American Iron and Steel (AIS) compliance to be better prepared in the future.

CM Lindstrom asked: Are there other Lessons Learned beyond the AIS compliance to ensure we are complying with other types of federal or states regulations?

Staff responded: The Lessons Learned process helps set us up for the understanding to make sure we are set up for all the new regulations as they're coming in.

Motion carried.

3. **2023-301: Metro and Seneca Ash Transport and Disposal, Contract 23P089** (Joe Ward 651-602-8302)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Osman, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P089 to Dem-CON Trucking, LLC to provide waste incinerator ash disposal services at the Metropolitan and Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plants in an amount not to exceed \$2,745,000.

Discussion

CM Cederberg asked: Does the disposal have to be covered or is it used for surface landfill?

Staff responded: It is not used as service coverage. It is covered.

CM Wulff asked: Are we pursuing any additional research on recycling our ash instead of landfill use?

Staff responded: The council will continue to explore ash beneficial reuse as the analytical methods and regulatory requirements and framework for pfas become clearer.

CM Lindstrom asked: How many tons of ash is created?

Staff responded: About 17,000 between the two plants. There is about 15,000 tons at Metro and 2,000 at Seneca.

CM Osman asked: The MCUB goal is 4 percent, what was the actual number?

Staff responded: The actual commitment is 55 percent.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Water Resources Monitoring and Assessment 2023 Update** (Daniel Henely, 651-602-8085)

Daniel Henely Assistant Manager of Water Resources presented updates on the 2023 water resources monitoring and assessment. Staff provided an overview on river and stream monitoring. The Large River Program has been running since the 1920's. Since the Clean



Water Act there has been intensive monitoring starting in 1976. The stream program began in 1989 evaluating nonpoint pollution contributions to our large rivers and informing watershed management. River and stream assessments are used to uncover pollutant trends, such as phosphorus. Staff discussed the drought that occurred this summer and noted that monitoring has helped demonstrate improvements in our rivers and the success of our wastewater treatment and conveyance system. Water Resources staff are currently working on finishing their project on 2023 Tributary Trends. Additional information on monitoring and assessments, like our annual lake grades reports, can be found on the Metro Council website under water quality management.

2. Water Policy Plan Update (Jennifer Kostrzewski, 651-602-1078)

Jennifer Kostrzewski, Assistant Manager of Water Planning & Policy, discussed the updates on the Water Policy Plan. She noted that the plans name has been updated to the Water Policy Plan Update, removing the term “Resources.” This change was set in place to promote the inclusivity of all water sources. The plan purposes will remain the same and are as follows:

- Ensuring sustainable water resources in the region
- Provides a framework for integrative water planning
- Contains water policies, strategies, and actions for both the Met Council and our 180+ local governments within the seven-county region
- Will commit the Council to take action in the areas of long-range visioning and planning, regional system investments, facility management, technical assistance, research and assessment, and partnerships

Regional values of this plan include equity, leadership, accountability and stewardship. Regional goals are as followed:

- Our Region is Equitable and Inclusive
- Our Communities are Healthy and Safe
- Our Region is Dynamic and Resilient
- We Lead on Addressing Climate Change
- We have mitigated greenhouse gas emissions
- We Protect and Restore Natural Systems

Staff shared the proposed table of contents and received feedback from the committee. The next steps in drafting this policy are the continuation of sharing with ES executive leadership & committee members and engaging with advisory committees and stakeholders. The plan is expected to be ready for public comment in the summer of 2024.

Reports

General Managers Report: Leisa Thompson, General Manager of Environmental Services, thanked the committee members for all the great work that they’ve done this year. She highlighted the one year anniversary of Environmental Services mission and vision. Leisa gifted each member with a memento of recycled wastewater with the message, “A gift from nature,” with a reminder that we should not take water for granted.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of December 12, 2023.



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