

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

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

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

- 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

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. With consensus 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 August 8, 2023 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

None at this time.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2023-174 JT: 2023 Budget Amendment** (Ned Smith 651-602-1162, Matt Gsellmeier 651-602-1802)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the amendment of the 2023 Unified Budget to add \$656K to the 2023 Authorized Capital Program (ACP) as indicated in Attachment #3 and modify the 2023 Operating Budget as indicated in Attachment A, Table B-1 to increase wastewater expenses by \$7.31M and increase wastewater revenues by \$7.5M

Motion carried.

2. **2023-185: Engineering Design Services: Hastings Sewer System Modifications, Contract 22PP312** (Chad Division, 651-602-4130)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Cederberg, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contract 22P312 with Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc., to provide services for the design of modifications to the Hastings sanitary sewer collection system in an amount not to exceed \$8,713,334.43.

Discussion

CM Cederberg asked: Is the not to exceed amount just for the design?

Staff responded: Yes, this is their full value.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Diamond Ring: Symbol of Integrity and Commitment** (Deb McKinley 651-602-1035, Kai Peterson 651-602-1151)

Staff from the Administration and Communications team shared a summary of how a diamond ring, found by staff performing maintenance at the Rogers Wastewater Treatment Plant, was reunited with its owner after 13 years. Public outreach, including two media events, resulted in a happy ending for the ring owner and a lot of positive media about the integrity and commitment of Environmental Services employees. This story also highlighted the importance of what not to flush, as well as the excellent work being done at the Council.

2. **Environmental Services System Plan Overview** (Kyle Colvin, 651-602-1151)

Kyle Colvin, Manager of Wastewater Planning and Community Programs, provided an update on the Environmental Services Wastewater System Plan overview. He discussed how the System Plan in part of the Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP). This plan will:

- Support the 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan: focuses on ensuring sustainable water resources in the region
- Provide a framework for integrative water planning
- Contain water policies, strategies, and actions for both the Met Council and our 180+ local governments within the seven-county region
- Commit the Council to take action

The contents and purpose of having a system plan in place was discussed. The system plan includes a 20-year vision of how regional water services will be provided. The presentation concluded with a timeline of the WRPP process. The plan is due to be adopted by 2050.

Discussion

CM Cederberg asked: Have there been instances when there hasn't enough capacity to accommodate growth or a specific project because of capacity?

Staff responded: Our planning methods and assumptions offers some flexibility to adjust for unforeseen changes that come up, but that is very rarely. We have adequate reserve capacity in our system as we use a conservative approach in our estimating future capacity needs.

CM Lindstrom asked: I can imagine people would want to weigh in something like this I am curious about stakeholder engagement as a whole.

Staff responded: The development and public outreach engagement with the policy plans will coincide and be simultaneous with the system plan in regard to public input. It will be all inclusive.

Reports

No report at this time.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of August 22, 2023.

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