

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: December 13, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

Chair, Peter Lindstrom D11
 Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff D16

Raymond Zeran, District 9
 Susan Vento, District 11

E Kris Fredson, District 14
 Phillip Sterner, District 15
 = 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.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Susan Vento to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2022 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

None at this time.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-308: Implementation of General Permits for Dental Clinics (Martina Nelson 651-602-8472, Naum Bukingolts, 651-602-471, Ned Smith 651-602-1162)**

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Vento, that That the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to remove the permitting exemption for dental clinics so that MCES can implement general permits to dental clinics in our service area that fall under EPA's Dental Office Point Source Category (40 CFR Part 441).

Discussion

CM Vento: Do you think there might be any merit in a certificate or seal, clinics can post each year for completion of this program? Is this being done on a county or regional level?

Staff responded: We do issue them a certificate of compliance that's good for 5 years. I don't know the specifics but I think Duluth issues permits because of their mercy limitations.

CM Vento: Do we know what the other sources of mercy are to our treatment plants?

Staff responded: Supply chain issues outside of the United States have contributed to this.

Motion carried.

2. **2022-318 JT: Joint Powers Agreement, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program, Contract 22G002** (Daniel Henely, 651-602-4304)

It was moved by CM Sterner, seconded by CM Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council, Committee of the Whole authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Contract 22G002 with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (“MPCA”) to enter new Joint Powers Agreement.

Discussion

Chair Lindstrom asked: Does the MPCA fund the other stations that we have, the other parts of our monitoring program?

Staff responded: No, the rest of our stream monitoring program which is about 15 additional stations is funded through MCES funds.

Motion carried.

3. **2022-309: Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant Owner’s Agent (Heidi Hutter, 651-602-1026)**

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 22P270 with Black and Veatch Corporation to provide Owner’s Agent Services for design-build delivery of the new Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plant, in an amount not to exceed \$9,998,952.

Discussion

CM Sterner: When we build the new plant what is the compacity of growth?

Staff responded: We projected outgrowth through 2050, which is the 30-year planning period. At this time, we are proposing to build that plant at 3 MGD, which is about three quarters of an MGD larger than the current facility.

Motion carried.

4. **2022-317SW: Ratification of Emergency Declaration for Long Lake Interceptor Rehabilitation, Project 808862, Contract 21P008- Additional Pipe Debris Removal (Tim Wedin 651-602-4571)**

It was moved by CM Sterner, seconded by CM Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council ratify the attached Emergency Declaration for Additional Pipe Debris Removal in Interceptor 8451.

Discussion

CM Wulff asked: What was the nature of the extra debris that they were finding?

Staff responded: A lot of the debris found while working on the pipe was sand, grit, rocks. That was primarily the nature of the debris they were finding.

CM Wulff asked: Did we figure out where that was coming from?



Staff stated: There's a lot of different sources that may be coming from throughout the system. There may be Access through manholes, access through other points through the pipes, there is a wide variety of locations where that debris could be coming from. It accumulates over time.

Chair Lindstrom asked: Could it be ameliorated in the future now that we'll have essentially a new pipe, to prevent this in the future?

Staff responded: That's part of what we will be working on with this new improvement. The new CIPP lining will provide a newer pipe and address a number of deficiencies in the system to help improve the flow through the pipe.

Chair Lindstrom asked: What is the proper disposal

Motion carried.

5. **2022-335 SW: Project 819025 TH-13 MnDOT Coordination-Change Authority Increase (Tim Wedin 651-602-4571)**

It was moved by CM Vento, seconded by CM Wulff, that That the Metropolitan Council authorizes an increase in the General Manager's delegated construction contract change order authority for the Master Utility Agreement 211069 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Interceptor 8560 from \$290,104 to \$690,104.

Discussion

CM Wulff asked: Who's job was it to figure out how much lead time on ordering the pipe

Staff stated: That is typically, the contractor. They put together their schedule as far as lead time to order materials. Sometimes things just don't come in on time. It seems to be an industry-wide challenge that everyone is dealing with.

CM Wulff asked: Are we looking at expecting longer lead times from our contractors due to the supply change challenges?

Staff stated: We are aware of this and are working with our teams to better understand when materials are going to be available, try to address challenges that may come up with supply change issues, and give the contractor the time they need in order to do the work.

CM Sterner: Is there any possibility of delay in this work?

Staff responded: We have been having conversations with MnDot, there are other projects that are dictating when they need to have this one finished. There are a lot of other drivers that are pushing them towards the advancement of completing this project. Really necessitating work during the winter.

Chair Lindstrom asked: We are still in conversation with MnDOT about price, correct?

Staff stated: Yes, there is still some discussion about the contract price with MnDOT. There is still a lot of questions about the quantity of those additional cost. Some of those additional costs include unsuitable soils. Until we get through the excavation, we won't know what the quantity of the material is. The number that we included here, we believe is worst case scenario.

Motion carried.



6. **2022-331: Training Service Supporting MCES Core and New Hire Training Programs, Contract 22P268 (George (Scott) Bowes, 651-602-9987)**

It was moved by CM Zeran, seconded by CM Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 22P268 with Midwest Training Associates, to provide training services in an amount not to exceed \$555,000.

Discussion

Chair Lindstrom asked: Have we worked with this service before?

Staff responded: Yes, we've worked with this particular provider for the past 5 years. We've had a contract with them.

CM Sterner asked: How does this contract compare to the last 5 years that we've had them?

Staff responded: There has been an increase of approximately 10 percent due to inflationary pressures, which were expected.

CM Wulff asked: Is there a competitive process for this or is there only one place that does this?

Staff responded: Yes, there is a competitive process for this. A proposal was advertised on September 15, 2022. We received two proposals on October 19, 2022, that were evaluated by 3 panel members including a member from the Environmental Health and Safety Department. Midwest Training and Associates was chosen on that competitive basis.

Motion carried.

Information

None at this time.

Reports

General Manager of Environmental Service Leisa Thompson stated: I would like thank you for your leadership and support for 2022. We are super excited for 2023, things are beginning to get back to normal post pandemic, which is really great. We did our vision and mission update this year and it is already showing more collective energy towards those directions. Our climate change goals, have fostered a lot of excitement, as well as our I/I Private Property Task force. Council Member Wulff is going to help us with. There are some really good things on the horizon for 2023. We'd love to have all of you back, you have been really great to work with.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:46 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 13, 2022.

Council Contact:

Nneka Onah, Recording Secretary
Nneka.Onah@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-8101

