

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: September 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
- E** 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

It was moved by a 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 Morales to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2023 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

None at this time.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2023-204: Revised Emergency Declaration 2023-103 for Repair of Minneapolis Interceptor 1-MN-330 MH71** (Tim Wedin, 651-602-4571)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council revise Emergency Declaration 2023-103 for repairs of the maintenance hole for Interceptor 1-MN-330 at 27th Street West and Girard Avenue South in Minneapolis, from an estimated \$350,000 to an amount not to exceed of \$430,000.

Discussion

CM Cederberg asked: Could you let us know how long it took from the time of discovery to completion?

Staff responded: We began around the beginning of April or May and it brought us into end of August.

CM Wulff asked: Did we figure out what the cause was?

Staff responded: At this time I am still not aware of a determination of cause. We may never know.

Motion carried.

2. **2023-205: Emergency Declaration for Repair of 7122 Low Head Crossing (Adam Gordon, 651-602-4503)**

It was moved by CM Wulff seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council ratify the attached Emergency Declaration for repairs of the sink hole and Interceptor 7122 Low Head Crossing in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Discussion

CM Lindstrom asked: Does it make sense to do cured in place verses replacing it? Is it more cost effective?

Staff responded: We needed to stabilize the condition known now. Doing a Capital Program typically takes 3-5 years. A failure at this point would be very costly.

CM Wulff asked: What are we doing differently moving forward?

Staff responded: We are trying to catch up on inspections. We now have more of a program approach, have added inspection projects to the CIP, increased our consulting contracts and have added staff. I can't say we won't have any more incidents, but we are working our best address aging facilities.

Motion carried.

3. **2023-208: Empire Polymer Contract, Contract 22P2349A (Elizabeth Schrandt, 651-602-8407)**

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P349A with Polydyne, Inc. to provide polymer to the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant in amount not to exceed \$2,399,000.

Discussion

CM Cederberg asked: Do you use the same process in the winter?

Staff responded: During the winter they are stored on the pad.

CM Cederberg asked: For the sludge remaining on the pad is the polymer still detectable that's land spread?

Staff responded: I am not sure of any current testing, but I will look into this and provide clarification.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Proposed Metropolitan Council Triennial EPA DBE Goal** (Ashanti Payne, 612-349-7660)

Ashanti Payne, Assistant Director of the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity presented the Proposed Metropolitan Council Triennial Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) goal. The objective of the DBE federal program is to level the playing field for DBE's and ensure nondiscrimination in the awarding contracts. The overall DBE goal is set every three years and is the anticipated participation over these years. The current triennial goal is 11% and has been met for the last two years. The proposed EPA DBE goals for 2024-206 is 11.9%; 5.4% (Race-Conscious), 6.5% (Race-Neutral). The proposed goal will be determined by:

- Determine availability rates in well-defined geographic market area



- Produce any adjustments to the base DBE goal
- Propose maximum portion of the goal that can be achieved through race-neutral means

2. **Water Policy Research Project** (Jennifer Kostrzewski 651-602-1078, Emily Schon 651-602-1516)

Staff from Water Resources presented an update on the Water Policy Research project. The presentation recapped the 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan, which focuses on ensuring sustainable water resources in the region. It is a part of and informed by the Regional Development Guide. Staff discussed wastewater planning and service considerations. Some of the key issues include:

- Inflow and infiltration
- Vactor waste receiving
- Liquid waste receiving
- Requested acquisitions of rural wastewater treatment plants
- Contaminants of regulatory concern
- Centralized versus decentralized wastewater planning
- Wastewater surveillance

New policy recommendations include:

- Water Surveillance
- Contaminants of Regulatory Concern: Nitrogen and Polyfluoroalkyl PFAS

Reinstated policy recommendations include:

- Interceptor Ownership Transfer

Reports

No report at this time.

Adjournment

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

Certification

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

Council Contact:

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

