

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

#### Committee Members Present:

Peter Lindstrom, Chair; Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair; Kris Fredson, Phillip Sterner; Susan Vento; Raymond Zeran

#### Committee Members Absent:

None

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lindstrom called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 with the following roll call:

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Wulff, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Zeran  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 0

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Wulff to approve the agenda.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Wulff, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Zeran  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

It was moved by Sterner seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2020, regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Wulff, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Zeran  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

#### CONSENT BUSINESS

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2020-208 JT)

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Sterner to approve the consent agenda business items.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Wulff, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Zeran  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

1. 2020-208 JT: City of Chaska 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22303-1

Requests that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comments and Review Record attached to the business item and take the following action:

**Recommendations of the Environment Committee:**

1. Approve the City of Chaska’s Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

**NON-CONSENT BUSINESS**

2. 2020-211: Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for Repair of Interceptor 1-MN-320 under Van White Memorial Boulevard and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in Minneapolis

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Fredson that the Metropolitan Council ratify the Justification for the Declaration of Emergency #63 attached to the business item by Environmental Services for repair to Interceptor 1-MN-320 located under Van White Memorial Boulevard and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in Minneapolis.

Aye: 6 Lindstrom, Wulff, Fredson, Sterner, Vento, Zeran  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 0

Motion carried.

**INFORMATION**

1. Inflow & Infiltration

Kyle Colvin, Manager, Engineering Programs and Marcus Bush, Principle Engineer provided an overview, background, key milestones of the Council’s Inflow and Infiltration program. The presentation also identified next steps that MCES plans to take to continue reducing clear water in the wastewater system.

Information was shared regarding the decades of cooperative work, integrated water management, sound policy decisions, consistent investments, and overcoming the technical, financial and political challenges associated with separating a once connected storm water and sanitary sewer system.

Comments & Questions:

Committee Member Zeran shared a story about inflow and infiltration inspections related to a new homeowner who was not required to have an inspection prior to closing on the home. There was build up in a cast-iron “Y” joint that caused a backup into the home. If there had been an inspection process, the backup may have been mitigated. Committee Member Sterner shared homeowner’s insurance has an option which includes coverage that helps with the cost of repairs.

Committee Member Fredson asked about the total dollars spent to address inflow and infiltration, to what extent the Metropolitan Council has been responsible or the percentage of bonding funds that have been used from the legislature. Staff stated there has been funding through previous bonding bills for grant programs that allow cities to address city-owned infrastructure solutions related to inflow and infiltration. In prior grant programs there was a 50/50 responsibility. Funds had to be used for mitigation efforts and not used for expansion. Funds have been received once from Clean Water Legacy Fund for private property work, and from the Metropolitan Council in 2008-2009 in the amount of \$1.8 M and bonding bills in 2007-2019 for \$19.2 Million from the legislature for work on public facilities.

Chair Lindstrom stated that without the bonding bill would the funds dry up in the next few years. Staff stated the Comprehensive Plans that have been completed, require the communities to address inflow and infiltration mitigation in their Capital Improvement Plans. Most communities have some level of commitment in their capital improvement plans for inflow and infiltration mitigation work. Staff also stated in response to Councilmember Fredson's question that through bonding grant program for every \$1 of grant money, a total of \$8 is spent at the local level on inflow and infiltration work.

Committee Member Fredson commented it reinforces the need and rationale for a large bonding bill. Hopefully the legislature will figure out a way to accomplish that in August or September.

Chair Lindstrom stated including it in the comprehensive plans or the capital improvement plans is a good thing and is also up against other priorities cities have. Without dedicated funding, doing this type of work is challenging.

Chair Lindstrom saw information out of the City of Roseville about demand charges or surcharges. Has that been replaced by an incentive program? Are there no demand charges being levied at this point? Staff confirmed there has never been a demand charge assigned to a community. The water resources policy plan was amended in 2016 or 2017 to eliminate reference to a demand charge. The Council can implement if needed. At this time 10-20 communities have work plans. Communities are notified when excessive flows occur, how much investment may be needed, and work with them to identify effective projects.

Committee Member Wulff stated she was the chair of the task force in 2015 that recommended continuance of the program. The inflow and infiltration program is part of good standard maintenance on the system. There are not many communities that are currently assigned a work plan because maintenance has been completed. A few are still completing work and service laterals is still a large portion of the system that needs to be addressed.

Committee Member Wulff acknowledged that a lot of work has been completed since the inception of the program in 2004 and requested staff to estimate the dollars saved in the region by addressing inflow and infiltration and not having to treat the excess flow or build additional system capacity.

## 2. General Manager Report

Prior to inflow and infiltration implementation, rainstorms and the surges associated with them were more concerning to effects on the plants. We are doing great things with this work.

NACWA extended the deadline for submitting for the Peak Performance Awards due to COVID. Official announcement is anticipated in August. Awards are anticipated for the following facilities:

- MCES-Hastings WWTF - Platinum-29
- MCES-St Croix Valley WWTF - Platinum-28
- MCES-Blue Lake WWTF - Platinum-14
- MCES-Eagles Point WWTF - Platinum-14
- MCES-Empire WWTF - Platinum-12
- MCES-Metropolitan WWTF - Platinum-8

Chair Lindstrom inquired if we are still participating in the study related to COVID in wastewater. General Manager Thompson confirmed that MCES is still participating in the study.

If Committee members have items they would like brought before this committee, please let [leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:leisa.thompson@metc.state.mn.us) know.

## **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 July 28, 2020.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary