

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 4:00 p.m. Council Chambers

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Lona Schreiber, Harry Melander, Marie McCarthy; Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair

#### NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Edward Reynoso

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wendy Wulff seconded by Lona Schreiber to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Wendy Wulff seconded by Lona Schreiber to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, March 8, 2016 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 2016-82, 2016-83, 2016-85, 2016-86)

It was moved by Lona Schreiber, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve consent agenda business items. **Motion carried.**

1. **2016-82: Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Engineering Services Agreements for Interceptor Lift Station Projects**

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute five-year full service engineering agreements for interceptor projects with the following firms at the stated not-to-exceed amounts:

Brown and Caldwell	\$4,000,000
Stantec Consulting Group	\$4,000,000
Foth Infrastructure	\$4,000,000
Donohue & Associates	\$4,000,000

2. **2016-83: Authorization to Award and Execute a Construction Contract for Hopkins Lift Station**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for construction of the HSI Contract D – Lift Station L27, Meters M123A & M123B, MCES Project No. 804126, Contract No. 16P001, with Rice Lake Construction Group for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$12,167,400.00.

3. **2016-85: Authorization to Acquire and Condemn of Real Property for Metropolitan Council Project 802855, Lift Station L-18 in Shorewood**

That the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution 2016-11 authorizing the acquisition of real property necessary for MCES Project 802855 and directing its attorneys to initiate condemnation proceedings.

**4. 2016-86: Authorization to Acquire and Condemn of Real Property for Metropolitan Council Project 802827, Mound Area Improvements**

That the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution 2016-12 authorizing the acquisition of real property necessary for MCES Project 802827 and directing its attorneys to initiate condemnation proceedings for those parcels that cannot be acquired by direct negotiation.

## **NON-CONSENT AGENDA**

**5. 2016-84: Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Purchase Agreement for Future Crow River Wastewater Reclamation Plant Site**

It was moved by Lona Schreiber, seconded by Wendy Wulff that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a purchase agreement for the future Crow River Wastewater Reclamation Plant Site, MCES Project No. 809110. **Motion carried.**

**6. 2016-87: Authorization to Award and Execute a Construction Contract for Mound Area Improvements – 6-MO-651 and Lift Station L39/L40**

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Marie McCarthy that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for construction of the Mound Area Improvements – 6-MO-651 and Lift Station L39/L40, MCES Project Number 802827, Contract No. 15P304, with Minger Construction, for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$12,896,604.50. **Motion carried.**

**7. 2016-88: Authorization to Award and Execute a Construction Contract for Blue Lake Area Interceptor Improvements**

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Lona Schreiber that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for construction of the Blue Lake Area Improvements – Interceptors 6903 and 6904, MCES Project Number 802880, Contract No. 16P003, with S.M.Hentges & Sons Inc., for their low responsive, responsible bid of \$10,127,485.30. **Motion carried.**

**8. 2016-89: Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Memorandum of Understanding with the City of West St. Paul, MCES Ongoing Inflow and Infiltration Mitigation Program**

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Lona Schreiber that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of West St. Paul and the Metropolitan Council regarding the MCES Ongoing Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Program. **Motion carried.**

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Clean Water Fund Overview:

Ali Elhassan, Manager, of Water Supply Planning provided an overview of how the Metropolitan Council has been utilizing funds provided by the Clean Water Fund. These have been the main source of funding for projects, studies, and development of tools over the past 6 years.

Minnesota Water Management Framework was developed five years ago and revised in 2015. State agencies developed this framework for water management. Work is not being duplicated or stepping on each other's toes.

Clean Water Legacy Act was implemented in 2006 that focuses on restoration and created the Clean Water Council. The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment was created in 2008 with an expanded charge to protect and enhance waters as well as drinking water.

The Clean Water fund budget process is a two-year process and begins with a revenue projection. Agencies then submit budget requests to the Clean Water Council and the Interagency Coordination Team for evaluation, which then proceed to the Governor's office

for review and submittal as a budget request to the Legislature. In the past 6 years, we have received approximately 95% of what has been requested.

Since 2010, the Metropolitan Council has received \$7,000,000 + that has been utilized for research, tools, and projects. For 2016-2017, the Metropolitan Council will focus on water supply sustainability support and efficiency grants.

Studies have included hydrology, groundwater & surface water, hydrogeology, engineering, and feasibility. For 2016-2017 efficiency of irrigation use in residential areas is being looked in to as well as groundwater modeling, uncertainty analysis, evaluation of efficient water use on utilities operations and revenue.

Projects have included the Industrial Water Conservation Program through the University of Minnesota in 2013 and stormwater reuse support projects at CHS Stadium in 2015. For 2016-2017 stormwater reuse support projects will take place in Western Metro communities and the Industrial Water Conservation Program will focus on commercial properties. Sustainability support outcomes have realized 75 million gallons per year of water saved through efforts implemented.

Through water efficiency grants, the Metropolitan Council granted 19 communities with grants to replace washing machines, retrofit irrigation systems, and replace toilets. Grants provide 75% of the program cost (\$570,000) with the remaining 25% provided by the municipality (\$190,000). Through these programs, an estimated 85 million gallons of water have been saved. This is enough water for 2,500 people annually.

Through the regional water supply planning process, there have been many impacts, progress made, as well as value added to the initiatives implemented. In addition to water and cost savings, better planning is available for communities when they format their Community Master Plans. Better information is available for rate and feasibility analysis. Funding partners have been identified through community contributions, and watershed districts. Better services and tools have been implemented such as Metro Model 3, a conservation toolbox and water efficiency grants. Knowledge has been leveraged through engineers, hydrogeologists, the University, consultants, and the US Geological Survey. Streamlining of DNR local plans and regional groundwater modeling have helped in the decision-making process. A collaborative framework was created through the Community Technical Workgroup and Technical Advisory Committee as well as new work groups that are being implemented.

Local input is valuable through the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC), Community Technical Work Group, and six workgroups encompassing 54 communities. Public education and outreach is occurring through community forums, publications, media, workshops and community events. The City of White Bear Lake has invited us to work with them at the Market Fest in June as well as a conservation event. Invitations come in periodically from communities to collaborate.

Stakeholders are saying:

- “The Metropolitan Council’s water conservation toolbox provides information and an extensive list of resources for residents who want to use their water efficiently.” (City of St. Louis Park).
- “Being able to start from Metro Model to construct the groundwater model used for the New Brighton WHPA delineation made the work more efficient and cost lower.” (Grant Wyffels, former Director of Public Works, New Brighton)

- “The public awareness that the program efficiency grant program creates is a benefit as we work to educate the public on the importance of conserving water, even in Minnesota.” (Mark Burch, Director of Public Works, White Bear Lake)

The region’s water supply is sustainable now and in the future. Through the strategies of the Master Water Supply Plan, the following goals have been set:

- Facilitate collaboration with partners to address water supply issues and update the Master Plan
- Review and comment on local plans and permits
- Conduct water supply water conservation
- Investigate reusing stormwater and treated wastewater
- Support regional and local investments in water supply

To achieve sustainability by 2040 and beyond, the region can reduce water use. Currently, the regional average total (water used for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes) per capita water use is about 125 gallons per day, and average residential per capita water use is at 95 gallons per day. By 2040, we are looking to decrease average total per capita water use to 90 gallons per day and average residential per capita water use to 75 gallons per day. Summer water use is currently about 2.3 times more than in the winter, and we would like to reduce this to 1.6 times. These reductions will lead to a financial savings of approximately \$92 million. Total cost of the program is \$125 million.

Clean Water Fund money funds studies, tools, grants, and projects that supplement the basic planning functions of the Metropolitan Council. For 2018-2019, we are seeking the same level of water supply sustainability support and an increase in water efficiency grants with a new initiative of surface water quality.

#### Comments/Questions

- Is there any guidance on the five categories of the Water Management Framework and what is allocated to each? The Clean Water Fund divides based on the water management framework in place. 55% is on implementation projects, 16% for monitoring and assessment, 15% to groundwater and drinking water, small portion to research and development. The Clean Water Fund is approximately \$100,000,000 per year. It is divided on a biennium basis. The Metropolitan Council uses 1.5% of the funding.
- Modeling at first was general for the region, now local communities are seeking evaluation from the Metropolitan Council.
- Average water use per day is 95 gallons per person. Some communities use 200 gallons per day and have irrigation systems or pools; more urban communities have smaller lots and established lawns and landscaping.
- The request for 2018-2019 was submitted. Was there any request for repairing service laterals in West St. Paul and Golden Valley? Staff stated not at this point. Metro Cities is working hard on this issue to resolve.
- It seems there may be some greater MN communities that could benefit from this program, could state agencies could look at that? It is addressed frequently. Staff stated the MN Rural Water Association is working on creating a program list this in order to receive funding to address.
- It is my understanding we cannot use bonding funds for private use. Do the Legacy funds do not have the same prohibitions? In 2014, we received funding from the Clean Water Fund for Inflow and Infiltration for homeowners.
- Staff requested Committee members help us support the Clean Water Fund. We have support from Metro Cities, City Administrators, the Management Association of

Minnesota and the American Water Works Association of Minnesota are providing a letters of support.

2. General Manager's Report:

Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager, Environmental Quality Assurance provided the General Manager's report in Leisa Thompson's absence. The report included:

- The CHS Rainwater Reuse System won an award from the Fresh Water Society. The City of St. Paul has recognized the project with the 2016 Sustainable St. Paul Award for water conservation.
- Fresh Water Society – The Moos Family Lecture Series – DC Water CEO and General Manager, George Hawkins attended to share their story and vision for the future with our region. We were interested in hearing how they are overcoming challenges and have set the bar and been innovative with outreach and messaging as well as tangibly connecting with customers and ratepayers.

Chair Rummel suggested connecting to the on-line video. The link to the Moos Family Speaker Series on water resources called *Evolution to Cleaner Water and Greener Water Companies* with George Hawkins, CEO of DC Water and Sewer Authority can be found at <http://freshwater.org/moos-family-lecture-series/>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary