

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Sandra Rummel-Chair, Wendy Wulff-Vice Chair, Cara Letofsky, Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Excused:

Lona Schreiber, Harry Melander

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2017.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Marie McCarthy, seconded by Cara Letofsky to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Cara Letofsky, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2017 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

1. **2017-129:** Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant Electrical Distribution Renewal Phase 1 Construction Contract

It was moved by Edward Reynoso, seconded by Wendy Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute Construction Contract 17P054 for MCES Project 808910 Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant Electrical Distribution Renewal – Phase 1 with Total Construction & Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$5,487,100.00. **Motion carried.**

2. **2017-130:** Telecommunications Equipment Contract for the Metro Plant (Amended)

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Marie McCarthy, that Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award Contract 17P053 in the amount of \$595,323.07 to CDW LLC for the purchase of Cisco network equipment, which includes access points, switches and controllers. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. MCUB Mentor Protégé Pilot Program and Annual Report:

Wanda Kirkpatrick, Director of Equal Opportunity and Iqbal Mohammed, Equal Opportunity Consultant presented an update on the Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) Mentor Protégé Pilot Program and the annual report of the program for 2016.

MCES has been working with the office of equal opportunity on an MCUB Mentor Protégé Pilot Program that identifies mentors who will help show smaller DBE's how to be part of the larger business opportunities with the Council.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) states that the EPA requires fair share goals for women and minorities in projects either partially or fully funded by the EPA. In 2012 the Council expanded the program to MCUB in response to the Governor's executive order. Five years of program information will be shared.

Small business utilization started around \$2.4 million in 2012. It has grown to \$14.0 million in 2015 and was at \$12.3 million in 2016.

A progression of the WBE and MBE has been administered equally in the 5 years the program has been administered. A decrease was experienced in both segments in 2016 requiring the implementation of the mentor program.

MCUB payments has experienced healthy growth in the past 5 years. In 2012, \$322,000 was issued and has grown to \$5.8 million by 2016.

Summary of payments by minority status and gender was shared as well as utilization by business certification. This helped set strategy goals for the program.

Current recommendations include bundling or de-bundling contracts to create more subcontracting opportunities, targeted outreach to the identified underutilized groups, smaller direct contracts with contractors from underutilized groups, and a mentor-protégé program that would help develop underutilized businesses to compete.

The mentor-protégé program would look at providing the following guidance:

- Bonding
- Business planning
- Capital formation
- Equipment utilization
- Financial counseling
- Record keeping
- Technical assistance

Having a program such as the MCUB protégé program will help the businesses comply with requirements. Project specific relationships can exist long term. Monitoring and evaluation can occur as well as the development of an advisory committee.

Incentives of the protégé program include protégé participation that may be counted in all projects, the mentor receives a 10% project goal mark-up, and financial incentive could be considered to the mentor in the future.

Comments and Questions:

When we have federal funding, how do we address DBE requirements when it may be difficult to reach the goals? There are two DBE programs – transit with US DOT and one with EPA/PFA funded. The last report to the EPA had a goal of 15% from 2009 to 2012, with 5% for minorities and 10% for women. We were unable to meet the goals, so we renegotiated to 12% allowing the goal to be achieved. Relationships have been built among contractors and staff by Iqbal Mohammed.

Clarification was requested regarding the 10% project goal mark up and compensation to the mentor. Staff stated the 10% project markup is for MCUB. If bidding as a general contractor, the goal much be met. If participation is included in the mentor program, a portion of the 10% goal is credited, therefore reducing the total requirement.

In reference to consideration of the MnDOT incentive compensation program, a Committee Member expressed concern about the additional costs this could incur for our customers.

2. Governor's 25x25 Initiative:

Emily Resseger, Principal Environmental Scientist and Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources provided information regarding the Governor's 25x25 initiative that has a goal of 25% improvement in Minnesota's water quality by the year 2025. He is seeking to drive a clean water ethic in the state, bringing together all Minnesotans to address water quality challenges with an ambitious and achievable goal.

The initiative is led by the Environmental Quality Board and includes the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Pollution Control Agency, the Metropolitan Council, Department of Natural Resources, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the Public Facilities Authority.

It is a call to action to provide flexible goals for each of Minnesota's eight Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Individual regions would decide what water quality issues to address and strategies to deploy. There would be no new regulations put in place due to this initiative. Success in each region would include the definition of what the 25% improvement would target, what will be done to reach that goal, and proposal of strategic water quality policy initiatives for the 2018 session.

The process would include citizen engagement, a compilation report of gathered feedback, a Governor's Summit in early 2018, with legislation and other initiatives proposed by the Governor in 2018.

In 2017, civic engagement is taking place encompassing regional activities, citizens working together to identify priorities, creation of a shared vision of what the 25% improvement would look like, and develop strategies on how to achieve the vision.

During the civic engagement process town hall events are being scheduled, regional targeted meetings established as well as locally organized meetings to discuss the goals.

Examples of improvement goals could include with additional examples available in the [community meeting discussion guide](#):

- 25% reduction in
 - Phosphorus levels in our lakes
 - Beach closures
 - Days when recreation is impaired by algae blooms
 - Road salt use
 - Water use
- 25% increase in
 - Native vegetated buffers
 - Agriculture lands in cover crops or perennial vegetation
 - Number of private wells tested

State organized town hall events have been planned for:

- 3 in the Metro area
 - Minneapolis – September 26
 - Burnsville – October 4
 - Stillwater – October 5

These town halls are targeted at the general public. Brief presentations and small group discussion with state agency leadership will occur during the 2-hour town hall. Written input will be obtained from the participants with a vote on area goals scheduled at the conclusion of each session.

State organized regionally targeted meetings following town hall events

- Will closely resemble the town hall meetings and will include key allies, water professionals and interest groups that will gather feedback on goals and policy ideas.

Locally organized community water meetings

- Will involve citizens and local governments that will host discussions.
- Anyone can organize such as faith groups, rotary clubs and neighborhood associations.
- Access will be available to regionally specific materials and discussion guides that are available on line.

Ways to participate

- Attend scheduled town halls in your area in September or October.
- Host your own community water meeting prior to October 5th.
- Encourage others you know to host a community water meeting.

Staff are available to assist in setting up discussions in each of the districts. For further information, please contact:

Judy Sventek, 651-602-1156, judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us or

Emily Resseger, 651-602-1033, emily.resseger@metc.state.mn.us

Comments and Questions:

Anoka County appears to have been left out of the regional meetings, is there a reason for that? Town Halls were initially set to occur in the Minnesota River basin, the Mississippi River basin, and the St. Croix River basin. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needs arise. Planning and development is a work in progress and will continue to evolve in the coming months.

Community meetings can be hosted by community leaders and citizens any time before or after the town hall events with the goal to have feedback received by the last town hall on October 5th. More information about how to participate and host community meetings will be released June 15th and can be found at the Environmental Quality Board's 25x25 website:

<https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/25-2025-overview>.

3. General Manager Report:

NACWA platinum awards have been announced – 6 plants in platinum category for 2016.

Hastings – 27 years

St. Croix Valley – 18 years

Blue Lake – 12 years

Eagles Point – 11 years

Empire – 10 years

Metro – 5 years

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary