

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: June 27, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

Chair, Peter Lindstrom D11
 Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff D16

Tyronne Carter, District 3
E Anjuli Cameron, District 5
 Yassin Osman, District 8

Diego Morales, District 9
 Gail Cederberg, District 12
 = 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

Without objection the June 27, 2023 agenda was approved. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by CM Morales, seconded by CM Carter to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted (Items 2023-139)

2023-139: City of Independence 2040 Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22711-1

Requests that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and attached Advisory Comments and take the following actions:

Recommendation of the Environment Committee

1. Approve the City of Independence Comprehensive Sewer Plan.
2. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for wastewater:
 - a. The Plan identifies the need for a future improvement to serve new development areas south of Maple Plain via L63. This improvement would be a regional interceptor connecting to L63 and extending to a yet to be determined location. Some of the areas to be served through this future improvement are timed within the 2020-2030 staging plan. For this interceptor to be built to accommodate the projected development needs, coordination between the Council and the City for the interceptor will need to occur so that it can be planned, designed, and constructed. This may require the need for the City and Council to enter into a cooperative construction agreement whereby the Council reimburses it for the associated regional costs.
 - b. The Plan offers a “Preferred Population, Household and Employment Forecasts” that reflects greater household forecasts than those in Table 26 which reflects those which are the basis of the Council’s approval. The City should be aware, however, that prior to the Council providing service beyond those forecasts listed in Table 26, the City would first need to amend their Plan revising the sewer forecast and submit that amendment to the Council for authorization.

Requests for increased forecasted growth may or may not be granted, consistent with the Council's policies.

c. Advise the City to implement the remaining advisory comments in the Review Record for wastewater.

It was moved by CM Morales, seconded by CM Wulff.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

None at this time.

Information

1. **MAWSAC/TAC Update** (Lanya Ross, 651-602-1803, Judy Sventek 651-602-1156)
Staff from Water Resources presented updates on the Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The framework of these two committees along with the statutory requirements for the metro area water supply planning were highlighted. Staff also discussed the importance of collaborative efforts in sustaining water supply planning relationships between the Council, TAC, MAWSAC, and the Legislators. Some items noted to consider for additional funding were emergency response as well as proactive infrastructure upgrades and expansion. Staff then reviewed MAWSAC's five goals:

1. Water Supply Infrastructure
2. Water Quality
3. Land Use and Water Connections
4. Understand and Manage Groundwater and Surface Water Infrastructure
5. Sustainable Water Quantity

The presentation concluded with next steps which included supporting subregional engagement, committee input to water policy development projects and development & approval of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan.

Discussion

CM Cederberg stated: How do you envision incorporating something that is 4 years out, are there outs that are written in the plans?

Staff responded: There will be some specific work going on in the different subregions across the metro. We are starting with some core teams in some of those area to get their input on what would be the appropriate way to engage stakeholders in this area of higher-level water supply planning. It's a longer-term plan, 30 years, 10-year cycle. Keeping aware of the scope and timing of when we want to do updates is important in this plan. There is the possibility of doing plan amendments.

CM Lindstrom asked: Has MAWSAC began to think about water equity?

Staff responded: Yes, we have thought about equity. We've touched a little bit on that in the MAWSAC report. We have space to explore that some more in our policy research papers that Environmental Services (ES) is working on right now. We'll be looking for the Environment Committee and public's input as well.

CM Carter asked: What is the percentage of lead pipe verses the total number we have in the Twin Cities Area?

Staff responded: It varies city by city, so I don't have a number. I will look find the link and get

something to you.

2. Asset Programs for Condition Assessment (Adam Gordon, 651-602-4503)

Adam Gordon, Manager of Interceptor Engineering presented information on the asset programs for conditioning assessments as followed:

- MCES Water System: Protects public health and safety, protects the environment and fosters economic growth of the region
- Who we serve: 7-county Twin Cities Metro-Area, 111 communities, 2,700,000+ people
- MCES Interceptor System Capital Improvement Program
- Projected Annual spend of \$120 million per year for the next six years, with approximately 70 active programs
- The projected expenditures for the Capital program between 2023-2028 is 2,041 million
- Asset Management prioritizes projects on a risk scale based on consequence of failure (level of service) and likelihood of failure (condition assessment)
- Programs include:
 - Gravity Interceptor and Lift Station Programs
 - Pressure Pipe and Cathodic Protection Programs
 - Meter Program
 - Odor Program
 - Flow Control Program
 - Sandstone Tunnel Program
- Progress: Interceptors range from 1886-Present, 386 miles of the pipe material is corrodible, and 272 miles are currently corrosion resistant. Starting in 2000, the length of pipe rehabbed or replaced has increased every five years.

Discussion

CM Lindstrom asked: At the rate that we are doing total replacement when would we have no corrodible pipe?

Staff responded: It'll be for some time to come, better than 10 years.

CM Cederberg asked: With all the programs what's your infrastructure for keeping track of your data so it's easily retrievable?

Staff responded: One of the things that has been done is developing dashboards in our GIS system for each one of our programs. It's an ongoing process, but right now you can go to our mapping app and retrieve all condition assessment data. All staff have access.

Reports

General Managers Report: Leisa Thompson, General Manager of Environmental Services, commended staff for all the good and hard work that they are achieving. She stated that, "All the pipes have personalities based on where they are and what's flowing through them. There are a lot of parts of a whole that have to be look at based on their characteristics." She discussed the Platinum Compliance records at the Councils Wastewater Treatment Plants. Thompson highlighted 7 plants on their achievements of compliances as followed: Hastings Croix 31years, St. Croix 31 years, Blue Lake and Eagles Point 17 years, Empire 15 years, Metro 11 years, and Seneca 6 years.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the



Environment Committee meeting of June 27, 2023.

Council Contact:

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

