

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

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, December 9, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Marie McCarthy, seconded by Gary Van Eyll to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Gary Van Eyll, seconded by Wendy Wulff to approve the amended minutes of the Tuesday, October 14, 2014 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

SW - 2014-309 Authorization to Award and Execute Contract 14P164A for Solid Waste Disposal for the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant

It was moved by Lona Schreiber, seconded by Wendy Wulff that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a three-year contract (14P164A), with an option to extend for two years, with Veit Container Corporation to provide solid waste disposal services at the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWWTP) beginning January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017, in an amount not to exceed \$1,203,595.14. **Motion carried.**

SW – 2014-287 Authorization to Amend Contract 13P211 with Omni Materials for Providing Lime Kiln Dust

It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Gary Van Eyll that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to amend Contract 13P211 with Omni Materials to provide lime kiln dust (LKD) from \$456,000 to \$800,000. **Motion carried.**

2014-310 Authorization to Approve Industrial Pretreatment Incentive Program (IPIP)

Staff amended the proposed action to read that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the implementation of the Industrial Pretreatment Incentive Program (IPIP), which incentivizes industrial users to design, build and operate pretreatment facilities on their sites consistent with the key business terms listed in Attachment A, and to prepare to finance up to \$50 million for the program in 2015. It was moved by Wendy Wulff, seconded by Gary Van Eyll. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. Summary of Outreach Meetings on Water Resources Policy Plan –

The purpose of this presentation is to review the outreach meetings that took place in October. A handout was provided to the committee members with a request to review and comment on the integrated strategy for water resources section of the Water Resource Policy Plan by December 25. Comments should be sent to Judy Sventek and/or Leisa Thompson. A revised schedule was provided as well as quick review of outreach meeting summaries.

Overall themes: good collaboration, the need for inclusivity, technical and funding assistance, and a perception of overlapping roles with state agencies. As part of the feedback, language was evaluated to address the perception of overlapping of functions across the various agencies involved in the process.

Surface water themes: reduce overlap among the agencies, provide a one-stop-shop for permitting, concentrate on implementation, technical and financial assistance and to share data and

resources, address agricultural influences to make progress, establish a holistic approach to water supply, and coordinate with Parks on development work.

Water supply themes: need for education on reuse and conservation, optimizing resources, sensitivity to city needs, infrastructure reliability, joint planning and collaboration, technical and financial assistance, less focus on surface water as the solutions and more on alternatives and conservation, approach cannot be “one-size-fits-all”, need to fully explain the problem being solved, and incentives needed to make change.

Wastewater themes: more definition on the Council’s role in reuse, more inflow and infiltration assistance (education and funding), infrastructure reliability consideration (too many demands on cities can risk reliability), address pressure to infiltrate storm water and reduce inflow and infiltration that may increase with water infiltrating, provide education on wastewater issues, and agree with proposed rate structure and related finance policy.

Sewer Availability Charge common themes: customers wish to keep SAC as it is, if there is a SAC credit for housing it should be made available anywhere in the community, concerns with using SAC for affordable housing, Council should look at other options for equity advancement and affordable housing. There was some support for SAC credit however more were opposed. Staff mentioned it would be deleted from the draft policy plan. If requested by the Council, consideration could be given to pursue this or other affordable housing help through a more typical stakeholder process.

The following comments/questions were discussed:

- What is the holistic view of water? It addresses an integrated water management approach with what we do with waste water, recharge, ground water management, storm management, etc.
- Was there some concern expressed regarding municipalities who have invested in more wells, etc.? The revised plan begins to address this. It commits to collaborating more with our partners to work on the solutions.
- Is there a provision for building using existing infrastructure? Staff confirmed there is and encouraged the review of that section.
- A comment was made in support of staff removing the affording housing SAC credit concept.
- Would local government units be able to drop the SAC themselves for affordable housing? Staff indicated they probably could but should get legal advice and would have to handle the cost. There are separate statutes governing local SAC authority with some flexibility.
- There were many city staff and elected officials. Most were higher level city staff.
- City officials were invited. Attendance could have been impacted due to the scheduled meeting time. Evaluation will be done to determine how to better communicate to the officials other than how it is accomplished now.

2. General Manager’s Report –

Leisa Thompson thanked the committee members for work done on 2014 initiatives. A great deal of work has been accomplished on the Master Water Supply Plan and the Water Resource Policy Plan. We are improving and working on energy goals and have realized 3 years of continued compliance at the Metro Plant with 7 years, 9 months at all other plants. We look forward to continued success in 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary