

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: March 28, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

Chair, Peter Lindstrom D11
 Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff D16

Tyronne Carter, District 3
 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. The Chair welcomed the new Committee members and encouraged conversation and questions.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Vice Chair (VC) Wulff, seconded by Committee Member (CM) Diego Morales to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 regular meeting of the Environment Committee.

Motion carried.

Consent Business

None at this time.

Non-Consent Business

1. 2023-78: MWWTP Water Systems Renewal & Improvements Phase 1 – Distribution System Renewal Project Rejection of Bid (Tim Amstutz, 651- 602-1221)

Discussion

Staff noted a mistake in the original Business Item related to policy and legal reference and provided the following correction: Policy 3-3 Expenditures should be substituted with FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy.

Environmental Services is looking to reject the single bid it received for the project given it is \$18.9 million higher than the engineer's estimate. Staff provided an overview of the process leading up to receiving the single bid.

CM Gail Cederberg asked the following:

If we updated the project requirements and language, and we put it out for bid again, will we receive additional over-estimate bids?

Staff replied that several factors may have played into the large cost differential:

1. Two of the bid items, "All Other Work" and "Demolition and Removal" had the most significant price difference. We are going to relook at the bid item descriptions to better identify the work with the goal of reducing the price differential.

2. We also looked the cost differential for material related bid items. Those for cooper pipe, coating and metal hangers were higher than the Engineer's estimate. On the other hand, ductile iron pipe was lower than the Engineer's estimate.
3. Given we are unable to interview the contractor we cannot gather additional information that may be beneficial to a more thorough analysis.
4. Staff will be analyzing the bid, addressing language in the project, as well as engaging more – and different – contractors through informational meetings before re-posting the project.

VC Wulff asked if breaking up the project into smaller contracts would provide us with more bids? Staff replied that we are looking at many options and ideas; however, there are challenges that come with breaking up the project as well.

CM Carter inquired if we have a pre-identification process for potential bidders? Staff noted that Environmental Services does have a list of prequalification list for certain types of work; however, for this specific project there were not prequalified vendors.

It was moved by VC Wulff, seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to reject the bid for construction of MWWTP Water Systems Renewal & Improvements Phase 1 – Distribution System Renewal, Project Number 808963, Contract 22P076.

Motion carried.

Information

None at this time.

Reports

General Managers Report

Sam Paske, assistant general manager, Environmental Services

Mr. Paske gave an overview of the Environment Committee, the work of the Division, and how the two interact. He noted: We partner, plan, and provide services to protect our regions water through our nine (9) Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRF), and 60 lift stations, which move and treat about 250m gallons of wastewater each day from 111 communities. We are a partner in integrative water supply planning. We collaborate with industries, educational institutions, environmental and other governmental agencies in order to carry out our mission.

New committee members acknowledged the incredible work of the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services division, especially as it pertains to the process of water reclamation, research that addresses emerging and established chemicals for concern (pollutants) and public health, and the benefit of the work from the Inflow & Infiltration program.

Mr. Paske also noted to the new committee members to be prepared for an Emergency Declaration which may happen due to the flooding this spring.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of March 28, 2023.

Council Contact:

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