

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting Date: October 24, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

- Chair, Peter Lindstrom, D10
- Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff, D16

- E** Tyronne Carter, District 3
- Yassin Osman, District 7
- Anjuli Cameron, District 8

- Diego Morales, District 9
- Gail Cederberg, District 11
- = 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

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. With consensus the agenda was approved. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

None at this time.

Non-Consent Business

2023-248: Seneca Polymer Contract 22P297 (Rebecca Hurley 651-602-4474, Joseph Ward 651-602-1803)

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P248A with Polydyne Inc. to provide polymer to Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plant in amount not to exceed \$7,048,000.

Discussion

CM Cederberg asked: You mentioned that only one vendor bid was received, did the others technically fail?

Staff responded: We had 3 vendor and 4 products that qualified. One vendor had three products, that all failed. The last competitor decided not to bid.

CM Wulff asked: Was the price what we expected?

Staff responded: Yes, it is what we expected. It is the same prices that we currently have.

CM Lindstrom asked: We have used this vendor before, correct?

Staff responded: Yes, Polydyne is the major polymer manufacturer for the municipal wastewater treatment market.

Motion carried.

Information

Water Policy Research Project (Jennifer Kostrzewski, 651-602-1151, Lanya Ross 651-602-1077)

Staff from the Water Resources team presented information on the Water Policy Research Project. The purpose of the Water Policy Plan focuses on ensuring sustainable water resources in the region. It provides framework for integrative water planning and contains policies, strategies and actions for the Met Council and 180+ local governments within the seven-county region. The Water Policy Plan will commit the Council in taking action. The goal is to have this policy plan drafted by July of 2024 and adopted by November 2024.

Staff discussed the protection of source waters as well as planning current and future water needs. Source water is the origin or source of water from streams, lakes, rivers or underground aquifers that provides drinking water to public water supplies and private wells. The protection of source water is essential in combating water pollution. Some crucial concerns are as follows:

- Current and future climate conditions
- Sensitivity of near surface sediments and bedrock contamination
- Land management and source water protection
- Land cover and land use contaminant
- Source water contamination
- Cost and benefits of protecting source water areas

A crucial component of planning for current and future water needs is the topic of water sustainability. Requirements of sustainable water were noted as availability, water access and water use. Staff recommended ways to plan for sustainable water as follows:

- Think broadly over the long-term, seeking to understand our water systems both built and natural
- Collect data and information to activate knowledge
- Develop policies and practice
- Implement and invest
- Repeat

Reports

General Managers Report: Assistant General Manager, Sam Paske, highlighted the development of the preparation of policy work. He commended the creation of the new Water Advisory groups, working together to process complex issues together.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of October 24, 2023.



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