

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Committee Members Present Chair Peggy Leppik, Vice-Chair Daniel Wolter, Kirstin Beach, Lynette Wittsack, Wendy Wulff
Committee Members Absent: Polly Bowles, Roger Scherer, Craig Peterson

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Leppik called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Beach to approve the agenda. **The motion carried.**

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wolter to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2009 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2009-132 City of New Brighton 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File No. 20418-1

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of New Brighton's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

The motion carried.

2009-133 City of Fridley 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review File No. 20387-1; Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Fridley's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

The motion carried.

2009-134 City of White Bear Lake 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20511-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Wittsack that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of White Bear Lake's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

The motion carried.

2009-158 City of Woodland 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review File No. 20544-1; Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Woodland's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

The motion carried.

2009-187 Authorization to Award and Execute Construction Contract for South Saint Paul Forcemain Improvements, MCES Project No. 802710, Contract No. 07P58A

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Wittsack that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for construction of the South Saint Paul Forcemain Improvements, MCES Project Number 802710, Contract No. 07P58A, with Ames Construction, Inc. for their low bid of \$13,822,748.40.

The motion carried.

2009-188 Authorization for Service Availability Charge (SAC) Reserve Fund Use

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Service Availability Charge reserve fund minimum balance exception for an economic downturn stated in Council policy 3-2-5.

The motion carried.

INFORMATION

Proposed 2010 Budget and Rates

Jason Willett, Environmental Services Division Finance Director presented the proposed 2010 budget and rates. Proposed budget highlights are \$2M use of operating reserves, pay-as-you-go funding remains at \$5M; debt service reduced by capital project cost reductions; labor; electrical and fuel costs reduced; interdivisional charges from Central Service reduced; and a new water supply funding from the State is included. The NACWA Financial Survey was reviewed which compares rates, costs, revenues, volumes and debt. Customer Budget Forums are scheduled for June 11 and June 16 to discuss with our municipal customers the proposed 2010 budget. An Industrial Customer Forum is scheduled for June 18, 2009.

The Climate Registry Project Update

Staff explained that the Council is a founding member of The Climate Registry (TCR), which is a collaboration between states and provinces for developing and managing a common greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reporting system. TCR has the following goals: Create a common standard for tracking and measuring GHG emissions; Standardize best practices in GHG emissions reporting; Promote full and public disclosure of GHG emission; and reduce costs with common software, common protocols, and technical support.

The project timelines are: all greenhouse gas (GHG) information needs to be in the Council database by June 15, 2009, final report into Climate Registry Information System (CRIS) June 30, 2009, and third-party verification by December 15, 2009.

The next steps in the project are to develop communications strategy to inform and educate the public on TCR; institutionalize GHG reporting; and monitor and provide input on emerging national and state regulations and initiatives on GHG reporting and related areas.

General Manager's Report

Leisa Thompson, Acting General Manager informed the Committee that Wendy Wulff has agreed to chair the Wastewater Demand Charge Task Force. She invited all members of the Committee on a Metro Plant tour this Friday, May 29, 2009. An e-mail will be sent to Committee members with the details.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Schultz
Recording Secretary