

**Metropolitan Council  
Environment Committee Meeting**

390 North Robert Street, Saint Paul Minnesota 55101

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Council Chambers

9:30 A.M.

**Attendance:**

Chair Peggy Leppik, Vice Chair Daniel Wolter, Kirstin Beach, Polly Bowles, Craig Peterson, Roger Scherer, Lynette Wittsack, Wendy Wulff

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wolter, to approve the agenda, and the minutes of the May 26, 2009 Environment Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**Business**

**2009-123 City of Shakopee Comprehensive Plan Update; Review File No. 20434-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

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

The motion carried.

**2009-157 City of Waconia Comprehensive Plan Update; Review No. 20423-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Bowles that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Waconia's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

The motion carried.

**2009-166 City of St. Francis Comprehensive Plan Update; Review No. 20464-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Wittsack that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of St. Francis' Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

The motion carried.

**2009-189 Authorization to Award and Execute Construction Contract for Blue Lake WWTP Phase 1 Liquids Improvements, Project No. 801830, Contract No. 08P035**

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by Wittsack that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for the Blue Lake WWTP Phase 1 Liquids Improvements Project No. 801830, Contract No. 08P035, to Knutson Construction Services for their low bid of \$43,051,000.

The motion carried.

### **2009-197 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Wastewater Treatment Plant Acquisition Agreement with City of New Germany**

It was moved by Bowles, seconded by Wittsack that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a wastewater treatment plant acquisition agreement with the City of New Germany.

The motion carried.

### **2009-198 Authorization for Sole Source Procurement to Border States Electric for Programmable Logic Controllers at the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant**

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Bowles that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to procure Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) for the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) from Border States Electric, Inc., at a cost not to exceed \$960,000.

The motion carried.

### **2009-199 Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for Smithtown Road Odor Control**

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by Bowles that the Metropolitan Council ratify the attached *Justification for and Declaration of Emergency* for Smithtown Road Odor Control.

The motion carried.

### **2009-200 Authorization to Award and Execute an Engineering Contract for Metering and Alarm System Support Services, Contract No. 09P035**

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by Peterson that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Arden Environmental Engineering Inc. for Metering & Alarm System support for an amount not to exceed \$375,000, Contract No. 09P035.

The motion carried.

### **2009-201 Authorization to Award Contract for Security Guard Services for MCES Facilities and 390 North Robert Street**

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Peterson that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Allied-Barton Security Services to provide security guard services for MCES Facilities and 390 North Robert Street in the amount of \$2,261,814.

The motion carried.

## **Information**

### **Renewable Energy / Carbon Credits**

Beau Griffey (US Energy) and Bob Peplin (Wenck Associates) presented conclusions about the potential for monetization of MCES energy projects. There are many voluntary markets that currently value commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and produce energy from renewable sources. The current value for CO2 emissions reduction (or their equivalent) is just over \$4 per metric ton. This is expected to rise as regulations or cap and trade are implemented.

Projects need to be of a large size in order to recover the fixed cost of the technical analysis needed to make monetization payback. Moreover, the projects need to be able to satisfy

“additionality” requirements, which most typically mean that financially the project would not make sense without the credits. The elimination of most natural gas use in the incinerators at Metro would have been a good project but is now too old. The possible project to build an algae bioreactor has substantial potential to improve its economics with such credits. Documentation of emissions reductions is important to protecting the possibility of tradable credits. And measurement of energy and emissions before and after such projects is important.

Also discussed was the possibility of MCES keeping the credits as the value will likely rise and, in addition, the metropolitan wastewater treatment plant (and possibly other facilities) may have regulatory requirements to reduce emissions or be subject to caps.

### **Update on Foundation Drain and Service Line Rehabilitation Grant Program**

Kyle Colvin, Assistant Manager, Engineering Services, explained that the Council initiated the grant program in January 2008. It allows local communities to request financial assistance to defray the cost of private foundation drain disconnects and private service pipe repairs. Colvin provided an overview of the claim process and a history of the reimbursements made to communities to date. Approximately 300 homes benefitted from the program. As of the end of May, claims have been made for the remaining funds, ending the program. The community and general public response has been positive and they have expressed the desire to have the program continue. CM Bowles expressed concern that that more communities are not taking part in this program. She asked what happens if the final claims exceed the available funds. Staff responded that if final monthly claims exceed the available program funds, the balance is prorated among claims.

### **General Manager’s Report**

Leisa Thompson, Acting General Manager, reported the following:

1. The Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant has been named “2009 Xcel Energy Efficiency Partner.” This award is given for exceptional energy saving efforts in 2008.
2. The Seneca, Saint Croix, and Hastings Wastewater Treatment Plants have been awarded the National Association of Clean Water Agencies Platinum Award.
3. The wastewater treatment plants have successfully met all permits and monitoring requirements for 28 consecutive months.

### **Adjournment**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 11:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Harder  
Recording Secretary