

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Committee Members Present: Chair Sandra Rummel, Lona Schreiber Gary Van Eyll,
Vice-Chair Wendy Wulff

Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso

Council Members Excused: John Doàn, Harry Melander

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:04 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Van Eyll, to approve the agenda. **The motion carried.**

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Schreiber, to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2011-314 Authorization to Award and Execute Construction Contract for Savage Interceptor Improvements, Phase I, MCES Project 806950 Contract 11P164

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for the Savage Interceptor Improvements – Phase 1, MCES Project 806950, Contract 11P174, to Visu-Sewer, Inc., for their low bid of \$4,658,091.25.

Motion carried.

2011-324 City of Gem Lake Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20710-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Van Eyll, that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Gem Lake's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

Motion carried.

2011-362 Authorization for Sole Source Procurement from Alfa Laval for Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) Parts

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to procure DS 706 centrifuge backdrive system upgrades from the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) on a sole source basis from Alfa Laval for ten existing centrifuges. This is for an amount not to exceed \$750,000 over a three-year period.

Motion carried.

2011-363 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute an Amendment to the Construction Cooperation and Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of East Bethel, MCES Project Nos. 801620 and 801621, Contract No. 10I027

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Schreiber, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Construction and Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of East Bethel, MCES Project Nos. 801620 and 801621, Contract No. 10I027.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Metro Cities Policy Positions related to MCES Business

Patricia Nauman, Executive Director of Metro Cities, commented that Metro Cities does recognize and support that certain services can be provided more efficiently and cost effectively at the regional level. She reviewed the Metro Cities policy development process, and highlighted the following Metro Cities policies that relate to MCES issues.

- Regional systems should be specific in terms of size, location, and timing of regional investments in order to allow for consideration in local comprehensive planning. Additional regional systems should only be established if there is a compelling metropolitan problem or concern that can best be addressed through the designation. Characteristics that should be present in any new regional system include public ownership of the system and an established regional or state funding source. Metro Cities believes that water supply does not fit that criteria in terms of it should not be regional system.
- Inflow and Infiltration (I/I). Metro Cities recognizes the importance of controlling I/I, but is concerned about the potential for cities to incur increasingly exorbitant costs in their ongoing efforts to mitigate excessive I/I. Metro Cities supported eliminating the 'demand charge' that was set to take effect in 2012 once the I/I surcharge program ended. Although the demand charge is still on the books, the Council did take the recommendation to continue with the ongoing surcharge program to address I/I mitigation in the region.
- Water Supply. In addition to the Metropolitan Council, there are currently at least five state agencies with water related jurisdictions, as well as several federal agencies involved in water issues. Metro Cities supports the Council's water supply plan and the advisory committee, but opposes water supply being elevated to regional system status, and opposes the insertion of the Council as another regulator in the water supply arena. Metro Cities encourages the Council to consider the inter-relationships of wastewater treatment, storm water management and water supply. The Council's water supply plan should clearly identify any state and regional regulations and processes.
- Sewer Availability Charge (SAC). Metro Cities supports a SAC program that emphasizes equity, simplification and lower rates. Metro Cities supports a "growth pays for growth" approach, and supports flexibility with regard to the timing of the sunset of SAC shift.

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- Redevelopment. Metro Cities supports the evaluation of SAC fees to determine if they hinder redevelopment and allowing cities to 'bank' SAC credits for use elsewhere within a city.

Nauman also brought up that Maple Plain has experienced a significant spike in wastewater charges this year and asked the Council to consider deferring payment for communities that experience an increase in charges over 25%.

2. Update on Blue Lake Solar Project

Jason Willett, ES Finance Director, explained why the Blue Lake solar project is being proposed, and the benefits of solar in general and specifically to the Council. The cost to install equipment is coming down as technology advances. He reviewed the proposed facility details, and reviewed possible funding sources. The project will proceed only if grant or state bonding dollars to cover the net present worth.

3. Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction Update

Carol Mordorski, Principal Engineer, explained that the goals of the Blue Lake project, are to provide process improvements to meet permit requirements, improve capacity increase, update or replace equipment to maintain reliability and improve safety, and achieve sustainability and energy savings.

4. General Manager's Report

William G. Moore commented that Metro Cities' request to look at a mechanism to defer charges will be reviewed with legal counsel, and staff will report at the next Environment Committee meeting. He also reported that all plants were in compliance in November.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary