

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

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

Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Excused: John Đoàn

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Schreiber, to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2012 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2012-42 2012 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Melander, that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2012 Unified Operating Budget to increase expenditures by \$2,638,740 funded through use of the Wastewater Operating Contingency Reserve.

Motion carried

2012-48 Sustainability Policy for Internal Operations and Maintenance

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council approves the attached Sustainability Policy for Internal Operations and Maintenance.

Motion carried.

2012-57 Authorization to Award and Execute a Contract for Construction of the 3rd and Commercial Street Regulator Improvements, MCES Project No. 809049, Contract No. 11P153

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Schreiber, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for the 3rd and Commercial Street Regulator Improvements, MCES Project No. 809049 with Engineering and Construction Innovations, Inc. for their low bid of \$1,617,875.

Motion carried

2012-58 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Cooperation Agreement with the City of Wayzata for Improvements to the Wayzata Force Main System

It was moved by Melander, seconded by Van Eyll, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to Negotiate and Execute a Cooperation Agreement with the City of Wayzata for the design and construction of portions of the Wayzata force main system.

Motion carried.

2012-59 Adoption of the Facility Plan Amendment for the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, MCES Project No. 801800, Resolution 2012-4

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Melander, that the Metropolitan Council adopts the Facility Plan Amendment for the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements, MCES Project No. 801800, per the attached Resolution No. 2012-4.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Update of White Bear Lake Water Level

Keith Buttleman, Assistant General Manager of Environmental Quality and Assurance, and Brian Davis, Environmental Scientist, reviewed the research that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has been doing on the water level of White Bear Lake. Research included analyzing lake level, precipitation, and groundwater pumping data; measuring groundwater levels in hundreds of wells around the lake; and analyzing water chemistry. Surface water and groundwater contribute water to the lake. The lake's watershed is small and, for the past several years, there has not been a lot of runoff into the lake. There are also high volume wells around the lake. Water level in White Bear Lake has been dropping since 2003, and groundwater use has increased around the lake. It is difficult to determine how much the decline in water levels is caused by the climate and how much from groundwater pumping. USGS will make a formal presentation of its findings to the White Bear Lake Conservation District on February 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the White Bear Lake city council chambers.

2. East Bethel Update

Bryce Pickart, Assistant General Manager of Technical Services, informed the committee that progress had been made since the last Environment Committee meeting. The contractor encountered a deeper area of bad soil this morning. The city's major concern is to complete the water supply line installation by December 1, 2012. Council and East Bethel city staff are continuing to work through the issues.

3. General Manager's Report – no report

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary