

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

Date Prepared: February 17, 2009

Subject: Authorization to Negotiate Acquisition of Property for Future Western Scott County Regional Water Reclamation Plant

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate acquisition of property for the future Western Scott County Regional Water Reclamation Plant.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

CM Leppik asked if there are plans to provide service to Carver County at this site in the future. Staff explained that there are plans for a regional plant in Carver County in the future; however, there are no urgent service needs in that area at this time. Based on the size and staging to serve growth in each area, there is little economy of scale for the plant by combining the two service areas.

CM Leppik asked how the property will be used until a plant is built, and is any of it considered farm land. Staff responded that a parcel or two may currently be farmed. Interim use will depend on which site is purchased. One site is currently used for mining on an interim basis. Another is open land close to the river and is not being used.

CM Scherer expressed concerns with impaired waters and asked if treatment plants can be built inland. Staff responded that they can be located inland from a river. Further wastewater re-use is a desirable long-term objective, given that effluent discharge standards are becoming nearly as stringent as non-potable water re-use standards. However, in this case, development staging provides another reason to locate the future plant between Highway 169 and the Minnesota River.

CM Wolter asked if expansion of the Blue Lake plant is an option. There is a defined long-term service area for the Blue Lake plant which includes a portion of Scott County to meet the growth which will require expansion of the Blue Lake plant. The proposed Scott County plant will meet the long-term growth needs of a different service area and will not be needed until post-2030.

CM Peterson asked how much land is being purchased. Staff said 80-100 acres.

E Environment Committee

Meeting date: February 10, 2009

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting of February 25, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	February 4, 2009
Subject:	Authorization to Negotiate Acquisition of Property for Future Western Scott County Regional Water Reclamation Plant
District(s), Member(s):	District 4, Craig Peterson
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes 473.504, Subd. 9 and Water Resources Management Policy Plan
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Bryce Pickart 651-602-1091
Division/Department:	MCES c/o William G. Moore 651-602-1162

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate acquisition of property for the future Western Scott County Regional Water Reclamation Plant.

Background

The 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update for Scott County is scheduled for review by the Community Development Committee on February 17, 2009, and the full Council on February 25, 2009. Scott County is responsible for planning for its 11 townships. During 2003-2004, Scott County worked closely with the Metropolitan Council to complete the Comprehensive Plan for the Elko New Market area, i.e. Southeast Scott County.

During 2006-2009, Scott County has worked closely with the Metropolitan Council to complete the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, with major effort focused on long-range planning for western Scott County. This work has been integrated with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services efforts to implement the long-term regional wastewater system plan, which includes a future water reclamation plant (wastewater treatment that produces treated water suitable for non-potable uses) to serve western Scott County. The County and the Council have an intergovernmental agreement whereby the County has helped MCES to identify plant site search areas and a long-term wastewater service area. These areas have been defined in the Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Rationale

One of the Council’s policies for serving future growth as stated in the Water Resources Management Policy Plan (page 31), is to work closely with communities to implement early land acquisition for new facilities needed to implement the long-term regional wastewater system plan.

Funding

Funding is provided in the 2009 Authorized Capital Program, Project 801630.

Known Support / Opposition

The proposed action is consistent with the 2030 Scott County Comprehensive Plan Update.