

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 14, 2007

Committee Members Present: Chair Peggy Leppik, Kirstin Beach, Russ Susag, Lynette Wittsack, Daniel Wolter

Committee Members Absent: Roger Scherer

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Leppik called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 2007.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wolter to approve the August 14, 2007 agenda and minutes of the July 24, 2007 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS - CONSENT LIST - None

BUSINESS - NON-CONSENT LIST

2007-273 Authorization to Award and Execute a Construction Contract for Seneca Plant Improvements, MCES Project No. 801900

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Susag that the Metropolitan Council its Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for the Seneca Plant Improvements, MCES Project No. 801900, with Madsen-Johnson for their lowest responsive, responsible bid of \$15,078,600.

Motion carried.

2007-274 Authorization to Negotiate Purchase Agreement with Star Environmental for Septage Handling Facility in Fridley

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Susag that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate a purchase agreement with Star Environmental for its septage facility in Fridley.

Motion carried.

2007-275 Adoption of Amendment to Water Resources Management Policy Plan

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Susag that the Metropolitan Council: (1) adopts the proposed amendment to the 2030 Water Resources Management Policy Plan, as revised to include only areas south and east of Cedar Creek in the long-term wastewater service area, and (2) refers to its Community Development Committee the City of Oak Grove's request to change the geographic planning area designation for the remainder of the City from Diversified Rural to Rural Residential.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Water Quality Credit Trading

Rebecca Flood, Manager of Environmental Compliance, explained that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is developing a permanent water quality trading credit program, which is expected to be finalized in 2009. In the interim, the water quality credit trading program allows trading the difference between maximum permitted load and current performance. Only phosphorus can be traded between point sources and within the same watershed. The Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant's maximum allowable load is 956,500/year; its current load is 337,900 lbs/year. Staff is recommending the following: 1) Incentive program for nonpoint source reduction (NPS); 2) Council accept reduction of phosphorus load in Metro Plant permit; 3) In lieu of cash,

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trading partner propose and implement NPS reduction project; 4) Make 272,000 lbs/year TP available. The Committee agreed with this approach.

Rahr Malting Update

Keith Buttleman, Assistant General Manager-Environmental Quality Assurance, informed the Committee that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has asked the Council to accommodate Rahr Malting beyond January 1, 2008, the date that had been established for Rahr to stop discharging to the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant. The basis for the postponement is to allow more time for the MPCA to review the Environmental Assessment Worksheet and to issue Rahr its permits. The MPCA has said it will speed up the process. Council staff has informed the MPCA that Rahr's status will change from a regular customer to a temporary customer on January 1, 2008 and will be issued a special discharge permit, which will allow Rahr to conditionally discharge into the Blue Lake system for a limited period of time provided that there is no adverse impact to our facility.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary