

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 27, 2008

Committee Members Present: Chair Peggy Leppik, Kirstin Beach, Craig Peterson, Roger Scherer,
Lynette Wittsack, Daniel Wolter

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Vice-Chair Wolter called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by Beach to approve the agenda. **The motion carried.**

It was moved by Beach, seconded by Scherer to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2008 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2008-151 Directing Staff to Hold a Public Meeting Regarding Service Availability Charge (SAC) Rules Which May Allow SAC Credit Transfers for Economic Development

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Beach that the Metropolitan Council directs staff to set and conduct a public meeting to receive input on a proposal to allow SAC credit transfers in certain economic development circumstances.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

2009 Service Availability Charge Options

After reviewing several options and their impact on the SAC reserve, the Committee agreed that a proposed 2009 rate increase of \$175.00 will be included in the material to be reviewed at the Customer Rate Forums in June. The Committee will make its final rate recommendations in July/August.

Energy Efficiency Programs at Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Brad Gehring, Energy Management Manager, reviewed MCES energy costs since 2005, and explained that MCES set a goal to reduce the net non-renewable energy purchased by 15% from 2006 to 2010. Staff determined the majority of energy reduction will be obtained through conservation and efficiency programs, focusing on electricity use. Gehring summarized steps being taken to reduce energy use in the industrial process, and through lighting redesign and re-commissioning activities. By the end of 2007, MCES has achieved 13% reduction in energy use; the work in progress will result in additional reductions.

General Manager Report

The University of Minnesota and the Council are pursuing a 1.6M grant application from federal government for algae research. A 20% local match is required; the mechanism for funding the local match is under discussion.

There were no overflows or disruptions in wastewater system service during the weekend storms.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary