

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

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

Committee Members Excused: Polly Bowles, Craig Peterson

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, October 14, 2008.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wolter to approve the agenda, and the minutes of the September 23, 2008 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2008-284 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute an Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Lower Minnesota River Quality Model

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Beach that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the development of the Lower Minnesota River Water Quality Model, increasing the total contract from \$563,000 to \$693,000.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Quarterly Environmental Compliance Report

Rebecca Flood, Environmental Compliance Manager, reported that the wastewater treatment plants are in compliance with all regulatory requirements. September 2008 marks 20 months of continuous compliance with discharge limitations.

MCES Response to Pharmaceutical Waste Issues

As a follow-up to the presentation on estrogenic compounds in wastewater that was given to the Committee at its September 23rd meeting, staff reported that the Council is active in a number of committees, agencies, and programs that are exploring ways to address the issues. Leo Hermes, Manager of Industrial Waste/Pollution Prevention, described ongoing efforts, and suggested that future efforts could include revisions to the Council's Environmental Services Waste Discharge Rules, as well as a potential "take back" event, where pharmaceuticals would be collected and disposed of appropriately.

Energy Update and Policy Discussion

Jason Willett, Director of Environmental Services (ES) Finance, summarized ES and Transit energy costs. He reviewed ES energy strategies of a) conservation; b) renewable energy generation; c) financial strategies, and d) climate change regulatory preparation. Willett suggested that the Council develop a policy to frame and focus the Council's energy actions. Such a policy would include 1) conservation: investment directive; 2) biofuels directive; 3) renewable energy directive; 4) energy financial management; 5) energy budget stabilization goal; 6) energy in community planning, assistance, and 7) partnerships. The Committee expressed general support for a Council energy policy.

Criteria for Service Availability Charge (SAC) Deferrals

At its September 23, 2008 meeting, the Committee considered and recommended changes to SAC Policy 3-2-5 to allow for possible deferral of SAC payments by communities. At that meeting the Committee asked staff to develop criteria that would be used for SAC referrals. Jason Willett presented the draft procedure, which will be sent to Council's executive management for review and approval.

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Environment Committee
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General Manager's Report

William Moore, ES General Manager, notified the Committee that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will not reissue the combined sewer overflow permits for Minneapolis.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary