

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

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

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Leppik called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by Wolter to approve the agenda.

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Scherer to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2008 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2009-28 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Engineering Services Agreement for Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Collection Equipment, MCES Project No. 805900

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wolter that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an engineering services agreement with Bolton & Menk for Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Collection Equipment, MCES Project No. 805900, Contract No. 08P158.

Motion carried.

2009-29 Authorization to Negotiate and Amend Engineering Services Agreement for Dayton-Champlin Interceptor and Elm Creek Interceptor Extensions, MCES Project Nos. 801000 and 900400, Contract No. 01P124

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by Peterson that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the engineering services contract with Bonestroo, Contract No. 01P124, increasing the contract amount from \$2,584,000 to \$2,775,000.

Motion carried.

2009-30 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Amendment to Contract No. 06P181 with Barr Engineering for Water Supply Availability Analysis

It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Bowles that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to Contract Number 06P181 with Barr Engineering from \$240,325 to \$260,325 in order to provide additional calibration and sensitivity analysis of the Metropolitan Groundwater Model 2.0.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

[Infiltration/Inflow \(I/I\) Grant Program Status](#)

Staff reviewed the I/I policy that the Council will not provide additional capacity to serve excessive I/I, and reminded the committee that starting in 2013, the Council will implement a wastewater demand charge for communities that have not achieved compliance with the Council's design flow standard. Staff provided an update on local and regional mitigation, the special circumstances of Eagan/Apple Valley, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and South St. Paul, and the foundation drain and disconnection grant program. Staff reviewed options for development of the demand charge system. Staff suggested forming a community task force to help develop goals, criteria and implementation plan for demand charge. The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to establish a task force to begin reviewing options of a demand charge system. The implementation date of the demand charge can be determined at a later date.

Liquid Assets – The Story of Our Water Infrastructure

The Committee viewed a 15 minute overview of a documentary exploring the history, engineering, and political and economic challenges of the U.S. water infrastructure, and which can be used a tool to engage communities in local discussion about public water and wastewater issues.

ES General Manager's Report

1. As a follow up to the discussion at the 12/9/08 Environment Committee meeting relative to Service Availability Charge (SAC) Reserve fund issues, William Moore informed the committee that legislation will be proposed this year that would provide flexibility to pay for debt service out of either the reserve fund or, if the reserve fund is low due to the recession and decline in development, the municipal wastewater charge.
2. Steve Dornfeld will attend the next committee meeting to discuss video-streaming the meetings.
3. Xcel filed a 6-35% rate increase with PUC. The Council is joining the MN Chamber of Commerce intervention group to explore whether rates are justified and, if the rates do go forward, that they're equitable. In the past the tendency has been to push increases on industrial and commercial customers rather than residential.
4. All permit limits and monitoring requirements were successfully met in December 2008, making this the 23rd consecutive month of compliance.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary