

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Committee Members Present: Chair Peggy Leppik, Vice Chair Daniel Wolter, Lynette Wittsack, Wendy Wulff

Committee Members Absent: Kirstin Beach, Polly Bowles, Craig Peterson, Roger Scherer

There not being a quorum, Chair Leppik asked staff to begin with an informational item.

Quarterly Compliance Report

Staff reported that the wastewater treatment plants are in compliance with all regulatory requirements. September 2009 marks 32 months of continuous compliance with discharge limitations of MCES facilities. The plants are well below effluent limitations. Staff also highlighted the environmental benefit received through the phosphorus trading. It results in an annual decrease of 10,000 pounds from entering the Lake Pepin system.

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Leppik called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 9:36 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Wittsack to approve the October 13 agenda and the minutes of the September 22, 2009 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. The motion carried.

BUSINESS

2009-341 City of Cologne 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20592-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wolter that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Cologne's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan, and advise the City that it must submit amendments to its Tier II sewer plan as it either annexes property, or when it enters into order annexation agreements with Benton Township. **Motion carried.**

2009-342 City of Jordan 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20515-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wittsack that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Jordan's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan, and advise the City that it must submit amendments to its Tier II sewer plan as it either annexes property, or when it enters into order annexation agreements with either of its surrounding townships. **Motion carried.**

2009-369 City of Blaine 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20501-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wolter that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Blaine's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan. **Motion carried.**

2009-370 City of Columbus 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20593-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Columbus' Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan. **Motion carried.**

2009-371 City of Hopkins 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20512-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wittsack that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Hopkins' Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan. **Motion carried.**

2009-372 City of Minnetonka 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20543-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Minnetonka's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan. **Motion carried.**

2009-373 City of Mound 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review File No. 20438-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Mound's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan. **Motion carried.**

2009-374 City of Rosemount 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20584-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wolter that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Rosemount's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan. **Motion carried.**

2009-375 City of Minnetrista 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review File No. 20533-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Minnetrista's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan. **Motion carried.**

2009-376 Authorization to Amend Cooperation Agreement 09I004 with the City of Richfield, 1-RF-491 Relief Interceptor, MCES Project 805450, Contract 09P066

Item tabled until next Environment Committee meeting.

2009-377 Authorization to Extend Tree Trust License Agreement

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wolter that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to the license agreement between Tree Trust and the Metropolitan Council to utilize Council property near the Regional Maintenance Facility through December 31, 2014. **Motion carried.**

2009-378 Authorization for Sole Source Procurement of Moyno Pumps and Repair Parts

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wittsack that the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to procure Moyno Pumps and Repair Parts from Van Bergen and Markson on a Sole Source basis in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 for a 3-year period. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) Grant Program

Presentation was follow up to discussion that took place at the September 22 Environment Committee meeting. At that time, committee members agreed that staff should pursue state funding, and use wastewater reserve funds only to reimburse communities for programs that were in place prior to the grant funds running out. Staff was to come back to the committee with ideas for funding and a cost estimate of the projects that were not eligible for partial reimbursement because grants funds were depleted.

Today, staff asked the committee whether staff should 1) seek funds to provide additional reimbursement to the four participating communities for the projects in progress as of May 30, and 2) pursue legislation for additional funding.

In May 2009, \$178,000 remained of the original program budget of \$700,000. The Council received claims totaling \$312,000 as of May 30, and made partial reimbursement to communities of 57% of those otherwise eligible costs. There were a number of projects in progress as of May 30, but contractor backlogs prevented completion by the deadline, and those projects could not be considered for reimbursement.

Staff estimates that the demand for the program, if continued, could significantly increase each month, and participation might initially result in as much as \$12 million/year in fund requests. This estimate is high and is contingent on interest in the program. Staff suggested that any future program include a requirement that communities share the costs.

Council member Wittsack commented that this was a great program while it lasted, but the Council does not have excess funds. The program was clear that it ended when the funds ran out, and she is not in favor of the Council providing additional funds to cover the costs of the projects that were not completed by May 30, 2009.

Council members Leppik and Wolter were in agreement that the Council has an obligation to the citizens that tried to complete the work, and funding should be found to reimburse at least some of those costs.

Council member Wulff suggested a middle ground of reimbursing 57% of the costs of those whose work was in progress prior to the deadline.

Staff estimated the cost would be \$100,000-\$200,000.

Staff will prepare a business item for the next Environment Committee meeting for the committee's consideration.

Staff will also work with Governmental Affairs to pursue the possibility of legislation for additional state funding consideration by the legislature out of the Clean Water Legacy Funds.

Workforce Plan Update

Staff presented an update on the 2008-2012 workforce plan, and reported that implementation of the 2008-2012 workforce goals is well underway.

Reviewed current Minnesota demographics and labor market data, Environmental Services (ES) workforce demographics, and projected ES eligible retirements through 2012.

ES recognizes it needs to diversify its workforce. The current workforce is reflective of the pool available during the 1970s and 1980s.

The plan has three goals:

1. The right number of employees (determine staff levels; create & implement succession plans; recruitment and retention strategies);
2. In the right places (refine key processes and restructure work units to achieve coordinated and adaptive functions);
3. Prepared with the right skills (identify and provide essential training and strategies to support workforce needs)

Staff will update the committee at the end of this year on initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Wulff, seconded by Wittsack to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. **Motion carried.**

Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary