

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

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

Committee Members Absent: Polly Bowles, 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 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2010.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wittsack to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2010 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

**BUSINESS**

**2010-51 County of Carver and Townships 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20668-1, and Laketown Township Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wolter that the Metropolitan Council approve the County of Carver's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-52 City of Inver Grove Heights Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20614-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wolter that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Inver Grove Heights' Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-53 City of Mahtomedi Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20582-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Wittsack that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Mahtomedi's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-54 City of Champlin Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20615-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Champlin's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-55 City of North Oaks Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20449-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wolter that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of North Oaks' Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-56 City of Lilydale Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20575-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Wittsack that the Metropolitan Council approve the City of Lilydale's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-57 Adoption of Facility Plan for Hopkins System Improvements, Resolution No. 2010-03**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Peterson that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for the Hopkins System Improvements, Resolution No. 2010-03.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-58 Adoption of Facility Plan for Facilities Located in Mahtomedi (L7), Crystal (L30), Mounds View (L35) and Savage (L66), Project Number 805500, Resolution No. 2010-04**

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for the facilities located in Mahtomedi (L7), Crystal (L30), Mounds View (L35) and Savage (L66), Project Number 805500, Resolution No. 2010-04.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-59 Adoption of Facility Plan for Golden Valley – Saint Louis Park Relief Interceptor, MCES Project No. 805700, Resolution No. 2010-05**

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Beach that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for the Golden Valley-St. Louis Park Relief Interceptor, MCES Project No. 805700, per the attached Resolution No. 2010-05.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-60 Adoption of Facility Plan for East Bethel Water Reclamation Plant and Reclaimed Water Reuse, MCES Project No. 801620, Resolution No. 2010-06**

It was moved by Wittsack, seconded by Peterson that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Facility Plan for the East Bethel Water Reclamation Plant and Reclaimed Water Reuse, MCES Project No. 801620, per the attached Resolution No. 2010-06.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-61 Increase of Delegated Construction Contract Change Order Authority for Metro Plant Tunnel Lighting Improvements, MCES Project 805930, Contract No. 08P226**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wolter that the Metropolitan Council increases the delegated construction contract change order authority of its General Manager, Environmental Services, from \$50,000 to \$93,416 for Metro Plant Tunnel Lighting Improvements, MCES Project No. 805930, Contract No. 08P226.

**Motion carried.**

**2010-65 Ratification of Declaration of Emergency for Repair of Rosemount Forcemain**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wolter that the Metropolitan Council ratify the attached *Justification for and Declaration of Emergency* for Rosemount Forcemain 9208 repair.

**Motion carried.**

### **2010-66 Authorization to Award Contract for Janitorial Services for Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) Facilities**

It was moved by Peterson, seconded by Beach that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Sun Building Cleaning, Inc. to provide janitorial services for Environmental Services at the Metro Plant and Metro 94 locations for a period of three years.

**Motion carried.**

### **INFORMATION**

#### **Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) Grant Program Update**

Kyle Colvin, Assistant Manager - Engineering Services, summarized the original grant program which had an initial budget of \$700,000. The program ended in May 2009, when claims submitted exceeded the amount available for reimbursement. In November 2009, the Council authorized an additional \$150,000 to extend the program. Conditions of the extension were: work had to have been initiated by the property owner prior to May 31, 2009; work had to be completed by the grant reimbursement claim date; expenses were actual and certifiable, and reimbursement would be made at a level equal to that of the May 2009 reimbursements (57%). Staff sent letters to all eight eligible communities, informing them that additional claims had to be submitted by December 15, 2009. As in the original program, four communities submitted reimbursement claims totaling approximately \$170,000 under the extended program. Staff reviewed the claims to determine eligibility, and prorated reimbursements at 57%.

#### **Legislative Update**

Jason Willett, MCES Finance Director, described three legislative requests that staff has prepared relative to Environmental Services: Inflow and Infiltration (I/I), Water Supply, and Service Availability Charge (SAC). The I/I request appropriates \$2 million for FY 2011 from the Clean Water Fund to fund a metro area I/I grant program for private properties. The Water Supply request appropriates \$500,000 funding in 2011 for plan implementation and eliminates the sunset date of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee. The SAC legislative request provides flexibility to fund wastewater reserve capacity through wastewater charges when SAC rates and fund are not sufficient to fund the reserve capacity.

#### **Update on Reserve Capacity/Service Availability (SAC) Task Force**

Jason Willett, MCES Finance Director, explained that the SAC Task Force is tackling three main issues related to SAC; 1) methodology (method of counting the reserve capacity); 2) financial issues; and 3) issues related to SAC charges, i.e. what does SAC pay.

Bryce Pickart, Assistant General Manager-Technical Services, reviewed four reserve capacity technical method options: 1) flow; 2) committed capacity; 3) adjusted flow; 4) and a combination of #2 and #3.

The traditional flow method which was utilized through 2009 used the average flow for the preceding five years to define current capacity. The declining flow in the last few years gives the appearance of increasing the apparent reserve capacity.

In 2010, the Council switched to using the committed capacity method which is based on SAC units paid. This method does not recognize the effects of water conservation and community I/I reduction.

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Other methods being reviewed include: 1) the adjusted flow method, which uses capacity determined by using ten-year flow average and an adjustment for SAC paid in the last ten years, and 2) a combination method which is the adjusted flow plus committed capacity for interceptors. This method adjusts flow over a longer period of time, reducing the effect of precipitation cycles and accounts for effects of water conservation and I/I reduction. It also maintains committed capacity concept for non-residential uses of the interceptor system.

Willett reviewed the financial aspects of using any of the methods, and informed the Committee that the Task Force will develop recommendations for the Committee to consider.

Staff's action plan is to:

Defer growth projects, prioritize other projects to reduce capital expenses and debt service;  
Reduce operating expenses;  
Moderate rate increases for Service Availability and Municipal Wastewater charges; and  
Ask for legislation as discussed in the previous presentation.

As the 2011 budget process is undertaken, discussion on this topic will continue at future Committee meetings.

Business completed, it was moved by Wulff, seconded by Wolter to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan M. Harder  
Recording Secretary