

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Committee Members Present: Chair Sandra Rummel, Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber
Gary Van Eyll, Vice-Chair Wendy Wulff

Committee Members Absent: John Đoàn, Harry Melander

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Wulff, to approve the agenda. **The motion carried.**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Schreiber, to approve the minutes of the, April 12, 2011 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

No action items

INFORMATION

Introduction to MCES finance and Budgets

Jason Willett, ES Finance Director, presented the conclusion of the Introductory to MCES Finance and budgets with today's topics being MCES rates and revenues. This included a brief discussion all the major charges: Municipal Wastewater Charge (MWC), Sewer Availability Charges (SAC, industrial strength charges, hauler load charges, a list of small industrial and interceptor fees, and a mention of Inflow & Infiltration(I&I) surcharges (for which we have a rate but don't receive revenue). There was a particular emphasis on SAC, due to the issues surrounding it and the need to discuss a "SAC shift" for 2012 rates at the next meeting.

Capital Program Overview

Bryce Pickart, Assistant General Manager – Technical Services, presented an overview of the MCES capital program, including key Council policies and capital program strategies and priorities. Key capital projects were described for the Blue Lake and Metropolitan Plants and the Interceptor System. Capital program approvals by the Council and capital program business procedures were also described.

Capital Finance Plan

Jason Willett, ES Finance Director, gave a briefing of the capital finance plans for capital project spending. The discussion included PFA loans, Council wastewater bonds, pay-as-you-go for capital project costs, grants, and local government financing ("current value

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credits" for the regionalization of local assets, and cost sharing when local governments ask for and receive local benefits beyond the regional project needs).

DBE Achievement – PFA Funded Projects

Wanda Kirkpatrick, Director of Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, gave a briefing on the Council's Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) funded projects 2006-2011. MCES receives EPA financial assistance agreements through the PFA for professional/technical and construction projects. As the recipient of these funds MCES is required to follow EPA's Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) program. The Council's Office of Diversity is responsible for meeting Met Council's DBE goals, evaluating bids/proposals MCES contracts that have goals, and monitor DBE program compliance through the lifetime of contract. Kirkpatrick explained the DBE program and DBE achievement on MCES contracts.

ES General Manager's Report

William G. Moore reported:

1. The meeting on May 24 will be a tour of the Metro Plant rather than a normal business meeting and will be scheduled for the early afternoon.
2. The legislative audit commission is looking at SAC as a possible project to audit in the next year. They will be making their decision on May 3.
3. Hennepin County staff are asking whether the regional wastewater system could accommodate food waste. They are looking at ways to recycle food waste and are interested in a joint study to look at whether the wastewater system would be a viable means to recycle either the energy or nutrient value of the waste.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia L. Schultz
Recording Secretary