

## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

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

Committee Members Absent: John Đoàn

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Environment Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 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 Melander, seconded by Schreiber, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2011 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

#### BUSINESS

##### **2011-156 City of Vadnais Heights Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20811-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

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

**Motion carried.**

##### **2011-167 Authorization to Hold Public Meetings on 2012 Rates and Preliminary Budgets**

It was moved by Melander, seconded by Wulff, that the Environment Committee directs staff to hold two public meetings for municipal customers and one for industrial customers regarding the preliminarily proposed 2012 rates and charges (Attachment A).

**Motion carried.**

##### **2011-168 Final Ratification of Flood Emergency Expenditures and Reimbursement of Flood Preparation and Protection Expenditures**

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council ratify expenditures made for flood preparation and protection measures and adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Regional Administrator or his designee to sign agreements with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety related to reimbursement of flood-related expenditures.

**Motion carried.**

#### INFORMATION

##### **Regional Wastewater System Flow and 2012 Municipal Wastewater Charges**

Kyle Colvin, Assistant Manager of Engineering Services, provided an overview of the wastewater flow metering system, projected municipal wastewater charge volumes, the cost allocation process, and potential cost increases to communities. Colvin reviewed the regional infiltration/inflow program, and typical sources of inflow.

**Energy Overview**

Jason Willett, MCES Finance Director, explained that MCES is interested in energy because it reduces costs for rate payers, improves the Council's position for emissions regulations, reduces pollution, and supports societal interests in energy work. The MCES energy goal is to reduce purchased energy by 25% from 2006 to 2015. Willett highlighted MCES' work in energy conservation and renewable energy. The Council collaborates with a number of groups, including the Metropolitan Energy Policy Coalition, The Climate Registry, the State's interagency energy team, the U of M, the Chamber of Commerce, and Excel Energy. The Council's energy work has achieved substantial energy and dollar savings. Additional opportunities to reduce energy usage and use renewable energy are being pursued. Council Member Lona Schreiber suggested that staff think of ways to spread the news about the Council's successful energy work.

**General Manager's Report**

William G. Moore, ES General Manager, reported that the NPDES permit limits have been successfully met for 52 consecutive months.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan M. Harder  
Recording Secretary