

Info Item 1: 2012 Legislative Initiatives

Presented to the Environment Committee

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Council's Legislative Process

- **Required to submit policy proposals to Governor by October 7**
- **Governor's office approves/declines initiatives by October 31**
- **November–December: Work with Revisors Office on bill drafts**
- **January 24: 2012 Legislative session convenes**



Bill 1: Housekeeping

■ Statute M.S. 473.543, 473.541 (2), 473.517 (1) and (9)

— Eliminate word “control” in reference to Council’s budget and operations

– Rationale: Old MWCC wording; eliminate possible confusion that this is only part of MCES’s functions

■ Statute M.S. 473.523 (1)

— Change “board” to “Council”

– Rationale: Wording consistency



Bill 1: Housekeeping

■ Statute M.S. 473.512

- Eliminate election language for trade members to be excluded from MSRS (they are, if hired after 6/1/77)
 - Rationale: Election deadline was 8/1/77



Bill 1: Housekeeping

■ Statute M.S. 473.541 (2)

- **Modify so repayment of emergencies financing certificates is preferably from sewer fees not tax levies**
 - Rationale: Use sewer fees if possible

■ Statute M.S. 473.519

- **Repeal (requires MCES to review and approve local wastewater charging systems)**
 - Rationale: Local changes are city business; cities required to pay MCES bill via other statutes



Bill 1: Housekeeping

■ Statute M.S. 473.1565

- **Extend Water Planning Advisory Committee's sunset date by 4 years**
 - **Rationale: Utility of group convened by Council; continuing work to do for committee**

■ Statute M.S. 473.157

- **Repeal target pollution load requirements**
 - **Rationale: Redundant with PCA requirements for TMDLs under Clean Water Act**



Bill 2: Policy—SAC

■ Statute M.S. 473.517 (3)

- **Change transfer amount that SAC ideally pays from “reserve capacity” to “growth costs”**
 - **Rationale: 2010 Customer Task Force recommendation; better equity; better financially**
- **Eliminate or modify SAC shift sunset date (as can be supported by Metro Cities)**
 - **Rationale: Financially prudent given continuing recession; bond rating concern**



Bill 3: Policy—Data Privacy

■ Statute M.S. 13.64

— Add subdivision to protect from public disclosure all facility plans and specs in Council's possession:

1. Buildings owned by Council

– Rationale: Security of facilities

2. Other such documents (unless written permission is received from the owners)

– Rationale: Protect trade or competitive secrets, and private property security



Questions, Concerns or Other Ideas

