

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

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

Committee Members Excused: 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, May 8, 2012.

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 Schreiber, seconded by Van Eyll, to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2012 regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2012-147 Re-authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Cooperative Agreement with the Independent School District No. 276 – Minnetonka for the Construction of a Part of the MCES Interceptor Project No. 802852 in Excelsior

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Schreiber, that the Metropolitan Council re-authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a cooperative agreement between the Council and Independent School District No. 276 - Minnetonka, for the construction of interceptor facilities in the City of Excelsior.

Motion carried.

2012-148 Authorization to Award Contract 11P178 for MCES Electrical Services

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract for MCES Electrical Maintenance Services to Premier Electrical Corporation for an amount not to exceed \$6,026,996.66 and a term not to exceed five years.

Motion carried.

2012-149 Authorization to Increase Construction Contract Change Order Authority for Blue Lake Plant Solids Improvements, MCES Project No. 801840, Contract No. 09P001

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Melander, that the Metropolitan Council increase the delegated construction contract change order authority of its General Manager, Environmental Services, from \$1,391,135 to \$1,531,135, for the Blue Lake Plant Solids Improvements, MCES Project No. 801840, Contract No. 09P001.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Update on the Wastewater Bond Refinancing and PFA Loan Prepayment Negotiations

Jason Willett, MCES Finance Director explained the three wastewater-related capital finance transactions in process: 1) \$65 million of Council bonds being sold in June for

ongoing, approved capital projects; 2) about \$94 million of refunding bonds also being sold in June to gain interest rate savings (about \$8 million savings projected) by refinancing prior Council wastewater bonds, and 3) negotiations with PFA about refinancing some of the wastewater loans outstanding. The PFA Bond Counsel determined that the PFA does not have authority under its bond covenants to amend existing loan rates. Therefore, MCES and Treasury staff are moving to schedule and structure a second refunding bond sale (issuing about \$215 million of taxable Council bonds and working on the notice to simply prepay the remaining amounts outstanding on five wastewater loans).

2. Stormwater Re-Use Presentation

Keith Buttleman, Assistant General Manager of EQA, and Brian Davis, Senior Environmental Scientist, reviewed opportunities for and benefits of reuse, recharge and reduction. A Stormwater Reuse Guide is available on the Council's website at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/WaterSupply/cleanwaterfund.htm> under the heading *Stormwater Reuse Guidance*. The implications and challenges to stormwater re-use were also reviewed. In summary, reduction, reuse and recharge projects benefit Minnesota; common challenges that need to be addressed include: economic feasibility, water quality, and regulatory oversight.

3. General Manager's Report

Leisa Thompson, Deputy General Manager, reported:

- A. Committee members will be sent information on the customer forums that will be held May 24, June 6, and June 8.
- B. All plants were in compliance with NPDES permit.
- C. The Metro Cities Inflow/Infiltration \$4 million bonding request bill passed both the house and senate.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary