

Minutes

Committee of the Whole



Meeting date: April 15, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Robin Hutcheson
- ☒ Judy Johnson, District 1
- ☒ Reva Chamblis, District 2
- ☐ Tyronne Carter, District 3
- ☐ Deb Barber, District 4
- ☒ John Pacheco Jr., District 5

- ☐ Robert Lilligren, District 6
- ☒ Yassin Osman, District 7
- ☒ Anjuli Cameron, District 8
- ☐ Diego Morales, District 9
- ☒ Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- ☒ Gail Cederberg, District 11

- ☐ Mark Jenkins, District 12
- ☐ Chai Lee, District 13
- ☒ Toni Carter, District 14
- ☒ Victor Obisakin, District 15
- ☒ Wendy Wulff, District 16
- ☒ = present

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Hutcheson called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:01 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Cederberg.

Chair Hutcheson made an announcement congratulating Council Member Deb Barber on her new role as Director of Public Works for the City of St Paul.

Agenda approved

Council members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Osman to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

Consent business adopted (Items 1-4)

1. **2026-54:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 25P269 with Hawkins, Inc. to provide bulk bisulfite chemical at MCES Wastewater Treatment Plants in an amount not to exceed \$2,469,390.58.
2. **2026-56:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to contract 20P210 with Brown and Caldwell that will add an amount of \$7,500,000 to provide engineering construction services for the design of the new Lift Station L32A, for a total contract value not to exceed \$14,066,704.00.
3. **2026-57:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 25P150 with Gagnon Inc. to provide Scaffolding Systems Services for MCES facilities in an amount not to exceed \$3,306,908.
4. **2026-60:** That the Metropolitan Council ratify the Emergency Declaration for repairs to Interceptor 1-MN-344 in Minneapolis in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

It was moved by Toni Carter, seconded by Obisakin.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

Transportation

1. **2026-70:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P218 with Transdev Inc. for regular route transit in the West Metro Transit Service contract in an amount not to exceed \$76,488,300.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Pacheco.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Art + Policy Impact Report: Imagine 2050** (Thony Thao, Eleanor Hohulin, Erika Herrmann)

Thony Thao, Parks Ambassador Program Manager, opened the presentation, highlighting how the Art + Policy team uses art-based approaches to support Imagine 2050.

Ellie Hohulin, Outreach Coordinator for Art + Policy, defined the strategic goal of Art + Policy—which strives to make policy and public engagement more inclusive, imaginative, and human-centered—while fostering creative collaborations that enhance public spaces, cultural identity, and community connections throughout the region. Hohulin presented on the timeline, audience, and content of the forthcoming Art + Policy Impact Report. Hohulin gave some examples of the Art + Policy work,

such as a mobile gallery created by wrapped Metro Transit buses, and a policy-themed card game, “Go Policy!”.

Erika Herrmann, a Planner within Art + Policy, discussed some of the takeaways of the Art + Policy work, such as lessons that have been learned, challenges that the team encountered, and successes of the program. Herrmann noted that arts-based engagement promotes heightened cross-divisional collaboration as well as increased public comment and participation.

Thony Thao communicated that with the adoption of Imagine 2050, Art + Policy is transitioning from a pilot to a program with Council-wide service. Thao discussed how this work will be scaled and brought into the planning process, and highlighted the tools and resources provided by the Art + Policy work.

Council Members Cederberg and Johnson expressed support for the Art + Policy work and expressed hope that the projects will continue to expand and reach more districts in the region. Council Member Chamblis expressed interest in the relationships with artists in the community that will be fostered by Art + Policy projects and requested that the Council Members stay informed about future projects.

2. **Metro HRA Funding and Program Update** (Terri Smith, Stephanie Paulson)

Terri Smith, Director of Housing & Redevelopment Authority, and Stephanie Paulson, Assistant Director of Housing & Redevelopment Authority, presented an update on Metro HRA funding and the Bring It Home program.

Presenters shared a review of funding status in 2025 and leasing activities due to shortfall of funds. Metro HRA is currently waiting for notification from HUD regarding 2026 funds and shared projection trends for 2026. Presenters shared information on a statewide program that Metro HRA will be one of the program administrators called Bring It Home, and discussed eligibility, program operations, partnerships, and implementation.

Council Members, Regional Administrator, and Chair asked questions after the presentation on funds about the effect of HUD operations on daily activities and impact for future, property owner engagement, utilization of budget, reserves, and involvement with professional organizations for change.

During the presentation on Bring It Home, Council Member Johnson commented on prioritizing a criteria for people and families with mental health issues, and asked questions on the communication of the program. Council Member Cederberg thanked presenters for the transparency of information on HUD work to share and educate. Chair gave closing comment highlighting work of local government.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.



Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole meeting of April 15, 2026.

Council contact:

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Metropolitan Council