

Minutes

Environment Committee



Meeting date: August 25, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Gail Cederberg, D11
- ☒ Vice Chair, Wendy Wulff, D16

- ☒ Tyronne Carter, District 3
- ☒ Diego Morales, District 9
- ☒ Peter Lindstrom, District 10

- ☒ Mark Jenkins, District 12
- ☒ Chai Lee, District 13
- ☒ = present, E = excused

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, Committee Chair Cederberg called the regular meeting of the Environment Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2026, regular meeting of the Environment Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

None at this time.

Non-consent business

1. **2026-160 SW: Stormwater Reuse Grant** (Steve Christopher, 651-602-1033)

It was moved by CM Lindstrom , seconded by CM Jenkins , that the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2026-160 SW on the process for the 2026-2028 Stormwater Reuse Grant Program described in Attachment A and authorizes staff to advertise the availability of grant funding and solicit applications.

Discussion

Staff discussed the program's funding background, goals, eligibility requirements, and grant guidelines for supporting stormwater reuse projects within the seven-county metropolitan area. Staff reviewed grant funding of \$100,000 to \$250,000 per project, with up to 75% of project costs covered, as well as the proposal selection criteria. Staff also reviewed the proposed action to approve the grant program process and authorize staff to advertise the funding opportunity and solicit applications.

Motion carried.

2. **2026-164: St. Croix Valley WRRF Upgrades, Contract 26P024** (Li Zhang, 651-602-1166, Rene Heflin 651-602-1077)

It was moved by CM Lee, seconded by CM Morales , that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 26P024 with Rice Lake Construction Group for the construction of the St. Croix Valley Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$20,396,800.

Discussion

Staff discussed the project's asset preservation and safety improvements, including process equipment, HVAC, electrical, gravity thickener, fiber, roadway, and fall protection upgrades. Staff reviewed the solicitation process and noted that Rice Lake Construction Group was determined to be the low, responsive, responsible bidder. Staff recommended awarding the contract to Rice Lake Construction Group in an amount not to exceed \$20,396,800.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **2027 Capital Program** (John Chelbeck 651-602-4527, Rene Heflin 651-602-1077, Adam Gordon 651-602-4503)

The Environment Committee received an overview of the proposed 2027–2032 Capital Program, including a total projected program of approximately \$3.2 billion. The program focuses on preserving existing assets, meeting capacity needs, and improving service quality through investments in Water Resource Recovery Facilities and interceptor systems. Staff also reviewed proposed 2027 program changes, financing strategies, and the capital program development and adoption schedule.

Reports

1. Chair
2. Committee
3. General Manager



Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Environment Committee meeting of August 25, 2026.

Council contact:

Nneka Onah, Recording Secretary
Nneka.Onah@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-8101

