

Committee Report

Environment Committee



Committee meeting date: August 25, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: September 9, 2026

Business Item: 2026-164

St. Croix Valley WRRF Upgrades, Contract 26P024

Proposed action

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.

Summary of Environment Committee discussion/questions

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 by CM Lee, seconded by CM Morales. Motion carried.



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District(s), member(s):	District 11; Council Member Gail Cederberg
Policy/legal reference:	Council Policy FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff prepared/presented:	Li Zhang, Principal Engineer, 651-602-1166 Rene Heflin, Manager, Plant Engineering, 651-602-1077
Division/department:	MCES c/o Leisa Thompson

Proposed action

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.

Background

The St. Croix Valley WRRF is over 30 years old and needs rehabilitation to ensure continued reliable operation. The proposed project includes asset preservation work that includes HVAC improvements, process equipment upgrades, electrical improvements, gravity thickener repairs and access upgrades, fiber upgrades, and road construction. Additionally, proposed safety improvements include carbon vessels fall protection and aeration basin safety gates.

The Invitation for Bids was advertised on April 17, 2026. A pre-bid meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were forty-one planholders consisting of seven prime bidders; twenty-five suppliers, subcontractors, consultants and two plan rooms, and two plan holders identified as woman, minority, veteran or disadvantaged business enterprises.

Procurement facilitated a public bid opening on June 11, 2026. Two bids were received that ranged from \$18,762,797.32 to \$20,396,800.00. Rice Lake Construction Group was determined to be the low, responsive, responsible bidder and is recommended for award.

Rationale

The execution of a construction contract exceeding \$10,000,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this procurement supports the Thrive Outcomes for stewardship as the work supports efforts to maintain the region's wastewater treatment system.

Funding

This project will be funded through local funding provided in the 2025 Authorized Capital Program.

Small business inclusion

The Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs (OCR SB) assigned a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal of 9% for this solicitation. OCR SB determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the MCUB requirements of this contract.

