

MINUTES – ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING 11.09.2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM, Thursday, November 9th in the Council Chamber with the following in attendance:

Council Members

Jeremy Nutting (Chair)
Vic Pennington (Vice Chair)
Gene Achziger

City Staff

Andrew Merges – Public Works Director
Tyler Beekley – Surface Water/Environmental Engineering Mngr
Tim George – City Attorney
Bonnie Wilkins – Chief Administrative Officer
Matt Hutchins – Assistant City Attorney
Jeff Friend – Finance Director
Jodi Grager – Admin. Assistant

Guests – Mayor Matt Mahoney, Councilmember Traci Buxton, Chuck Coleman, Gary Petersen

AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes from the 09.14.2023 meeting
2. 2024 NPDES Permit Reissuance (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)

MEETING:

1. Unanimous approval of the 09.14.2023 minutes.
2. Surface Water and Environmental Engineering Manager Tyler Beekley stated this is the fourth issuance of the City's NPDES Permit. He reviewed the new program requirements (Attachment #2). Manager Beekley presented the following updates on each of the permit requirements:
 - Stormwater Planning – The Department of Ecology occasionally uses vague language in order to allow flexibility for municipalities to define goals and targets. It is possible that DOE will include additional information over time. Current efforts in the Lower Massey Creek Basin have laid the groundwork for prioritizing a catchment area.
 - Public Education and Outreach – Staff are working with businesses to provide Spill Kits and Dumpster Education. This is ongoing.
 - Public Involvement and Participation – The City Currents Magazine delivered to every address includes SWM educational information. The City's website is also utilized to provide educational information and request public comment. This requirement also adds a demographics and environmental justice piece with a timeline of 12.31.2026.
 - MS4 Mapping & Documentation – Staff continue the mapping of the City's stormwater systems and City owned properties with tree canopy.
 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination – The new code for assessing PCB containing materials in structures throughout the City appears to be draft language. Staff have requested clarification from DOE.

- Controlling Runoff from Construction Sites – The City typically adopts the King County Stormwater Design Manual which becomes the code for development and enforcement.
- Stormwater management for Existing Development (new section) – By March 31st, 2028, Des Moines will need to document SWM projects that have mitigated 3.3 acres of stormwater treatment, discharging cleaner run-off than before it entered the system.
- Source Control Program for Existing Development – This is a new requirement and has yet to be defined.
- Operations and Maintenance – The City will need to plan for a more comprehensive street sweeping program by 07.01.2027 which will impact SWM budgeting.

Committee members inquired if the City of Des Moines cooperates with neighboring cities where drainage originates? Manager Beekley explained the DOE provides a threshold for jurisdictional coverage which assists with interaction between cities. A concern regarding property owners in Federal Way eliminating the tree canopy to enhance their water view was discussed. It was stated that if this is unpermitted work it becomes an enforcement issue. Des Moines staff can bring it to the attention of Federal Way staff for their response.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jodi Grager, Admin Asst