Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

1. **Introduction / Roll Call**
   Chair Ficek called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m., and at his request, Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer called the roll.

   Present: Chair Bryant Ficek; Vice Chair Edwin Hodder; Members Daniel Fergus, Allison Luongo, Des Mueller and Sarah Rudolf; and Youth Commissioner Alexi Jendro

   Absent: Member Jarod Cicha and Youth Commissioner Carson Bauer (Excused)

   Staff Present: Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer

2. **Public Comments**

3. **Approval of January 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
   Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners prior to tonight's meeting, and those revisions were incorporated into the draft presented in meeting materials.

   Motion
   Member Fergus moved, Member Rudolf seconded, approval of the January 28, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.

   Ayes: 6
   Nays: 0
   Abstain: 1 (Hodder)
   Motion carried.

4. **Communication Items**
   Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated February 25, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer provided updates on the Maintenance Operations Center and License Passport Center, including releasing an RFP for architectural services. He noted the Maintenance Operations Center's schedule and outlined local sales tax options.

Mr. Freihammer discussed the construction of a pathway on Hamline Avenue between County Road C and Hamline Avenue in Arden Hills, the resurfacing of County Road C, and the upsizing of the water main from Josephine Road to Glenhill Road. He reviewed the Twin Lakes Trail Phase 2 and the Dale/Owasso lift station project, including timelines and supply chain issues. He also discussed the 2025 sewer lining and booster station phase four projects.

Mr. Freihammer reviewed the 2025 Pavement Management Project design and expected bid date. The Way-Finding Signage Project was mentioned, including installing 24 more prominent way-finding signs in Roseville.

Mr. Freihammer mentioned upgrading Dale Street lighting to LED and ongoing lighting upgrades in other areas.

Mr. Freihammer updated the Commission on the Bike Plan and the demonstration project on Hamline Avenue, including the installation of bollards and data collection. He also reviewed Ramsey County project updates, including the Dale Street project, the County Road D mill and overlay and replacement of the storm sewer at Clarmar. He reviewed MnDOT updates on trunk highways 36 and 280, including resurfacing and potential trail improvements. He mentioned the G Line planning and Rice Street corridor design process.

Mr. Freihammer updated the Commission on discontinuing the Less Mow May and the focus on pollinators and other practices. He also reviewed the Green To Go implementation and E-bike policy summit. He highlighted the Maintenance Department’s full staffing and announced the addition of Kristofer Paulseth, a full-time forestry natural resource supervisor. He also discussed the ongoing negotiations with Waste Management for a final recycling contract agreement, the ongoing winter tree trimming, the water service line inventory, and recent water breaks throughout the city.

Mr. Freihammer explained the need for an officer election, which was scheduled for March and must be completed before the next officer's term expires.

Member Luongo inquired about the Less Mow May decision and if the Commission would discuss it.

Mr. Freihammer indicated that the Commission could discuss it. He also indicated that Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken was going to update the website and provide updates in the newsletter for residents.

Vice Chair Hodder mentioned the lift station and the 40KV solar setup. He asked how the federal credit situation would work with that.

Mr. Freihammer believed the solar panels on the booster station were from the state and not tied to any federal money that he was aware of.

Vice Chair Hodder asked if the current solar system would impact the third party and if the third party would allow for the thirty percent credit that they would get.

Mr. Freihammer indicated he did not have any idea. He assumed that, with a contract, the City was locked in with what it had. He thought the third party would have received the credit at the beginning of the contract. He noted he could check with Mr. Johnson on that.

Chair Ficek thanked Mr. Freihammer for the updates.

5. Metropolitan Mosquito Control District Presentation

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer explained the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District was at the meeting to give a presentation to the Commission.

Mr. Alex Carlson, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, gave a presentation on mosquito control and surveillance. He outlined the organization's history, governance, and services.

Mr. Carlson covered the mosquito life cycle, surveillance methods, and control strategies, including larval control, adult control, and reducing breeding habitat. He discussed the mosquito-borne diseases of concern, including West Nile Virus, Jamestown Canyon virus, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

Mr. Carlson explained that B.t.i., Methoprene, and spinosad were used for larval control and Permethrin for adult control. He also reviewed the importance of environmental stewardship and integrated pest management. He also reviewed the impacts of weather on mosquito populations and the prediction for the upcoming season.

Mr. Carlson continued his presentation with the methods for tick surveillance, including tick drags and live mammal collections. He noted the public can submit tick samples for identification.

Mr. Carlson highlighted the district's educational outreach efforts, including public events and school visits. He noted interactive maps and email alerts on the district's website.

Member Fergus asked what the adult control methods were.

Mr. Carlson explained that it was mainly backpack applications of Permethrin, usually at public parks or areas where the traps collected a lot of mosquitoes. He noted that no private treatments were made.

Member Fergus asked if Methoprene or Spinosad had off-target effects.

Mr. Carlson explained that Spinosad is an organically approved material and a soil bacteria, the same as BTi. It has similar non-target impacts as BTi. Methoprene in specific applications that can impact other fly species. He noted that they are cautious about the dosage applied, especially in the springtime, when there are vernal pools and things like that. He explained that this is not put anywhere, and they anticipate many midges or anything like that.

Chair Ficek thanked Mr. Carlson for the presentation.

6. City Water Meter Discussion

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer provided background on the City's water meter program and the need for upgrades. He reviewed the current Neptune automatic meter reading system, its benefits, and the issues with the current system, including radio failures and the need for upgrades. He noted the potential upgrade to the 900 system and the benefits of maintaining accurate data collection.

Mr. Freihammer discussed the need to replace radios and meters, noting that they can be done independently but are often done together. He explained the City has met with different vendors to explore long-term solutions, considering options like keeping the current system or upgrading to the 900 series. He mentioned the 900 series has a smaller signal range, which might require additional collectors in specific areas like South Owasso. He provided two options: replacing meters later (option A) or replacing some meters now (option B), with the latter being more impactful on residents and staff.

Mr. Freihammer introduced a new vendor, Mueller, whose proposal included maintaining the collectors, which staff found appealing due to the hassle of maintaining the current collectors. The Mueller system offered two-way communication, allowing for software updates and data pushes, a significant advantage over the current one-way system. The Mueller system could also shut off meters remotely, a feature some cities use for unpaid utility bills. However, Roseville currently does not use this practice, and the new system is more adaptable and can provide temperature data, which would be crucial for Roseville's freeze accounts.

Mr. Freihammer outlined the costs of upgrading the current radios versus the complete Mueller system, highlighting the significant price difference. He explained the current system costs $322 per new meter and radio, while the Mueller system has cheaper components but still requires a substantial upfront cost. He noted the City budgeted $2.4 million over five years to upgrade meters, with plans to split the cost between water and sewer funds. He suggested additional funds to the CIP for the Mueller system, estimating a need for at least $380,000 by 2029.

Mr. Freihammer emphasized the importance of minimizing the impact on residents, noting that replacing radios and meters at once would be less disruptive than doing it in multiple visits. He explained staff time would be saved by upgrading meters now, as newer technology was more accurate and required less maintenance. He noted the Mueller system also included an annual fee for maintaining the collectors, which would be a new cost but would reduce the burden on City staff.

Member Fergus raised concerns about the new system's reliability and failure rate, comparing it to the current 450 and 900 systems.

Mr. Freihammer reassured the Commission that other cities used the Mueller system, which was more reliable due to its two-way communication and broader application.

Member Rudolf questioned the due diligence on the Mueller system's reliability and the potential for hacking.

Mr. Freihammer responded that the system was already used in other industries and more secure than the current one.

The Commission discussed the potential costs to residents and the need for a detailed plan to manage the transition and minimize disruption.

Chair Ficek supported the staff's recommendation to use the Mueller system and replace radios and meters simultaneously to minimize future disruptions.

Member Ficek moved, and Member Rudolf seconded, to accept the staff's recommendation to purchase the Mueller system and replace both radios and meters at the same time.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 1
Abstain: 1 (Fergus)
Motion carried.

7. Future Agenda Items

Discussion ensued regarding future PWETC agenda items:

March 18, 2025

- Pavement Asset Management

Future Topics:

- Pathway Master Plan Updates
- Municipal Safety Plan

- Hamline Avenue Pathway

8. Adjourn

Motion
Member Fergus moved, Member Hodder seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion carried.