



## Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

December 3, 2024

### Summary and Motions

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Chair Sheehan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee Members, Vice-Mayor Wu and Council Members Fogle, Lynch, LeGris, Gray, Worley, F. Brown, and Sevigny were present. Council Member Monarrez was absent. Council Members Plomin and Reynolds were present as non-voting members.

#### I. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 22, 2024 COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Motion by Sevigny to approve the October 22, 2024 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary. Seconded by Fogle. Motion passed without dissent.

#### II. CONSENT DECREE & REMEDIAL MEASURES PLAN UPDATE

Charlie Martin, Director of Water Quality, discussed the Consent Decree status, the remaining capital obligation, and the active and upcoming projects. All stormwater and supplemental project obligations are complete. Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance (CMOM) obligations are ongoing. The focus is on the Remedial Measures Program (RMP) and the remaining schedule. A four-year extension was granted due to the pandemic, and December 31, 2030 is the new compliance deadline. Another change is a semiannual report instead of quarterly. Of the 117 total projects, Martin said 76 have been completed, 24 are active, and 17 are pending. He reviewed the Cleaner Water Kentucky Grant Funds and said there is approximately \$37.8 million in grant money available for the RMP projects. Total project costs continue to trend lower than the 2014 projection, but the risk of cost escalation remains.

When asked about the start date for the project at New Circle Road and Limestone, Martin said it would likely be January or February before they can begin work. He anticipates an April start date for the Winchester Road project. Regarding the feasibility of planting flowers in neighborhoods near the Floyd Drive project, Martin is happy to discuss post-construction/restoration in that area. He clarified the pipeline work on Greentree Road is finished, but post-construction is not. They have had issues with contractors and utility companies. Speaking about RMP Projects and the Cleaner Water Kentucky Program, Martin said this allowed for the addition of 10% of grant money, but it required a separate agreement. He confirmed this is state money, not local money. No action was taken on this item.

#### III. WASTE DIGESTER TASK FORCE REPORT-OUT

Dave Sevigny, 10<sup>th</sup> District Council Member, provided a brief background on the Waste Digester Task Force, which was created on November 14, 2023 to examine the feasibility of implementing a waste digester in Lexington. He recognized members of the Task Force which included Council Members, Environmental Quality & Public Works staff, and Council staff. He introduced Richard Dugas, Administrative Officer in Environmental Quality and Public Works, who provided the Task Force report-out. Dugas reviewed the timeline of work which included a thorough review of the consultant's report, meeting with consultants, and site visits. The original consultant's report brought forward three concepts to consider: a rotary drum, tunnel reactor, and Source Separated Organics – Aerated Static Pile (SSO-ASP). The Task Force ultimately decided to remove the rotary drum from potential solutions and moved forward

with a focus on SSO-ASP composting. Addressing contamination rates is key to having a successful composting program and contamination rates for Lexington-Fayette County are above the national average. Four recommendations were reviewed with developing and implementing a recycling and yard waste contamination plan identified as the priority. Current costs include \$75,000 to develop the recycling and yard waste reduction plan. It is important to note a strong educational program is necessary to reduce contamination. Environmental Quality & Public Works staff will update the committee every six months beginning in the summer of 2025 and will continue these updates until implementation is complete.

Motion by Sevigny to Approve the Waste Digester Task Force Report-Out recommendations as presented to the committee and included in the committee packet. Seconded by Gray. Motion passed without dissent.

#### **IV. REVIEW OF RECYCLING PRACTICES**

Richard Dugas, Administrative Officer in Environmental Quality and Public Works, presented the annual Review of Recycling Practices, beginning with a review of items we currently accept. Our public information group continues to improve ways to communicate with the public. Grants continue to provide ways for us to fund recycling practices. He reviewed materials collected in 2020, noting that curbside paper collection was suspended in 2019. He discussed facility upgrades that took place in 2022. The current baler is 12 years old and has reached the end of its lifespan. A new baler was purchased and will be installed later this month (December 2024) and during this time, we will not accept recycling. During this shutdown, the roof over the material drop area will be replaced, repairs will be made to the loading dock, and the remaining sorting equipment will be cleaned and maintained. No action was taken on this item.

#### **V. COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

No action was taken on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.