

DATE August 22, 2017

DEPARTMENT Public Health & Environment

MOTION
BY COMMISSIONER Miron

SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER Bigham

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENTS
TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE NO. 114

Whereas, Ramsey and Washington Counties (the "Counties") have committed to continue to protect and ensure the public health, safety, welfare and environment of each County's residents and businesses through sound management of solid and hazardous waste generated in each County; and

Whereas, it is the stated policy of the State of Minnesota, under the Waste Management Act, to manage solid waste in an environmentally sound manner; and

Whereas, Ramsey and Washington Counties have in place County Solid Waste Management Master Plans ("Master Plans") approved by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); and

Whereas, the Master Plans clearly state the policy goal of maintaining and improving an integrated system of solid waste management that supports Minnesota's hierarchy of solid waste management, with an emphasis on waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting before the remaining solid waste is managed through resource recovery; and

Whereas, the Master Plans also include policies that affirm the processing of waste, for the purpose of recovering energy and recyclables, and other beneficially usable materials, as the preferred method to manage solid waste that is not reduced, reused or recycled; and

Whereas, since 1982 Ramsey and Washington Counties have implemented a joint powers board for researching, developing, and implementing waste processing activities, that has been called the "Ramsey/Washington Waste-to-Energy Project Board" and later the "Ramsey/Washington County Resource Recovery Project Board" (the "Project Board"); and

Whereas, from 1987 to 2015 the counties, through the various joint powers boards, contracted for waste processing services with a series of private owners and operators of a waste processing facility in Newport, MN, formerly called the Ramsey/Washington County Resource Recovery Facility ("Facility"); and

Whereas, the Counties have adopted an amended and restated the Joint Powers Agreement in September, 2015, and have renamed the joint powers board to be the "Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Board" (R&E Board); and

Whereas, the Counties have strongly supported waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, with the aim of achieving a 75 percent recycling goal by 2030; and

Whereas, in 2012 the Counties determined that a merchant approach to waste processing was not possible in the East Metro area, and, pursuant to the Master Plans, the Counties, through the joint powers board, began to explore options to assure the continuation of waste processing, including consideration of public ownership; and

Whereas, during the period of 2013 – 2015 the Project Board extensively analyzed and evaluated waste generation and management data, various waste management and conversion technologies, financial information, policy options and information gathered through an extensive public information and comment program (the “Analysis and Evaluation”), and established a vision for future waste management in the East Metro area, which, for processing of waste, includes using the existing resource recovery facility in Newport as a foundation for future efforts to enable greater and improved recycling and recovery of resources from waste (the “Resource Recovery Vision”); and

Whereas, as a result of the Analysis and Evaluation, the R&E Board, recognizing the clear environmental, financial and policy benefits to public ownership and operation, purchased the Facility and began public operation on January 1, 2016, and has renamed the Facility the Recycling and Energy Center; and

Whereas, Minn. Stat. §473.803 sets forth the requirements for metropolitan County Master Plans and includes specific elements for counties proposing designation to a resource recovery facility and Minn. Stats. §115A.80 - §115A.893 set forth the requirements for implementing waste designation in Minnesota including the initial step of submitting a designation plan; and

Whereas, in September, 2015 the Ramsey and Washington County Boards directed that amendments to their respective Solid Waste Master Plans be prepared, and a designation plan be jointly developed; and

Whereas, in July 2016 the R&E Board approved a resolution recommending that the Ramsey and Washington County Boards approve and adopt the Ramsey and Washington Counties Joint Waste Designation Plan and forward the Plan to the MPCA for approval; and

Whereas, in July 2016 the Ramsey and Washington County Boards approved amendments to their respective Solid Waste Master Plans and approved a Joint Waste Designation Plan consistent with State law , and submitted those plans to the MPCA for approval; and

Whereas, on November 22, 2016 the Commissioner of the MPCA approved the Ramsey/Washington Counties Joint Waste Designation Plan and amendments to the Ramsey County Master Plan; and

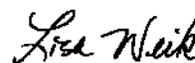
Whereas, on January 24, 2017, following public notice as required by law, the Washington County Board held a public hearing on implementing the Ramsey and Washington Counties Joint Waste Designation Plan as required by Minnesota Statutes Section 115A.85, Subd. 2

Whereas, the Joint Leadership team, staff, attorneys and consultants have prepared amendments to the Ramsey County and Washington County solid waste ordinances that implement designation of waste for review by the MPCA as required by Minn. Stat. §115A.86; and

Whereas, on May 2, 2017 the Washington County Board approved Resolution No 2017-151 approving the waste designation amendments to the Washington County Solid Waste Ordinance No. 114 for the purpose of MPCA Review, and authorized submittal of the amendments for review. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby sets the date and time of September 12, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in County Board room, 5th floor, Washington County Government Center, 14949 62nd Street, Stillwater, MN, with regard to amendments to the Washington County Solid Waste Ordinance No. 114 for waste designation in order to afford the public an opportunity to comment on the ordinance amendments.

ATTEST: 

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

	YES	NO
MIRON	<u>X</u>	_____
KRIESEL	<u>X</u>	_____
WEIK	<u>X</u>	_____
BIGHAM	<u>X</u>	_____
KARWOSKI	<u>X</u>	_____