



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes - Final

Duluth Public Utilities Commission.

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

5:15 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall, 411 West First Street

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Medved called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Andrea Crouse, Councilor Wendy Durrwachter, Derek Medved, Brad Scott, Councilor Terese Tomanek

Members Absent: Councilor Mike Mayou, Carrie Ryan

Staff Present: Nick Anderson, Jim Benning, Leanna Gilbert, Chris Ostern, Howie Smith

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[DPUC148](#) Mar. 18, 2025 DPUC meeting minutes draft

Indexes:

Attachments: [03182025 DPUC meeting minutes draft](#)

The March 18, 2025 meeting minutes were approved by all present.

UPDATES FROM STAFF

Jim Benning reported that many projects are bidding, and construction will begin soon. He asked if commissioners would like to take a break to coincide with the City Council break. He also asked if commissioners still want to meet offsite or have a tour of facilities. There was some discussion about possible locations. Jim Benning recommended that the meeting be held in Council Chambers as usual and then go on a tour afterwards. Howie Smith reported that some new Engineering staff has been hired. He reported that the only large lead project left to bid this summer is the London Road project. Engineering staff is starting to work on 2026 project funding and putting out RFPs for consultants to design the projects. They have also been writing reports for the EPA order on consent and working on follow-up actions.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Commissioner Crouse asked if there have been any changes to the EPA consent order. Jim Benning replied that City staff is working on the items that were approved by the City Council. Commissioner Crouse asked about contractors and the cost of materials. Howie Smith reported that there is still a lot of interest in bidding the projects and that there should be no major issues with materials.

Vice President Medved welcomed Commissioner Scott. He also asked about funding for lead replacement projects. Howie Smith replied that the money for this year is definitely committed, and the monies for 2026 are fairly certain. It sounds like the money will run out in 2027, so it may be on a first come, first served basis. We will apply as soon as possible for those funds.

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIONS

Jim Benning said that some resolutions awarding projects would be coming soon.

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. There may be a tour of various utility facilities after the May meeting. Commissioner Durrwachter mentioned that the City Council break is from the last half of June through the early half of July. Commissioners can decide at the May meeting if they want to take June or July off.

KNOWN ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

No absences were mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.