

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2024

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL WASTE AND WATER POLLUTION

Mr. Brian A. Perkovich, Executive Director

..Title

Request Authority to Disband the Blue Ribbon Panel and Form an Industrial Engagement Panel

..Body

Dear Sir:

At the direction of the Board of Commissioners (Board) during the December 15, 2011, meeting, the Monitoring and Research (M&R) Department formed a Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) to evaluate the User Charge Ordinance (Ordinance) and the methodology for calculating the User Charge Rates (Rates). The BRP held meetings in 2012 and 2013 and provided recommendations for revisions of the Ordinance and Rates, culminating in substantial changes to both.

During the intervening 10 years, most members of the original BRP have departed their respective organizations, forcing the M&R Department to identify replacements. Most replacement members have little knowledge of the BRP or its purpose.

To address this issue, the M&R Department proposes to disband the BRP and create an Industrial Engagement Panel (IEP), which would consist of representatives from large professional organizations whose members consist of customers impacted by the Ordinance and the Rates. The IEP would serve as a platform for member organizations to provide relevant input and discuss how emerging and changing environmental issues are affecting their members.

The M&R Department has reached out to the following organizations and received a positive response towards the IEP concept and the potential to serve as participating members.

- Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Chicagoland Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Illinois Health and Hospital Association
- Illinois Manufacturers Association

The M&R Department requests approval to empanel these organizations as members of the inaugural IEP. Upon approval, the IEP would officially be formed later this summer and meet on an annual basis at minimum. Membership in the IEP would be reviewed periodically but not less than once every three years.

Attached are documents previously submitted to the Board regarding the formation and activities of the BRP.

Respectfully Submitted, Edward W. Podczerwinski, Director of Monitoring and Research, EWP:JW:MG:tj
Disposition of this agenda item will be documented in the official Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for August 8, 2024.

Attachments