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**Sponsor:** Public Health

**Meeting Date:** 3/19/2024

**Title:** Amendment to Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for Hazardous Waste Inspections

**File Number:** 2024-055

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**Background and Rationale:**

Ramsey County and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) share a mutual interest in the protection of the environment and enhancing the resources each contributes to the regulation of hazardous waste activities within the county by coordinating county hazardous waste management activities with the MPCA's Hazardous Waste Management Program. The implementation of the joint power's agreement intends to minimize duplication of efforts by Ramsey County Environmental Health Division and the MPCA. This will result in efficiencies and cost-effective use of staff time, resources and provide consistency to regulated businesses. The joint powers agreement will also enhance the protection of human health and the environment through coordinated hazardous waste management in the regulation of hazardous waste activities.

The framework established by this agreement allows the MPCA to include county inspections conducted in accordance with the agreement, towards the reporting requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This will provide a more complete perspective of the hazardous waste regulatory efforts that exist within Minnesota. The joint powers agreement describes how the county and the MPCA will jointly coordinate inspections, investigations, and enforcement activities to ensure compliance with Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7045 (Hazardous Waste Rules) and Ramsey County's Hazardous Waste Management Ordinance Resolution 2008-082.

The joint powers agreement solidifies the existing collaboration between the MPCA and Ramsey County. There are clear benefits to having hazardous waste regulation at the county level in addition to establishing a joint powers agreement with the MPCA. This agreement provides Ramsey County access to other regulations outside of hazardous waste such as air quality and storm water. Access to other regulatory resources improves response time and resources used in times of need. Ramsey County licenses over 1,800 hazardous waste generators, including 28 Large Quantity Generators, 72 Small Quantity Generators and approximately 1,718 Very Small Quantity Generator.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the amendment to Joint Powers Agreement with the state of Minnesota, acting through its Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul MN 55155, for hazardous waste inspections, for a period of March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2027.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the amended Joint Powers Agreement.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McGuire, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Frethem, Martinson, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

