Overview:

**Metropolitan Land Planning Act and Comprehensive Plans**

March 20, 2019

Committee of the Whole
## Today’s Discussion

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Historical Background & Regional Planning
Regional Planning

- Metropolitan Council formed in 1967
- Regional planning
  - Council must develop a comprehensive development guide
    - Compilation of policy statements, goals, standards, and programs
    - Orderly and economical development of the metropolitan area
  - Metropolitan agency plans to conform to the regional plan
Why regional planning?

- Interdependent communities
- Individual communities impact region’s infrastructure
- Growth creates need for public services
- Increased risk of air and water pollution & water supply shortages
- Ensure coordinated, orderly, & economical development
- Protect public health, safety, & welfare

Regional Planning
Metropolitan Land Planning Act

- Metropolitan Land Planning Act (MLPA) - 1976
  - Statutes 473.851 to 473.871
    - Review authority
    - Technical assistance
    - Planning grants
  - Local comprehensive planning
    - Content requirements 473.859
    - Amendments
    - Relationship to zoning
10-year Regional Planning Cycle

Regional Development Guide
2013-2014

System and Policy Plans
2014-2015

Decennial Census
2010-2011

Local Comprehensive Plans
2018

System Statements
2015

Local Planning Handbook
What is *Thrive MSP 2040*?

“The Metropolitan Council shall prepare and adopt, after appropriate study and such public hearings as may be necessary, a comprehensive development guide for the metropolitan area…”

(Minn. Stat. 473.145)
Systems and Policy Plans

- Plan for each Regional System
  - Transportation
  - Water Resources Management
  - Parks
- System Planning
  - Specific policies, goals, strategies
  - Details on system improvements, extension, limitations
- Policy Plan for Housing
  - First plan since 1980s to specifically address housing in the region
Looking ahead

Continued population growth
Constrained fiscal resources
Demographic shifts, new demands
Environmental challenges
Transportation funding
Planning for new modes of transit and transit-oriented development
Need for regional economic cooperation
Thrive Outcomes and Principles

**Stewardship** of our natural and financial resources

**Prosperity** of our businesses and households

**Equity** of our opportunities and challenges

**Livability** of our communities

**Sustainability** of our region into the future

**Integration** of efforts within the Council

**Collaboration** with partners throughout the region

**Accountability** to measure our progress
Land Use Direction
Seven policies together to achieve Thrive Outcomes

Each Land Use Policy
Broad direction, region wide application

Community Designations
More specific, distinguishes between community types

Council Roles
Community Roles

Orderly & Efficient Land Use
Natural Resources
Water
Housing
Transportation
Economic Comp.
Resilience
Local Comprehensive Plans
What’s the purpose of a local plan?

- Community’s vision
- Guides growth and development in community
- IDs key issues in community & how the community intends to deal with them
- Provides:
  - Basis for community’s vision and principles
  - Reasoning for public facilities plans/budgets
  - Guidance on making decisions
What is the role of the plan?

- Legal document
- Outlines a community’s work plan
- Provides direction for ordinances and capital investments
Required Plan Components

Foundation
- Policies & Objectives
- Planning area designation
- Forecasts for population, households, & employment

Land Use
- Existing land & water
- Future land use & staging
- Housing plan
- Special Resources

Public Facilities
- Transportation
- Water Resources
- Regional & Local Parks and Trails

Implementation
- Official controls
- Zoning
- Subdivision
- Capital improvement program
- Housing implementation program
Review Role of the Metropolitan Council
Review authority is based in statute

- Minn. Stats. 473.175 & 473.513 outlines the Council’s role in plan review
- Council **authorizes plans** to be placed into effect
  - No ability to “deny” plans explicit stated in statute
  - Council approves Comprehensive Sewer Plans
- Different review standards based on the component we are reviewing
  - Conformance
  - Consistency
  - Compatibility
The Council is the Last Reviewer

• Adjacent / affected jurisdictions
  – Minn. Stat. 473.858, subd. 2 requires local governments to share their plans with adjacent and affected jurisdictions
  – Allow at least 6 months for review and comment

• Other Agencies have approval authority over portions of local plans
  – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
    • Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Plans
    • Water Supply Plans
  – Watershed Districts
    • Local surface water management plans
Review Standards
How does the Council review comprehensive plans?

- **Metropolitan Development Guide**
  - Thrive MSP 2040

- **Planning Component**
  - System Plans
  - Development Policies
  - Coordination

- **Review Standard**
  - Conformance
  - Consistency
  - Compatibility

- **Issue Approach**
  - Potential Plan Modification
  - Technical Assistance
  - Local Jurisdiction Facilitation
• Minn. Stat. 473.175, subd. 1:
  “The council shall review the comprehensive plans of local governmental units…to determine their…conformity with metropolitan system plans.”

• Each System Plan identifies what constitutes a conformance issue in a local comprehensive plan
• Review standard: “more likely than not to have a substantial impact on or contain a substantial departure from metropolitan system plans”

• Steps:
  – Immediately work toward issue resolution, before official plan submittal
  – Last step: plan modification procedures
• Minn. Stat. 473.175, subd. 1:
  “The council shall review and comment on the apparent consistency of the comprehensive plans with adopted plans of the council.”

• Policies in Thrive and each of the Policy Plans
  – Specific policies as they apply to local comprehensive plans
Review Standard

Consistency

• Steps:
  – Technical assistance to resolve inconsistency before plan submittal
  – Advisory comments
    • Recommending changes
    • Offering staff assistance
  – Housing cases: potentially affects eligibility for LCA programs
Review Standard

• Minn. Stat. 473.175, subd. 1:
  “The council shall review the comprehensive plans of local governmental units…to determine their compatibility with each other…”

• Ensure coordination among local jurisdictions

• Incompatibilities among plans are unusual

• Steps:
  – Identify the incompatibilities, offer suggested solutions
  – Support to facilitate conversations among local jurisdictions
Comprehensive Sewer Plans
2040 Water Resources Policy Plan

- Wastewater
- Surface Water
- Water Supply
Metropolitan Sewer Board becomes a Regional Utility: 1969; 66th legislature
1969 Local Wastewater System

- 35 local wastewater treatment plants
• MN Stat. 473.146  
  – Policy Plans for Metropolitan Agencies

• MN Stat. 473.513  
  – Municipal Plans and Programs

• MN Stat. 473.858  
  – Comprehensive Plans; Local Governmental Units
MCES Wastewater System

WHO WE SERVE
7-county Twin Cities Metro Area
109 communities
2,700,000+ people

OUR FACILITIES
8 wastewater treatment plants
610 miles of interceptors
250 million gallons per day (avg)

OUR ORGANIZATION
600+ employees
$7 billion in valued assets
$150 million / yr capital program

MCES Serves ~50% of the State's Population
Regional Service Policies

Water Resource Policy Plan (WRPP)

- **Policy Plan** identifies specific goals, strategies and polices in the areas of water supply, surface water and regional wastewater service.

- **Wastewater System Plan** outlines current regional system and planned improvements.

- Required content for Local Community Comprehensive Plans:
  - ✓ Wastewater
  - ✓ Surface Water
  - ✓ Water Supply Plans
Regional Service Policies

Water Resource Policy Plan (WRPP)

- Conformance with Regional Wastewater System
- Consistency with Council Policies
- Compatibility with adjacent and affected governmental units
- Accommodate Projected Growth
- Provide sufficient land areas to accommodate growth. Developed vs. Undeveloped
- Preserve areas for post-2040 growth.
- Conduct appropriate financial and economic analysis
Local Wastewater Plan Requirements
Adopted Community Sewered Forecasts
Local Connection Points to the Regional System
Local Sanitary Sewer System Map
## APPENDIX D - PIPE CAPACITIES FOR THE ULTIMATE SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Existing Flow</th>
<th>Proposed Flow</th>
<th>Pipe Size</th>
<th>Pipe Size</th>
<th>Pipe</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Elbow</th>
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*Capacity = Design Flow ratio based on capacity of existing pipe. Proposed parallel pipe provides a ratio greater than 1.0 as a primary design criterion for the pipe.

** Indicates Elm Creek Interceptor segments.
Intercommunity Service Agreements
Staging Plans

• Not specifically required in local Wastewater Plan.

• Approval of Wastewater Plan commits to serving 2040 sewered forecasts (growth).

• Requirement of Land Use Plan.

• Beneficial to local efforts for service planning by focusing growth in predictable areas of the community.
I/I costs everyone!

**Inflow and infiltration (I/I)** is clear water that enters the wastewater system. It overloads the system and can cause costly sewer backups into homes and buildings.

**Inflow** is clear water that quickly enters the wastewater system after rainfall events from sources such as sewer cleanouts, sump pumps, gutters, building foundation drains, and broken maintenance hole covers.

**Infiltration** is clear water that gradually enters the wastewater system below ground through cracks and openings in sewer service lines and joints, and public sewer mains and deteriorated maintenance holes.
Preventing and Reducing Inflow and Infiltration

- Quantify Amount
- Program strategy
- Priorities
- Scheduling
- Financing mechanisms
Subsurface
Sewage
Treatment
Systems
(SSTS)
Regional Wastewater System
Long Term Service Areas

- MCES Treatment Plant
- Future WWTP Site
- Gravity
- Forcemain
- Siphon
- Outfall
- Lakes and Rivers

Long Term Service Area
- Rural Center
- Potential Rural Center
- Metro
- Potential Metro
- Blue Lake
- Potential Blue Lake
- SMSC Area
- Scott Co. Rural Center Expansion
- Scott Co. Urban Expansion
- Seneca
- Potential Seneca
- Empire
- Potential Empire
- Eagles Point
- Potential Eagles Point
- St Croix Valley
- Potential St Croix
- Hastings
- Potential Hastings
- Rogers
- Potential Rogers
- East Bethel
- Potential East Bethel

Pre-2030 Orderly Annexation
- Rural Center
- Blue Lake

Post-2030 Orderly Annexation
- Rural Center
- Blue Lake
- Empire
Areas Not Served by the Regional System
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities
Non-Municipal Communal Treatment Systems
Areas Served by Local Treatment Systems
## WWTP Capacity and Existing Flow

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*Flow in Million Gallons Per Day*
Wastewater Plan Status Overview

- 110 Regional Centers
- 11 Rural Centers
- 2 New Regional Centers
- 2 Approved (Regional)

125 Total Wastewater Plan reviews
Process and Timelines
Official Review Process

120 Calendar Days

Date first received or most recent received
15 business days
About 10 business days
About 10 business days
Additional review and coordination
Prepare staff report
By day 120

CPU submitted for review
Completeness review
CDC report / presentation
EC report / presentation
Council business item
Staff from across the Council review plans

Community Development
• Local Planning Assistance
• Research
• Regional Parks
• Housing Policy

Environmental Services
• Engineering Programs
• Water Resources
• Water Supply Planning

Metropolitan Transportation Services
• Highway Planning
• Multi Modal Planning
• Travel Modeling & Research
• Technical Planning Support

Metro Transit
• Route and Service Planning
Plan Status Overview

- Preliminary Plans: 94
- Grant Communities: 69
- Communities with Extensions: 60
- Plans received to date: 96
- Outstanding Plans: 21

Map showing counties and townships with various plan statuses.
Plan Status Overview - Timeline

- Total Plans Expected: 168
- Q4 2018: 108
- Q1 2019: 17
- Q2 2019: 30
- Q3 2019: 6
- Q4 2019: 7
Current Status of Plan Reviews

96 Plans Received

- 58 Incomplete
- 28 Plans In Process
- 3 Complete Plans
- 7 Authorized Plans

Pie chart showing:
- 58 Plans Incomplete
- 28 Plans In Process
- 3 Complete Plans
- 7 Authorized Plans

[Diagram of pie chart showing the distribution of plans received]

[Logo: Metropolitan Council]
Discussion

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