

Information Item

Committee of the Whole



Meeting date: December 4, 2024

Topic

Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statement: Recommendations for Use

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.175
Presented by:	Council member Toni Carter, District 14, Committee Chair of the Regional Development Guide Work Group
Staff Prepared:	Gillian Greenberg, American Indian Advisory Council Project Management Team (651) 602-1726
Division/department:	Community Development / Regional Planning

Background

The American Indian Advisory Council developed a Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statement as a part of its work to support the Met Council in taking action to support Tribal Nations and American Indian communities in Imagine 2050. The Acknowledgement Statement and recommendations for use were presented to the Met Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 16, 2024. Both a short statement and a long statement were shared, with recommendations on where and when to use each statement.

At the November 6, 2024, Regional Development Guide Working Group (RDG WG) meeting, Committee members discussed use of the Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statement in Met Council meetings and activities. In addition to the Acknowledgement being adopted as part of Imagine 2050, the RDG WG drafted recommendations for where and when the Met Council should use the two versions of the Acknowledgement Statement. These recommendations will be shared at the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 4, 2024, by RDG WG Committee Chair Toni Carter, Council member for District 14.

Summary

The RDG WG recommendations for using the Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statements are as follows:

Short Acknowledgement Statement

- The short Acknowledgement is read at the beginning of all Met Council business meetings and Committee of the Whole meetings.
- Chairs of the standing committees, including Community Development, Environment, Management, and Transportation, can choose to read the short Acknowledgement at the beginning of meetings.
- Chairs of other Met Council Committees and leaders of public meetings can choose if they would like to read the short Acknowledgement at the beginning of meetings.
- The short Acknowledgement is included in written form on webpages that post agendas for Met Council and Met Council Committee meetings.

- The short Acknowledgement is included in public facing planning documents.
- The short Acknowledgement is included in new employee onboarding/orientation and all employee continuing education.
- The short Acknowledgement is adapted for use at Met Council buildings and facilities including Robert Street, Heywood, and the Metro Plant. This could take many forms including a plaque on the wall or interpretive art pieces and should reflect the purpose and audience of the building.

Long Acknowledgement Statement

- The long Acknowledgement is included on a new Met Council webpage about American Indian and Tribal relations.
- The long Acknowledgement is used where recognition or moments of reflection are appropriate and needed, and in organizational education.
- The long Acknowledgement is included as part of educational resources for employees, residents, and local governments.

Next Steps

Based on the outcome of the discussion at Committee of the Whole, staff will bring a business item to a future Met Council meeting to adopt the Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statement and protocols for use in Met Council business. For information, the Acknowledgement Statements as they were presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 16, 2024, are included with this information item.

