

Minutes

Community Development Committee



Meeting date: August 4, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- | | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Robert Lilligren, D6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victor Obisakin, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Toni Carter, D14 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Lindstrom, District 10 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Wulff, District 16 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8 | | |

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lilligren called the regular meeting of the Community Development Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Lilligren.

Agenda approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2025, regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

1. **2025-181** City of Prior Lake Removal of Annexation Areas Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 22282-6 (Shawn James 651-602-1233)

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Chamblis that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

1. Authorize the City of Prior Lake to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
2. Find that the amendment does not change the City of Prior Lake's forecasts.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-193** City of Eden Prairie Danfoss Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 21978-17 (Shawn James 651-602-1233)

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Chamblis that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

1. Authorize the City of Eden Prairie to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
2. Find that the amendment does not change the City of Eden Prairie's forecasts.
3. Advise the City of Eden Prairie to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Transportation and Water Resources.

Motion carried.

The Community Development Committee recommended approval of the proposed action without questions or discussion as part of its consent agenda.

Non-consent business

1. **2025-182** Approval of 2026 Regional Parks and Trails System Visitor Study, Contract No. 25P041(Ismael Ramirez 651-602-1831)

It was moved by Carter, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Contract No. 25P041 with Wilder Research to conduct the 2026 Parks and Trails Visitor Study, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

The Committee expressed support for the evaluation and selection process. Council Member Lilligren asked about what plan holders mean. Ramirez responded that it means all the organizations that downloaded the Request for Proposal.

Motion carried.

2. **2025-183** Local forecast changes prior to System Statements issuance (Todd Graham 651-602-1322)

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Obsikan, that the Metropolitan Council take the following actions:

1. Revise local forecasts in the *Imagine 2050* development guide for the cities of Corcoran and West St. Paul, as detailed in Table 1.
2. Revise sewer-serviced forecasts in the Water Policy Plan, for the cities of Corcoran and West St. Paul, as detailed in Table 2.
3. Revise Affordable Housing Need allocations in the Housing Policy Plan, for the cities of Corcoran and West St. Paul, as detailed in Table 3.
4. Include the revised information in System Statements to be issued this fall.

Council Members asked about the typical content of local government requests and alternative sources they reference, timelines for System Statements and plans, alignment of forecast adjustments and the planning cycle, and the relationship of local forecasts to affordable housing need calculations.

Motion carried.

Information

1. 2050 Comprehensive Planning Technical Assistance Overview (Emma Dvorak 651-602-1399; Gillian Greenberg 651-602-1726; Angela R. Torres 651-602-1566)



The Community Development Committee was introduced to the many forms of technical assistance that are available, under development, or being updated to assist local governments throughout the 2050 comprehensive planning process, including a demonstration of the GHG Strategy Planning Tool.

Statutes direct the Council to provide planning assistance to communities to accomplish the purposes of the Metropolitan Land Planning Act. Now that the Council has adopted Imagine 2050, and work on the regional policy plans shift to implementation, the Council must focus on how to assist communities in addressing regional goals as well as meeting minimum planning requirements.

The Council has several roles in the local comprehensive planning process:

1. Establish policies through Imagine 2050 with the regional system and policy plans
2. Review local comprehensive plans and amendments to ensure conformance, consistency, and compatibility with regional system plans and regional policies
3. Provide technical assistance with local comprehensive plan development

Although the Council provides technical assistance in many ways, all the time, (i.e. Sector Representatives and technical teams), the Council focuses technical assistance efforts when communities update their local comprehensive plans through the Local Planning Handbook, and its many tools and resources. Within the Handbook are interactive planning tools related to minimum requirements, GHG emissions and climate actions, natural systems planning, housing, and others. Also within the Handbook is information on each required Plan Element: Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Water Resources, Parks and Trails, Climate, Natural Systems, and Plan Implementation. A resource library houses many sources of information to make the most of the decennial planning effort and encourage local governments to move beyond the basics.

For the 2050 planning cycle, financial support through the Planning Assistance Grant Program will be paired with direct professional services for small communities through the new Small Communities Planning Program.

The Council also creates a training and educational program called PlanIt, which provides educational opportunities like webinars, workshops, a planning conference, and other events to support local governments through the planning process.

Staff provided questions throughout the presentation to the Council Members to receive feedback.

2. Program Development Update: Small Communities Planning Program and 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program (Merritt Clapp-Smith 651-602-1567; Angela R. Torres 651-602-1566)

The Community Development Committee received an update on the work of the Land Use Advisory Committee as they prepare to make a recommendation to the CDC on eligibility criteria for the 2050 programs.

At the [May 5, 2025](#), Community Development Committee (CDC) meeting, [members reviewed](#) work in progress within the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) on eligibility criteria for the new Small Communities Planning Program and the 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program. Both programs assist local governments in completing local comprehensive planning requirements, one through direct funding and the other through direct planning services. The CDC also reviewed the enabling statutory direction and the 2040 grant participants and eligibility criteria. Staff introduced the analysis and methodology and provided comparisons between types of communities served under the 2040 planning grant criteria, the draft 2050 grant program criteria, and the new Small Communities Program criteria. Committee members expressed strong support for both



programs.

Included in this memo is further analysis which considered if any communities were “on the cusp” of eligibility for either a planning grant or the Small Communities Program if the eligibility criteria were minorly adjusted. Staff also re-evaluated eligibility based on the update of current population from 2023 to 2024. It is important to highlight that even if the currently proposed eligibility criteria remain the same, the list of potentially eligible communities for both programs will likely change when staff update the net tax capacity per capita data in early August, following the expected release of 2025 net tax capacity data by the Minnesota Department of Revenue in late July.

Based on the most current information available and the eligibility criteria considerations discussed to date, staff proposed eligibility criteria recommendations to the LUAC for discussion in July. This included maps and a list of potentially eligible communities (Attachments 1 through 4). LUAC reviewed the results of the additional analysis along with the resulting map and list of communities, confirmed the eligibility criteria for both programs, and supported maintaining three award types (sewered, unsewered, and County/Consortium) from the 2040 cycle.

The LUAC will review a business Item in September to formally recommend eligibility criteria to the CDC. The LUAC will continue discussion about funding considerations for the grants and services proposed with these criteria.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Community Development Committee meeting of August 4, 2025.

Council contact:

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