



## **Advisory Committee Position Description**

### **Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC)**

[metro council.org](http://metro council.org)

### **ABOUT THE COMMITTEE**

Created by the Minnesota Legislature, the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) provides advice and assistance to the Metropolitan Council in its water supply planning activities. MAWSAC plays a lead role in developing the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Plan and provides continuing guidance on its implementation.

### **WHO IS ON THE COMMITTEE?**

MAWSAC consists of 18 total members as defined by [Minnesota Statute 473.1565 \(Metropolitan Area Water Supply Planning Activities; Advisory Committees\)](#).

- The Chair of MAWSAC is the Chair of the Metropolitan Council (or their designee)
- Four members are the Commissioners of the following state agencies (or their designees)
  - Minnesota Department of Agriculture
  - Minnesota Department of Health
  - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
  - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Eleven members are officials of local government units, appointed by the governor.
  - A local government unit in each of the seven counties in the metropolitan area must be represented as follows:
    - Two counties in the metro area
    - Five non-county local government units
  - One representative each from Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, and Wright counties
- One representative of St. Paul Regional Water Services
- One representative of the Minneapolis Water Department, appointed by the mayor.

### **VACANCIES**

There are currently six vacancies for the remainder of the four-year terms spanning 2023 – 2027.

- Six representatives (elected officials or local government unit staff) from counties as follows:
  - 1 - Chisago County
  - 1 - Sherburne County
  - 1 - Wright County
- Three representatives (elected officials or local government unit staff) from non-county local governmental unit in the metro area

## RECENT WORK

Providing guidance to regional planning projects:

- Approving the updated Metro Area Water Supply Plan
- Priority Waters List
- Regional visioning supporting the 2050 Regional Development Guide and related policy and system plans
- Working with subregional groups to scope future planning and implementation
- Water resources policy research papers review and feedback
- Prioritizing technical projects to implement regional water supply policies and plans

Providing input to legislative issues:

- Guiding Metropolitan Council request for an appropriation from the Clean Water Fund for the Metropolitan Water Sustainability support program and the Water Demand Reduction Grant program to support MAWSAC recommendations.

The February 2022 MAWSAC report to the Met Council and Minnesota Legislature on water supply planning:

- Bringing MAWSAC perspectives into state level water policy and funding conversations
- Bringing MAWSAC perspectives into regional policy and planning conversations
- Working with subregional groups to scope future projects and available funding (through Met Council appropriation from the Clean Water Fund)

## MEETING INFORMATION

**Frequency:** A minimum of three meetings per year, typically on Wednesday afternoons.

**Location:** Metropolitan Council, in downtown St. Paul (390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101)

**Approximate time commitment annually:** A minimum of 12 hours per year of meeting time and additional outside work to review materials and prepare for meetings.

## EXPERIENCE

Looking for MAWSAC committee members with the following experiences and interests:

- Interest in water supply planning and policy
- Education or experience with local water supply systems and surface water or groundwater resources
- Commitment to conservation, interjurisdictional cooperation, long-term sustainability, and regional equity goals
- Willingness to prepare for meetings by reading materials provided, attending in-person MAWSAC meetings, and providing development, review, and guidance for the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Plan and its implementation.

## BENEFITS

Serving on the committee is a volunteer role without compensation. Members are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties including transit fare or local parking for meetings.

## WHAT WE DO AT THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

The Council provides the following services for the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region:

- **Plans for Future Growth of the Region:** As the Metropolitan Planning Organization the Council plans for future growth and makes strategic, efficient public investments to support the region's high quality of life and economic competitiveness.
- **Operates Metro Transit:** Every day, Metro Transit serves bus and rail passengers with award winning, energy-efficient fleets (nearly 85 million in 2014 or nearly 90% of all regional transit rides). These strategic investments support a growing network of bus and rail transitways, and transit-oriented development.
- **Collects and Treats Wastewater:** This region collects and treats wastewater at rates 40% lower than peer regions, while winning national awards for excellence.
- **Protects and Monitors Clean Water:** The Council works to ensure adequate clean water for the future through water supply planning and lake and river monitoring programs.
- **Develops Regional Parks and Trails:** The Council plans and develops a world-class regional parks and trails system made up of more than 60 parks, park reserves, and special recreation features, and more than 415 miles of interconnected trails.
- **Provides Affordable Housing:** The Council creates and supports affordable housing opportunities throughout the region by providing affordable housing for 6,500 families in 100 communities through the Metro Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and establishing regional housing policies and planning.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit an online application to join the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) via the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State's website:

(<https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/Agency/Details/282>).

Although the deadline for first review of applications has passed, people interested in serving on MAWSAC are strongly encouraged to still apply for the openings.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the committee or the application process, please contact the following Metropolitan Council staff:

- Judy Sventek, Water Resources Manager: 651-602-1156, [judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us)
- Hannah Pallmeyer, Government Affairs Liaison: 651-602-1364, [hannah.pallmeyer@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:hannah.pallmeyer@metc.state.mn.us)

## OTHER RESOURCES

Committee materials and more information are available on the [Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee webpage](#) on the Metropolitan Council website. There you may find the Committee's meeting minutes, agendas, and member roster.