

WATER RESOURCES POLICY PLAN UPDATE

Water Quality and Surface Water Management

Environment Committee – March 26, 2013



Water Resources Policy Plan Update

- Wastewater Service Policy and Wastewater System Plan – February 26, 2013
- **Water Quality and Surface Water Management – March 26, 2013**

Surface Water Management Plan Section

- **Review current plan**
 - **Goal**
 - **Policies**
 - **Implementation Strategies**
- **Discuss issues and areas of concern**

2004 Regional Development Framework Benchmark/Goal

The quality of water leaving the metropolitan area will be as good as the quality of water entering the metropolitan area.



Excerpt from 2005 Water Resources Management Policy Plan

Policy #1

The Council will provide technical assistance and resource assessment information to others in their efforts to implement practices that will protect water resources

Best management practices help to maintain and improve water quality, control runoff rates and volumes to reduce stream bank erosion and flooding, and preserve designated beneficial uses

Excerpt from 2005 Water Resources Management Policy Plan

Implementation Strategies for Policy #1

- The Council will continue to monitor and assess lakes, streams and rivers
- The Council will work with watershed organizations, local units of government, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders to promote the protection of area lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands
- The Council will encourage and support the use of the most efficient nonpoint source pollution reduction technologies

Water Resource Related Agency Roles

Federal Level

- **US EPA**
 - Standards
 - Oversight of state activities
- **US Geological Survey**
 - Data collection
 - Resource assessment
- **US Army Corps of Engineers**
 - Wetland regulation
 - Protection and restoration
 - Dredging and channel maintenance

Water Resource Related Agency Roles

State Level

- **Pollution Control Agency**
 - Statewide water quality plans and TMDLs
 - Standards, regulation, enforcement
- **Department of Natural Resources**
 - Regulation of use of public waters
 - Protection of water resources
- **Board of Water and Soil Resources**
 - Wetland conservation oversight
 - Oversight of watershed planning
 - Disperse Legacy funding to locals

Water Resource Related Agency Roles

State Level

- **Department of Agriculture**
 - Regulation of agriculture activities impacting waters
 - Fertilizer management
- **Environmental Quality Board**
 - Minnesota Water Plan
 - Biennial water policy reports
 - Oversight of environmental reviews
- **Department of Health**
 - Oversight of public water supply systems
 - Wellhead and source water protection

Water Resource Related Agency Roles

Regional Level

- **Metropolitan Council**

- Regional wastewater system owner and operator
- Regional water resources planning, management and assessment
- Regional water supply planning and management
- Review local comprehensive plans
- Review local water plans and water supply plans
- Review watershed plans
- Review environmental documents and permits

Water Resource Related Agency Roles

Local Level

- **Watershed Management Organizations**
 - Prepare and implement watershed plans
 - Approve local water plans
 - Standards and regulations to protect water resources
- **Counties**
 - Review of watershed and local water plans
 - Prepare groundwater plans
 - Approve watershed projects requiring county financing
- **Cities and Townships**
 - Local surface water management
 - Regulate land use affecting water resources
 - Prepare comprehensive plans, water supply plans

Excerpt from 2005 Water Resources Management Policy Plan

Policy #2

The Council will review local comprehensive plans, watershed plans, local water plans, local storm water ordinances, environmental permits, and other environmental documents to ensure that the local units of government are fulfilling their nonpoint source reduction requirements and therefore not impacting the metropolitan disposal system

Excerpt from 2005 Water Resources Management Policy Plan

Implementation Strategies for Policy #2

- **The Council will review environmental documents to ensure that actions of others are not causing a wastewater system impact**
- **The Council will develop target pollution loads for the major watershed basins by 2008 and work in conjunction with the MPCA in the development of TMDLs to reduce the effects of nonpoint source pollution on the region's lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands**

2005 Water Resources Management Policy Plan Appendices

- **List of priority lakes**
- **Examples of nonpoint source pollution sources**
- **NPDES Phase I and II communities**
- **Local water plan requirements**

Draft Sustainability Policy

- **Overall sustainability policy for water**
- **Individual sustainability policies for water resources**
 - ✓ **Water quality/surface water management**
 - ✓ **Water supply**
 - ✓ **Wastewater**

Watershed Manager Technical Advisory Committee (WMTAC)

- **Membership**

- Watershed Districts
- Watershed Management Organizations
- County Watershed Management Organizations

- **Purpose**

- Define issues
- React to proposed policy
- Develop implementation strategies and metrics
- Comment on draft plan

- **Timeline**

Water Quality and Surface Water Management Issues from WMTAC

- **Need accountability for land use decisions**
- **Planning on watershed scale/local implementation**
- **Balanced approach to storm water and waste water**
- **Water availability**
- **Define “value of water” in metro area**
- **Provide a regional perspective/ regional response**

Water Quality and Surface Water Management Issues from WMTAC, cont'd.

- **Relate policies to water quality standards**
- **Foster collaboration, creativity, and innovation**
- **Provide technical assistance and resource information**
- **Provide financial assistance**
- **Provide guidance for local water plans**

Questions?

Judy Sventek

Judy.Sventek@metc.state.mn.us

651-602-1156