

Environment Committee

Meeting date: June 23, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 24, 2015

Subject: Authorize the Release of the 2015 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan to Full Council for Approval, Start Formal Public Review Process and Adopt August 11, 2015 Public Hearing Date

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat., Sec. 473.1565

Staff Prepared/Presented: Lanya Ross, 651-602-1803

Division/Department: MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

Proposed Action

That, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council release the 2015 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan for public review and comment and authorize a public comment period from June 25, 2015 to August 21, 2015, including a public hearing on August 11, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Background

Population growth and expanding development are increasing demands on our water supplies in the region. Coordinated planning by local communities, the Metropolitan Council, and state partners will help meet our future water supply needs.

The purpose of the region's Water Supply Plan is to provide communities in the region with planning assistance for water supply in a way that:

- Recognizes local control and responsibility for owning, maintaining and operating water supply systems
- Is developed in cooperation and consultation with municipal water suppliers, regional stakeholders and state agencies
- Protects critical habitat and water resources over the long term
- Meets regional needs for a reliable, secure water supply
- Highlights the benefits of integrated planning for stormwater, wastewater and water supply
- Emphasizes and supports conservation and interjurisdictional cooperation, and
- Provides clear guidance by identifying key challenges/issues/considerations in the region and available approaches without dictating solutions.

So that communities can take the most proactive, cost effective approach to long term planning and permitting to ensure plentiful, safe, and affordable water that supports the prosperity and livability of the region for future generations.

Rationale

The Council has prepared a Master Water Supply Plan under state law (Minn. Stat., Sec. 473.1565) directing it to:

“carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the metropolitan area,”...[including] development and maintenance of technical information; recommendations for clarifying roles, streamlining decision-making and approval processes, and funding; and the development of a twin cities metropolitan area master water supply plan that:

- Provides guidance for local water supply systems and future regional investments;
- Emphasizes conservation, interjurisdictional cooperation, and long-term sustainability; and
- Addresses the reliability, security, and cost-effectiveness of the metropolitan area water supply system and its local and subregional components.”

When adopted, this plan will replace the current Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan adopted in March 2010.

Funding

None

Known Support / Opposition

MCES developed this plan under the guidance of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and in collaboration with a Community Technical Work Group (CTWG). In addition, comments were heard at several public meetings from over 170 attendees representing more than 70 communities. Their comments have been incorporated into the plan, and both MAWSAC and the CTWG have recommended that this plan be released for public review.