

2015 MASTER WATER SUPPLY PLAN

DRAFT 9/14/2015

*Public Hearing Report
June 24, 2015
through August 21, 2015*

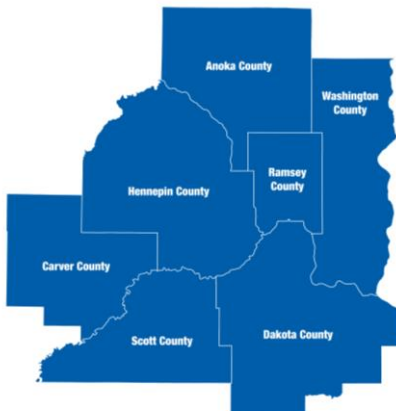


September 2015

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Public Hearing Report Overview

The 2015 Master Water Supply Plan Public Hearing Report summarizes the comments received on the draft 2015 Master Water Supply Plan. The draft plan was released for the purposes of public comment on June 25, 2015 and comments were accepted through August 21, 2015. During that time, the plan was available on the Council's website and through printed copies as requested.

The following spreadsheet summarizes the comments received, who made the comment, the staff response to the comment, and any text changes made to the plan.

In sum, 17 individuals/organizations provided their comments on the draft plan during the public comment period. One individual provided oral testimony at the public hearing and the remaining submitted written comments.

Individuals who contributed their comments represented a range of constituents, including:

- City/Township/Local Government –12
- County Governments – 2
- Organizations – 2
- Nonprofit Environmental Groups - 1

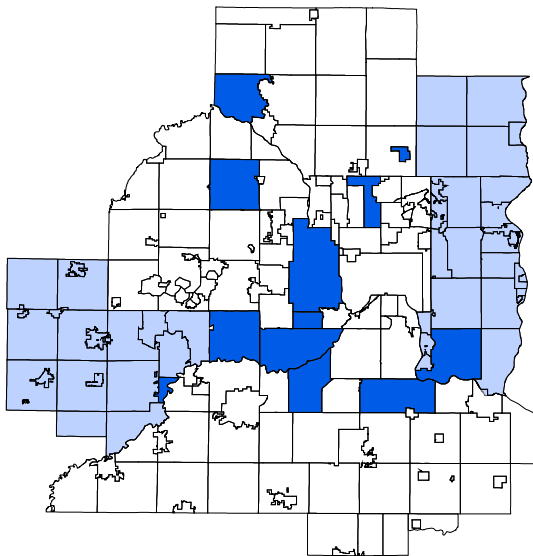


Figure 1. Cities (dark blue) and counties (light blue) that submitted comments on the draft 2015 Master Water Supply Plan update.

Based on comment content, a total of 54 individual comments were received. The following pages include a list of contributors, followed by all of the comments received.

A written record of all of the comments made via letter, email, or on the phone is available in Appendix 1.

How to Use this Document

This document is quite large and is not intended to be printed.

The public hearing report summarizes the comments received, who made the comment as identified by their comment ID number, and the staff response to the comment.

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Table 1. List of Comment Contributors

Contributor ID	Type of Comment	Date Received	Organization	Name
1	Testimony, Letter	8/11/2015, 8/20/2015	Metro Cities	Patricia Nauman, Executive Director
2	Letter	8/18/2015	City of Ramsey	Bruce Westby, Engineer
3	Letter	8/18/2015	Washington County	Gary Kriesel, Chair, Board of Commissioners
4	Letter	8/20/2015	City of Eden Prairie	Rich Wahlen, Utility Operations Manager
5	Email	8/20/2015	WaterSense	Cary McElhinney, Coordinator
6	Letter	8/20/2015	Carver County	Randy Maluchnik, Chair, Board of Commissioners
7	Letter	8/20/2015	City of Richfield	Kristin Asher, Acting Director of Public Works/City Engineer
8	Letter	8/20/2015	City of Maple Grove	Mark Steffenson, Mayor
9	Email	8/21/2015	City of Centerville	Mike Ericson, City Administrator
10	Letter	8/21/2015	City of Bloomington	Robert Cockriel, Utilities Superintendent
11	Letter	8/21/2015	City of Rosemount	William Droste, Mayor
12	Letter	8/21/2015	City of Carver	Mike Webb, Mayor
13	Letter	8/21/2015	City of Shoreview	Mark Maloney, Director of Public Works
14	Letter	8/21/2015	City of Cottage Grove	Jennifer Levitt, Community Development Director/City Engineer
15	Letter	8/21/2015	City of Minneapolis	Craig Taylor, Executive Director
16	Letter	8/21/2015	City of Burnsville	Steve Albrecht, Public Works Director
17	Letter	8/21/2015	Freshwater Society	Darrell Gerber, Research and Policy Director

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Table 2. List of Comments and Responses

Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
1	Collaboration	<p>Metro Cities was actively involved in supporting the 2015 statutory changes around water supply planning, which are intended to strengthen opportunities for input, collaboration and precise scientific analyses into the plan, and before any legislative or regional level solutions around water supply are considered. Attention to issues around water supply have increased since the original statutes governing water supply planning were enacted. As discussions continue, it will be imperative for the Council to continue to work collaboratively with local policymakers and local professional staff on an on-going basis to ensure that the base of data and analyses informing water supply planning and decision making is credible and verifiable, and appropriately takes into account local data, analyses and projections. Metro Cities also continues to support the original statutory recommendations for the advisory committee, including recommendations for clarifying the appropriate roles of state, regional and local governments on these issues, and recommendations for addressing funding for on-going water supply planning needs and capital investments.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Council will continue to support a regional, collaborative planning process that is respectful of local control.</p>
2	Collaboration	<p>The City of Ramsey fully supports the Master Water Supply Plan's single overarching goal of achieving a sustainable water supply system for the region, both now and into the future. However, the City feels strongly that such sustainability must be achieved in an equitable manner through the development and use of regional water supply partnerships. Regional water supply partnerships can be difficult and time consuming to develop, particularly when led by local agencies; the Metropolitan Council should consider actively supporting an effort to analyze the viability of regional partnerships from both service and funding perspectives.</p>	<p>Chapter 7, Strategy 4 (Facilitate collaboration to address water supply issues) was revised to reflect your request that the Council support efforts to analyze the viability of regional partnerships.</p>

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
3	Collaboration	Many of the Council strategies compliment or are the same as strategies in Washington County's Groundwater Plan. As the Council begins or continues to implement these strategies, we encourage the Council to continue to seek partnership with the county for local implementation. We have a plan and framework for action, as well as established groups like the Washington County Water Consortium. With regards to specific Council actions, the Council should recognize and support county level efforts, where Groundwater Plans exist.	Comment noted. The Council will continue to support a regional, collaborative planning process that is respectful of local control. The plan stresses the need for collaboration and coordination, and it is our goal to continue our efforts and expand on those efforts as issues in the region arise and as we implement the Master Water Supply Plan.
6	Collaboration	The County is supportive of the Met Council's role in coordination and the provision of technical assistance, financial assistance, and regional facilitation. The Board and County Staff look forward to continuing discussions as we continue to define our regional vision and implement Thrive MSP 2040.	Comment noted. The Council will continue to support a regional, collaborative planning process that is respectful of local control.
7	Collaboration	The City of Richfield commends the Metropolitan Council on its responsiveness to the regional concerns that were raised during the early development of the plan and its willingness to pause and reshape the direction of the plan. The City is also supportive of the Council's holistic and integrated planning efforts to develop the region in ways that are sustainable and cost-effective.	Comment noted. The Council will continue to support a regional, collaborative planning process that is respectful of local control.
1, 13, 15, 16	Collaboration	The Plan benefits from the efforts of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and the technical advisory committee representing local subject matter experts. Collaboration and partnership with Council staff is appreciated as we work together to provide a safe and sustainable water supply to accommodate the expected growth in our region.	Comment noted. The Council will continue to support a regional, collaborative planning process that is respectful of local control.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
2, 3, 5, 11, 16	Conservation	The focus on water conservation as a priority is appreciated. Prior to utilizing new alternative sources, we need to ensure that we are properly managing existing water supply resources. The following efforts are should be considered: 1) leveraging the USEPA WaterSense program, 2) supporting a grant program to consider conservation, 3) focusing on irrigation and high efficiency building products, and 4) supporting reuse and infiltration practices that aid recharge.	Chapter 7, Strategy 5, was revised to include support for collaborative efforts to reuse pollution containment water, where feasible, and to explore partnerships with USEPA WaterSense program. The Master Plan already identifies a grant program for water conservation and support for reuse and infiltration practices that aid recharge.
3, 11	Conservation	The Plan should provide more information about the "Special Categories" use of water, including water level maintenance and pollution containment. While pollution containment may be a very small percentage of water use region-wide, it can have local effects on aquifers and on communities who are planning for water supply. The Council should consider reuse of pollution containment water, where feasible.	Chapter 3 has been revised to provide more information about what types of users are in the "Special categories and water level maintenance" category, including more information about pollution containment. In addition, Chapter 7, Strategy 5 (Promote and support water conservation) was revised to include collaborative efforts to consider reuse of pollution containment, where feasible. Implementation strategies will be addressed throughout the life of the plan. There will be ongoing collaboration with communities. The schedule is uncertain for concepts like stormwater and wastewater reuse.
6, 11, 16	Conservation	The Council can provide technical assistance and leadership on implementing feasible re-use systems that meet state standards. The Plan should support continued focus on reuse of stormwater and wastewater for non-potable purposes, and it should provide more information about the Metropolitan Council's plan to define "regionally significant" reuse projects and about implementation strategies to do so.	Chapter 7, Strategy 3 and Strategy 5, were revised to reflect your request for technical assistance and leadership on reuse projects. Implementation strategies will be addressed throughout the life of the plan. There will be ongoing collaboration with communities. Opportunities for wastewater reuse will be identified and implemented on a case-by-case basis.
3	Coordination	The Master Water Supply Plan is generally consistent with the Washington County Groundwater Plan, and shares the goals of preserving and protecting groundwater to ensure sufficient supplies of clean water to support human uses and natural ecosystems.	Comment noted; thank you for your support.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
11	Coordination	The Plan suggests that the Metropolitan Council may review applicable permits, including appropriation permits, to ensure that the requested permit is in accordance with the approved Water Supply Plan. This indicates more of a regulatory role for the Metropolitan Council. It is suggested that the Metropolitan Council collaborate with communities prior to a permit being submitted to ensure that the Metropolitan Council is remaining consistent with the overall goals and additional strategies outlined within the Water Supply Master Plan.	The plan was revised to be more clear that the Metropolitan Council may review applicable permits, including appropriation permits, at the request of agency and local partners. Chapter 7, Strategy 2, identifies some key partners and actions to collaborate with communities on the review of permits and plans.
11, 13	Coordination	The discussion in Chapter 1 about the benefits the Plan should be revised to better explain how 1) MnDNR and Metropolitan Council technical information can (or should) inform one another and 2) how water appropriation permit applications may require investigate work in addition to information provided in City's approved water supply plans.	Figure 3 in Chapter 1 and text in Chapter 8 were revised to better describe coordination between the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, including how data in the Minnesota Permit and Reporting System (MPARS) and the regional groundwater flow model (Metro Model 3) are related and how plans and permits reviews will be coordinated.
3, 6, 11, 16	Coordination	There are many groups involved in water supply protection and management, and water policy continues to evolve in Minnesota. It would be advantageous to strive for a more coordinated approach to water planning and permitting in coming years, to reduce overlap of authority and duplication of efforts. We need to work together to develop efficiencies and consolidate responsibilities, so that cities charged with developing safe and sustainable water supplies receive clear and concise guidance from agencies.	Chapter 7, Strategy 4 (Facilitate collaboration to address water supply issues) was revised to better address the need for a more coordinated approach to water planning and permitting among government agencies. A central priority of the plan, and process to develop it, is to align and streamline accountabilities. The plan stresses the need for collaboration and coordination, and Council staff will continue to work closely with state agencies on water planning in Minnesota to reduce redundancy and overlap. It is our goal to continue our efforts and expand on those efforts as issues in the region arise and as we implement the Master Water Supply Plan.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
7, 11	Coordination	The Metropolitan Council and MnDNR have collaborated to create a Water Supply Plan Template for all municipalities to complete during the comprehensive planning process, and the template should have been provided for review along with the draft Master Supply Master Plan. The following comments are offered for consideration as that template is finalized: include routine leak detection as a requirement of the local plans, and revise Part 4 to reflect that limiting growth in areas that cannot provide cost-effective, sustainable supplies of water should also be a consideration.	This comment has been shared with DNR staff working on the updated local water supply plan template. The MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has primary responsibility for developing the local water supply plan template and for notifying communities and public water suppliers about the schedule to complete it. The Plan has also been revised to illustrate a more streamlined local water supply plan submittal and review process. A primary goal of the Metropolitan Council is to clarify agency roles through a collaborative, regional approach.
9, 14	Coordination	The Plan should include more emphasis on the DNR's North and East Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) including information about how the Council and DNR are cooperating to develop groundwater management strategies in these two plans, how agencies will work together to assist cities with water supply challenges in the future, and if/how the Master Water Supply Plan will be amended to reflect the final GWMA plan.	Text in Chapter 8 was revised to more clearly define the Metropolitan Council and DNR roles regarding Groundwater Management Areas. The Master Water Supply Plan will be updated based on the process outlined in Chapter 1. If the final Groundwater management Area plan results in any of the triggers identified in Chapter 1, then the Master Water Supply Plan will be updated. Otherwise, it will not.
3	General comment	The hydrogeological boundary for the North and East Metro (Figure 18) should be consistent with the boundary established by the DNR for their "North and East Metro" Groundwater management Area – namely the small portion of Minneapolis that is east of the Mississippi River.	Figure 18 has been revised.
3	General comment	Though all of the partners are described later in Chapter 7 and in the Plan, it would provide more clarity if the "others" category - which includes counties, watersheds, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, etc. - were defined up front.	Chapter 7 was revised to provide more information about the "others" category near the beginning of the chapter.
3	General comment	The plan currently alternates between Million Gallons per Year (MGY) and Million Gallons per Day (MGD), across a number of chapters. We recommend using one unit, when possible, and certainly when you are talking about a particular water use, as is the case in Chapter 3.	Units have been updated to be consistent (Million Gallons per Day) throughout the report.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
11	General comment	Chapter 1 of the Plan states that groundwater levels have declined in some regions and it has lowered lake and wetland levels and impacted waterways and this has the potential to affect many more. This statement should be qualified and how this conclusion was made should be referenced. If it is addressed in a subsequent chapter, that should be referenced here so the reader is confident that this statement is based on fact for specific surface water features.	Chapter 1 was revised to refer to more detail in Chapter 5.
13	General comment	The discussion of "water that is not accounted for (non-revenue)" should be revised to reflect that there is generally inconsistent identification of the causes and motives for use of the data that is reported by Twin Cities water utilities as "unaccounted for" water. Care must be taken in the messaging on this topic to recognize the difference between physical loss of water from the system (e.g. leak detection) and improved accounting/revenue capture (e.g. more accurate meters, quantifying un-billed City uses, etc.).	Chapter 5 was revised to more consistently and accurately discuss different types of unaccounted for water use.
13	General comment	There are references to "consistency with Council policy and Master Water Supply Plan" which may need to be worded differently in light of recent action by the Minnesota Legislature to modify the prior requirement for local water supply plans to be consistent with the Master Water Supply Plan.	Text throughout the document has been revised to be consistent with recent legislative changes.
13	General comment	There appears to be a typo or words missing from the first sentence at the top of page 64.	Text was corrected.
17	General comment	The Plan states that domestic water use is established as the highest priority water use via Minn. Stat., Sec. 103G.261. However, this designation fails to recognize the varying importance of potential uses within the domestic category. We recommend that the Met Council and communities go beyond the statute to explicitly prioritize the most important uses of domestic water supply (e.g. drinking water, health care, etc.) above others (e.g. landscape watering) during times of limited supply.	The Master Water Supply Plan adopts the water use priorities defined by Minnesota Statutes.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
9, 11	General comment	The Plan should report per capita residential water use, in order to 1) reflect the water use priorities identified by State Statute, 2) to provide a better means of gauging a community's success with residential water conservation efforts, 3) to provide a useful benchmark for conservation measurements in the years to come, and 4) to provide information about the largest category of municipal water use in the metropolitan area.	The water supply profiles in Appendix 1 have been revised include the per capita residential use, using data submitted by public water suppliers to the DNR as part of their annual reporting for their water appropriation permit.
11	Implementation, tracking progress	The Metropolitan Council may want to consider creating a plan for the region following the development of the individual municipal water supply plans to document the regional implementation strategies that will be completed by water suppliers throughout the region in addition to the community profiles provided in the appendix. A document that brings the community plans together would serve future rounds of comprehensive planning to bring awareness to all municipalities and water suppliers of neighboring efforts. This would work towards the Metropolitan Council's statement in the Plan that water resource concerns do not follow jurisdictional boundaries.	Chapter 6, which discusses outcomes, has been revised to include a measure to track number and types of implementation strategies planned.
4	Incorporate updated local information	Please include updated information about Eden Prairie well locations in your final copy of the water supply plan.	Metro Model 3 has been updated to reflect the correct information, and related figures and data in Chapter 5 and Appendix 1 were also updated.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
3, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16	Incorporate updated local information	Appendix 1 could be more valuable by including additional information about current municipal water use and residential water use projections. In addition, the potential issues and responses do not adequately reflect local conditions and efforts that have already been taken. Finally, corrections are needed to some local information about wells, water use, and potential issues.	<p>Revisions were made to Appendix 1 to:</p> <p>1) Highlight that the profiles are a general overview based on regional information and do not necessarily provide a complete representation of the local water supply system and management efforts. This information should be considered along with more locally specific characteristics, as they are available, to verify and/or evaluate potential issues.</p> <p>2) Clarify water sources. For example, "Other" sources now more clearly refers to multi-aquifer wells and minor aquifers such as the St. Peter, and "Other" water use categories more clearly refers to pollution containment or other activities.</p> <p>3) More clearly describe potential issues and responses</p> <p>The database that contains information reported in the water supply profiles was updated to reflect the correct information. The update includes the data you submitted, as well as incorporating the most recent water appropriation data available from the DNR Minnesota Permitting and Reporting System (MPARS), which reflects data available as of July 28, 2015.</p> <p>Finally, a section was added to the water supply profile to incorporate local comments that provide additional local information.</p>

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
11	Policy changes	The Plan identifies a great number of opportunities to manage our water resources with an integrated and sustainable approach which is greatly appreciated, and it acknowledges the regulatory complexity. However, the plan should provide information about policies in place that currently may prevent or inhibit practices such as alternative water source development or increased aquifer recharge.	The need for this information is clear and this effort has been highlighted in Chapter 7, Strategy 4. Efforts to focus on these topics are of primary importance as actions form at the local level.
11, 17, 15	Policy changes	The plan should provide additional discussion about policy and regulatory challenges, such as those related to aquifer recharge, and potential approaches to address them. The Council could provide assistance to local communities or work partners to develop new policies for more effective water supply management, Before any additional regional or statewide policies addressing water supply are proposed, it will be important to adequately engage all stakeholders and consider impacts on city planning and municipal budgets.	The need for this information is clear and this effort has been highlighted in Chapter 7, Strategy 4, which identifies some key partners and actions to develop and implement policies for more effective water supply management. The Plan stresses the need for collaboration and coordination, and it is our goal to continue our efforts and expand on those efforts as issues in the region arise and as we implement the Master Water Supply Plan.
5	Reliability, security , cost-effectiveness	Even for communities that have interconnections, they need to be tested/exercised regularly to ensure they will work in an emergency	Chapters 5 and 8 were revised to include the value of testing/exercising emergency interconnections.
3	Roles & responsibilities	In Chapter 8, distinguish between Counties and SWCDs. They are separate units of government governed by separate boards. Counties have authority to prepare and adopt groundwater plans, SWCDs have this authority only if it has been delegated by the county. SWCDs can be (and in our county are) active partners with respect to groundwater plan implementation.	Chapter 8 was revised to distinguish between Counties and SWCDs.
3	Roles & responsibilities	Revise Community Responsibilities in Chapter 8 to reflect that local zoning should recognize the potential for communities to zone for and grant permits to mining operations, as they have the potential to affect groundwater.	Chapter 8 was revised to add local zoning and permitting for mining operations to the Community responsibilities.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
3	Roles & responsibilities	Revise MPCA Responsibilities in Chapter 8 to include a statement regarding siting of industrial landfills in MPCA responsibilities. Given the history of contamination due to landfill activities in our county, it's important to recognize the importance of protecting groundwater from improper landfilling activities.	Chapter 8 was revised to include the MPCA responsibility for reviewing industrial landfill siting.
3	Roles & responsibilities	Revise County Responsibilities in Chapter 8 to reflect that, though it varies across the metro, this section should include a statement regarding county role with respect to land use, including zoning, shoreland, and mining operations.	Chapter 8 was revised to provide more discussion of the County's responsibility for land use including zoning, shoreland, and mining operations.
3	Roles & responsibilities	Revise SWCD Responsibilities in Chapter 8 to reflect that an SWCD would only write, coordinate and administer a county groundwater plan if that authority has been delegated to them by a county. An SWCD can be an active partner with respect to Groundwater Plan development and implementation.	Chapter 8 was revised to clarify SWCD responsibilities.
3	Roles & responsibilities	We suggest that the "roles and responsibilities" matrix have "Planning" be the first column. Though all of these activities are connected in a cycle, it is logical to have planning come first, since it would serve as the basis for your implementation, monitoring, and any regulatory changes an agency might make.	Chapter 8, Figure 30 has been revised so that planning activities come first.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
6	Roles & responsibilities	<p>Developing a more coordinated process for the development, approval, and adoption of local water management plans is a critical area in which duplication could be reduced. Water management plans are governed through the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) and local WMO's and Watershed Districts. They are also governed by the Council through Comprehensive Plan approval. As you know, local water management plans need to be updated every ten years. In Carver County, the WMO water management plan was adopted in 2010, and LGU water management plans followed suit, with most adopted in 2011 and 2012. As a result, LGU plans are not required to be updated until 2021-2022 and the WMO plan is scheduled for 2020. The WRPP and WSMP set requirements for local plans to be updated by 2018; two to four years before BWSR requirements in many cases. Barriers to more integrated water planning at the local level would be reduced through more process coordination at the state and regional level. The Board requests that the Council address water planning schedule disjunctions by allowing flexibility of due dates for local water supply plans and the surface water plan. Due dates should align with existing plan schedules and update triggers.</p>	<p>The requirements in the WRPP and WSMP for local water plans are consistent with the requirements in Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410 which was updated by BWSR and adopted in July, 2015 after input from a steering committee and a formal public review process. BWSR made the changes to local water plan due dates based on input from communities about the former process for updating local water plans. The former process required local governments to update their local water plan whenever any of the watershed organization (s) which that community was part of updated their watershed plan. For communities in multiple watersheds, this was a burdensome process.</p>
8	Roles & responsibilities	<p>Maple Grove is a good steward of the Drift Aquifer groundwater water supply resource. It is aware of limitations on groundwater supplies in the northwest quadrant of the metro area, and provides for inter-community connections in its water supply plan. It understands the growing demand for water supply is likely to stress the region's resources, as revealed in emerging sub regional issues. It is supportive of a regional planning process that is respectful of existing regulatory authority and processes, and which ensures that local water suppliers have control of their water supply systems.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Council will continue to support a regional, collaborative planning process that is respectful of local control.</p>

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
11	Roles & Responsibilities	The Plan recognizes the close collaboration with MnDNR; however, it would be advantageous to work equally closely with the MDH and MPCA. In addition, Chapter 8 should better define the difference between "Key Partner" and "Supporting Partner", as all the supporting partners have a key role in water quality and quantity considerations in the State.	Chapter 8 discussion of partners was simplified to discuss partners equally.
11	Roles & responsibilities	The Water Supply Master Plan creates an increased awareness and progress towards recognizing the local water supplier's role in providing clean, safe drinking water at acceptable and livable quantities. The amount of work that has been completed to continue an open dialog between regulators, suppliers, and constituents is greatly appreciated.	Comment noted. The Council will continue to support a regional, collaborative planning process that is respectful of local control.
1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 15	Roles & responsibilities	The Plan appropriately states the importance of regional planning for water supply while ensuring that local water suppliers continue to have control of and responsibility for their own water supply systems; water supply is not a regional system. The Council should not expand its regulatory authority, but should instead continue working with and providing assistance to communities and particularly public water suppliers to address water supply issues in a way that leverages past investments in existing infrastructure. Regional water supply planning activities must not usurp local decision making processes, or create unreasonable or costly expectations for local government and water suppliers.	Comment noted. The Council is not proposing to expand its existing authorities. Strategies in the plan refer to and significantly support authorities already delegated to the Council.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
2	Sustainability	<p>We continue to question whether the draft 2015 MWSP accurately reflects population growth forecasts for the region, and therefore question the accuracy of some of the information included in the draft 2015 MWSP. The City of Ramsey appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to the draft 2015 MWSP and hopes that the Metropolitan Council will continue to work with the City to address our local water supply concerns and needs. Please note that our concerns with the population forecasts are not about our future land use vision, but rather how that vision relates to current infrastructure capacities, as well as future infrastructure investments and funding opportunities.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Forecasts in the Master Water Supply Plan were developed using population, household and employment numbers in the approved Thrive MSP 2040. These have been updated to reflect changes adopted in July 2015, which incorporates additional public input.</p>
7	Sustainability	<p>Based on information in Chapter 5, it appears as though the region's growth plan (Thrive MSP 2040) may not be sustainable as proposed. Does the availability of water guide the future growth identified in Thrive MSP 2040? Is Met Council's forecasted population growth mindful of the need to be sustainable with water supply?</p>	<p>As a whole, the region's water supply sources are adequate to meet projected growth through 2040, although local water supply issues exist and may develop. This plan provides information to guide resources to address potential local issues and to shape future planning in a way that supports the region's populations without adverse impacts to natural and economic resources.</p>
7	Sustainability	<p>An additional benefit of the Plan could be to assist in the region's integrated planning for growth, the knowledge of limitations and need for conservation and rebalancing of water supply should inform and shape the Council's Thrive MSP 2040 Plan rather than the other way around. How can the region have a sustainable water supply if the region's growth does not consider the sources? Consider limiting growth where water supply is not sustainable or cost-effective, identifying areas for growth that have reasonable access to both surface and ground water, focusing future growth in areas with access to surface water to rebalance supply and demand. Will the Council consider adjustments to Thrive MSP 2040 upon completion of MWSP?</p>	<p>Chapter 7, Figure 29, was revised to highlight that the information in the Master Water Supply Plan will be considered in the next update of the regional development framework, Thrive MSP.</p>

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
11	Sustainability	The Plan identifies the water supply goal for the region; however, goals for the Metropolitan Council itself should be identified as well. The Metropolitan Council, as the region's service provider for wastewater services, can play a role in the overall sustainability of the water supply resources through groundwater recharge and treated effluent reuse strategies as identified elsewhere in the Water Supply Master Plan.	Goals for the region are described in Chapter 6, and Metropolitan Council actions to help achieve them are described in Chapter 7.
17	Sustainability	Freshwater Society commends the Met Council for taking a regional approach to water supply planning as directed by Minn. Stat., Sec. 473.1565. One of the singularly most important reasons to do this is, "...because the effects of local water supply decisions don't stop at community boundaries – there are cumulative effects on water supply sources and connected resources," as stated in the Plan. It is notable; the development of this plan was not motivated by widespread water shortages or crises despite a few high profile cases of local water supply limitations or interferences in the region and state. Minnesota has the luxury of abundant water supplies, which is especially poignant in light of difficulties faced elsewhere in the country. However, we cannot continue to operate under the premise of unlimited water availability for everyone. The Plan is timely and important not only in order to manage current conditions but also to create a framework to manage future changes in demographics, climate, technology, state and federal policy, and other unexpected changes.	Comment noted. The Council will continue to support a regional, collaborative planning process that is respectful of local control.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
3, 11	Sustainability	The Plan identifies an estimated sustainable amount of groundwater available from each water supply source used in the metropolitan area. The calculation method should be discussed along with a description of uncertainty, particularly for the estimated sustainable groundwater withdrawal rates, and numbers should be used instead of narrative statements. In addition, it should be clear that water conservation and even reuse can and should be part of the discussion well before water use is past the "threshold" for available groundwater.	Information about methods to estimate sustainable amounts of each source is found under the Chapter 4 heading "Limitations on sources" and a reference to this section has been included at the beginning of the chapter. The caption for Figure 4 was also revised to more clearly illustrate that water conservation and reuse should be used at all times. Chapter 6 was revised to better describe the value of regional modeling for estimating sustainable groundwater withdrawals and the uncertainty of the estimate, including addition of a map of subregions. Finally, Chapter 7, Strategy 3 was revised to better to identify how subregional estimates of sustainable groundwater withdrawals may be refined in the future through collaborative subregional analyses.
1	Uncertainty/ variability	The new plan, consistent with statutory directives, provides timely updates and information, which is consistent with our support for a plan that can evolve as more information becomes available. Metro Cities supports the plan language that identifies changes from the previous master plan update. This is important in ensuring a plan that is accessible and transparent. We also appreciate efforts to integrate planning around storm water, wastewater and water supply, as noted in the plan.	Comment noted. The Council will continue to support a regional, collaborative planning process that is respectful of local control.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
6	Uncertainty/ variability	The Plan points out numerous times that monitoring and data related to measuring groundwater and surface water dynamics need to be improved for regional and local decision making purposes. The Met Council is in a position to provide assistance and resources to identify and prioritize critical data and monitoring gaps in partnership with LGU's to improve the region's understanding of its water supply and maximize systems already in place. The Board encourages the Council to clarify methods that the Council could use to rank and address existing water supply data gaps to inform decision-making.	Chapter 7, Strategy 3, was revised to include collaborative efforts to identify and prioritize critical data and monitoring gaps.
11	Uncertainty/ variability	The Plan outlines uncertainty regarding aquifer productivity and extent in addition to a number of uncertain parameters with the modeling effort itself. It is appreciated that those uncertainties are recognized. The Plan also states that the uncertainty is attributed to some indicators or data gaps that have yet to be completed. As water resource issues and concerns do not follow jurisdictional boundaries it would be advantageous to work towards filling those data gaps on a regional basis instead of the continued research that is being imposed on Cities during the permitting process. If those data gaps are filled on a regional level, it will avoid duplicated efforts by each jurisdiction and it will recognize the regional benefit of additional research in specific areas or municipalities.	Chapter 7, Strategy3, identifies some key partners and actions to fill data gaps.
15	Uncertainty/ variability	A key issue outlined in the draft plan is the role climate change plays in the level of uncertainty with regard to future water supply. As the region moves forward it will be important to take into consideration the latest scientific research as it pertains to climate change and the area's ability to adapt the water supply system to changing conditions.	Chapter 7, Strategy 3 (Technical studies) was revised to include evaluation of climate change and potential impacts to the region's ability to adapt the water supply system to changing conditions.
16	Uncertainty/ variability	Does the 2040 information shown in Figure 21 consider the eventual cessation of dewatering at the Kraemer Quarry in Burnsville?	It is assumed that dewatering at the Kraemer Quarry will end by 2040. The maps of regional groundwater flow model results in Chapter 5 reflect this condition.

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Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
14	Water quality	The plan should attempt to address groundwater contamination beyond just the Special Well and Boring Construction Areas, since contamination sites have affected other portions of the metropolitan area and pose considerable challenges for communities that are operating (and expanding) their water supply systems. Remediation of contaminated sites should be emphasized more heavily in the plan so that these areas may someday be capable of supplying water to communities again.	Chapter 7, Strategy 3 (technical studies) was revised to identify efforts to address contaminated sites.

Appendix 1 – Public Comments



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