

2015 MASTER WATER SUPPLY PLAN

DRAFT 8/28/2015

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

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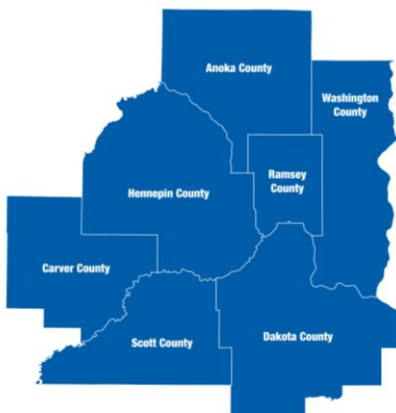
METROPOLITAN
C O U N C I L

August 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

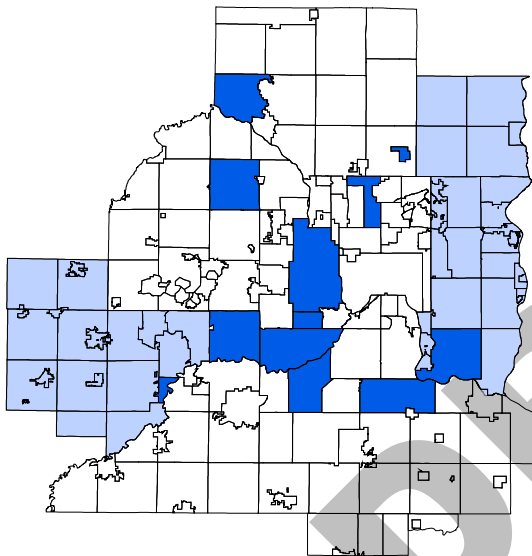


Figure 1. Cities (dark blue) and counties (light blue) that submitted comments on the draft 2015 Master Water Supply Plan update.

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.	Chapter 1 was 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 and Chapter 5 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.	Chapter 3 and 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 dicusses 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 was revised to better describe the difference between a key and a supporting partner.
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	<p>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.</p>	<p>Chapter 4 has been revised to make it easier to find the methods for estimating sustainable amounts of each source, including groundwater. 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 was revised to better to identify how subregional estimates of sustainable groundwater withdrawals may be refined in the future through collaborative subregional analyses.</p>
1	Uncertainty/ variability	<p>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.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Council will continue to support a regional, collaborative planning process that is respectful of local control.</p>
6	Uncertainty/ variability	<p>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.</p>	<p>Chapter 7, Strategy 3, was revised to include collaborative efforts to identify and prioritize critical data and monitoring gaps.</p>

2015 Master Water Supply Plan Public Hearing Report

Contributor ID	Theme	Comment	PROPOSED Response
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.
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.	Text in Chapter 5 was revised to more heavily emphasize contaminated sites, and Chapter 7, Strategy 3 (technical studies) was revised to identify efforts to address contaminated sites.

Appendix 1 – Public Comments

DRAFT

Master Water Supply Plan Public Hearing Summary

Tuesday | August 26, 2015
Council Chambers | 5:00 PM

The Master Water Supply Plan Public Hearing was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Sandy Rummel, Environment Committee Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions – Sandy Rummel, Environment Committee Chair

We will now convene the public hearing to take comments on the draft Master Water Supply Plan. A limited number of copies of the draft are available at the table just outside the Chambers. At this time, we will start with the introductions of Council members and staff present who will hear your comments:

- Harry Melander, District 12
- Wendy Wulff, District 16
- Lona Schreiber, District 2
- Leisa Thompson, General Manager, Environmental Services
- Sandy Rummel, District 11
- Susan Taylor, Executive Assistant to Leisa Thompson

2. Opening of the Hearing – Sandy Rummel, Environment Committee Chair

Welcome and thank you for attending this hearing. If you wish to speak at this meeting, but have not yet signed in, please sign the registration sheet at the entrance to the room. We'll start with anyone who has pre-registered to speak and I will call on people to speak in the order in which they signed in. Anyone who wishes will be allowed to provide comments. To accommodate all individuals present, time limits for comments may be used: individuals will have 3 minutes to comment; representatives of organizations will have 5 minutes.

Before we take your comments, we will have a brief overview of the main concepts in the draft Master Water Supply Plan by Lanya Ross, MCES Environmental Scientist. Welcome Lanya.

3. Overview – Lanya Ross, Principal Environmental Scientist, Water Supply Planning

Thank you Chair Rummel. I am Lanya Ross, Principal Environmental Scientist in the Water Supply Planning Section at the Council. I am here to open the meeting by giving a brief overview of the Master Water Supply Plan and major changes between the 2010 plan and this draft update.

The Master Water Supply Plan provides communities with planning assistance for water supply in a way that:

- Recognizes local control and responsibility
- Is developed in cooperation and consultation stakeholders
- Protects critical habitat and water resources
- Meets regional needs for a reliable, secure water supply
- Highlights the benefits of integrated planning for water
- Emphasizes and supports conservation and cooperation
- Provides clear guidance by identifying key challenges and available approaches without dictating solutions

This plan is connected to the regional development framework, Thrive MSP 2040, and it reflects the policies and strategies in the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan. Information from the Master Plan can assist communities as they develop local water supply plans.

Update of the 2010 Master Water Supply Plan began in early 2014, and a series of public input meetings, work groups and advisory committee meetings were held to get input on the draft including:

1. The Master Water Supply Public meetings input into preliminary drafts (over 260 people attended)
2. MAWSAC guidance on draft language and critical content
3. Community Technical Work Group input on key technical information and draft language
4. MCES staff review of draft language and technical information

The public engagement process is illustrated on a poster you can look at tonight.

There has been active participation by many people throughout this process, and the public hearing tonight provides an additional opportunity.

The main changes made to the 2010 Master Water Supply Plan are mostly related to reflecting the new regional vision and water resources policies.

There has also been considerable, very valuable, technical information developed across the metro area since 2010. The Clean Water Fund has been a big driver for that work. It contains improved clarity and accessibility.

Some things stay the same.

We have the same rationale for regional water supply planning that we did in 2010. While the region still has enough as a whole to meet its needs, there are some areas where issues are emerging and require resources to address.

Our goal is still the same, and we still have the same guiding principle to achieve it.

The region's water sources and challenges are the same.

And the statutory roles and responsibilities remain the same as they were in the 2010 draft plan.

It's this draft we are seeking public comment on.

We held 2 informational meetings on July 21 and 28 this year to answer questions about the plan prior to formal comments being submitted.

We are holding the public hearing today.

Comments will be taken from now until August 21th.

We will respond to comments in August and September and make adjustments to the plan before we bring it back to the Environment Committee and then the full Council.

Our goal is to adopt the plan end of September – so that this water supply information will be available near the beginning of the local comprehensive plan update process.

4. Public Comments

Thank you Lanya. We will now transition to the public comment portion of the agenda and take your comments. When I call your name, please speak clearly into the microphone and state your name with spelling, address, and the organization you represent, if any. Written statements, in addition to oral comments, are accepted. You may leave a printed copy of your remarks if you have one. We have one name on the list. Patricia Nauman will speak for Metro Cities.

My name is Patricia Nauman, I am the Executive Director of Metro Cities. I appreciate the opportunity to comment today. I will be brief. I will let you know on the front end Metro Cities will provide written comment on the plan. I really want to make a few high level comments without getting in to a lot of specifics about the plan. Metro Cities policies do recognize Metropolitan Council's roll in water supply planning. In fact, we did support the 2005 statute that established the Water Supply Advisory Committee as well as authorize the Council to undertake water supply planning and a master plan. At the same time, we also recognize the multi-jurisdictional nature of these issues and the importance of collaboration with local government partners and the ability of local governments to provide input and data in to this plan. We think the plan does reflect that and we are appreciative of that. I do want to note, since the establishment of the first water supply plan, which I think was back in 2008, if I am recalling correctly, there has been a lot more attention paid to issues around water supply. It's gained a lot more attention at the legislative level, certainly with local governments, as they've worked with the Council on updates to the plan and other issues, and of course,

regionally. The recent statutory changes that were made to govern the water supply planning processes were changes supported by Metro Cities. We worked actively with your staff and with legislators to undertake that work and we very much appreciate the Council's support. We believe those changes will strengthen processes for water supply planning, will assist positively in the development of future water supply plan updates, and in particular, I want to note that the establishment of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Water Supply Advisory Committee, which develops this plan, is one that we strongly support. We appreciate the Council's establishment of that committee, even prior to the time it was put in to statute, we were down here working on that so we are greatly appreciative of that. Metro Cities policies also oppose pretty consistently throughout our policy statements water supply as a regional system of the Metropolitan Council. We do appreciate the inclusion of that language in this plan, as I believe has been in previous plans. I also want to just note that Metro Cities does continue to support updates to the water supply plan that recognize the dynamic nature of these issues; that as new information comes in, the plan can be updated to reflect that new information and uses local data and input to inform the content of that plan and the models. Again, these statutory changes, we do believe will strengthen this work. I also want to again note that we do appreciate the clarity in the Plan around not making water a regional system. That is something that comes up again and again in our work with local officials. I think I will maybe leave it at that. I do maybe want to just state that we appreciate the work of your staff with our local government partners. The Water Supply Advisory Committee will now have more municipal representation, which we do support, and we have appreciated the outreach by your staff to those new members as well as the existing members and really trying to take into account the feedback and input that is offered by the municipal representatives of that Committee, because those are the folks who really work to get in to the details of the plan and to try to help inform it, so we are appreciative of your work in that respect. I will provide written comment, but will leave it for now.

5. Closing of the Hearing – Sandy Rummel, Environment Committee Chair

Thank you Patti. We certainly appreciate the partnership with Metro Cities in helping us negotiate all of this work. Thank you very much.

Is there anyone else who wishes to make a comment? Seeing none.

Thank you for attending and participating in this public hearing. Public comments will be accepted through 5 p.m., August 21.

To comment on the draft Master Water Supply Plan, members of the public may:

Write the Council at 390 Robert St. N., St. Paul, MN 55101

Email the Council at public.info@metc.state.mn.us

Record a comment on the Public Comment Line at 651.602.1500 (TTY 651.291.0904)

At the close of the public comment process, staff will prepare a summary of public comments. The Council will have an opportunity to review those comments prior to Council action on the draft Master Water Supply Plan. This hearing is adjourned.

The Master Water Supply Plan public hearing adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary



August 19, 2015

Metropolitan Council
Attention: Lanya Ross, Environmental Scientist, Water Supply Planning
390 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Dear Ms. Ross:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft updated Master Water Supply Plan. Metro Cities appreciates the efforts of MCES staff, the Water Supply Advisory Committee and the recently formed technical advisory group to prepare the update of this plan, in accordance with the direction set forth in Minnesota Statutes 473.1565.

The original legislation that was signed into law in 2005 as well as statutory changes enacted in 2015, direct the Metropolitan Council to develop and periodically update a water supply master plan in order to provide guidance for water suppliers, with appropriate input and expertise to help inform models and analyses used in the development of the plan. The 2015 modifications to water supply planning statutes will now authorize the Water Supply Advisory Committee to formally approve the plan, expand the municipal representation on the advisory committee, and modify water supply comprehensive plan requirements for local governments. These statutory directives are supported by Metro Cities.

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.

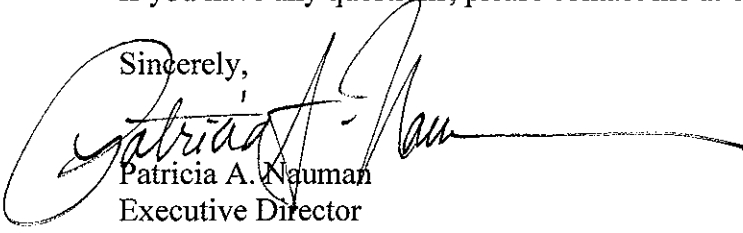
Metro Cities would like to emphasize support for language in the plan that clarifies that water is not a regional system, as well as language recognizing the plan's primary role in providing information and guidance to local water suppliers and to provide a regional perspective on these issues. Metro Cities' policies are explicit in stating that regional water supply planning activities must not usurp local decision making processes, or create unreasonable or costly expectations for local government and water suppliers. Metro Cities' policies oppose the elevation of water supply to "regional system" status, or the assumption of Met Council control of water supply infrastructure.

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.

Metro Cities greatly appreciates the hard work by you and other MCES staff, and the members of the Water Supply Advisory Committee and technical advisory group. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these important issues.

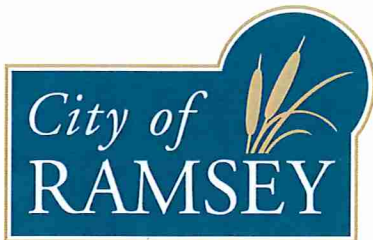
If you have any questions, please contact me at 651-215-4002.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Nauman
Executive Director
Metro Cities

cc: Leisa Thompson, MCES
Ali Elhassen, MCES
Ned Smith, MCES



7550 Sunwood Drive NW • Ramsey, MN 55303

City Hall: 763.427.1410 • Fax: 763.427.5543

www.cityoframsey.com

August 11, 2015

Attn: Lanya Ross
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street N
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Re: City of Ramsey Response to Draft 2015 Master Water Supply Plan

Dear Lanya:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft 2015 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan (MWSP). The City of Ramsey offers the following responses for your consideration.

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.

Considering that regional water supply partnerships can be difficult and time consuming to develop, particularly when led by local agencies, we respectfully request that the Metropolitan Council consider actively supporting an effort to analyze the viability of regional partnerships from both service and funding perspectives.

The City of Ramsey utilizes groundwater for our water supply needs, though surface water from the Mississippi River could also be utilized. However, as the draft 2015 MWSP acknowledges, investing in surface water treatment plants requires many millions of dollars. And to convert a groundwater supply system to a surface water supply system would result in even greater costs, which the City of Ramsey could not possibly afford on our own.

The City of Ramsey appreciates the recognition in the draft 2015 MWSP that most cities across the twin cities metropolitan area utilize groundwater as their principal water supply source, and that these cities have invested millions of dollars in existing infrastructure which should continue to be leveraged in future water supply plans. We also appreciate that the draft 2015 MWSP recognizes the need to maintain existing groundwater supply systems for supplemental or emergency water supply needs, such as if pollutants are released into surface waters triggering the temporary shutdown of surface water supply facilities.

*It is our mission to work together to responsibly grow our community,
and to provide quality, cost-effective, and efficient government services.*

The City supports the reduction of water consumption through further exploration and implementation of water conservation methods including irrigation reduction practices and stormwater and wastewater reuse. The City also supports promoting infiltration practices to aid in groundwater recharge.

Based on our review of the draft 2015 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan we did not identify any new goals or initiatives that significantly conflict with current goals or initiatives of the City of Ramsey. However, based on other recent Met Council plan reviews 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 draft 2015 MWSP does not appear to create any new requirements for the City of Ramsey, but instead appears to expand upon existing guidelines that could ultimately result in the City needing to consider the use of surface water for some or all of our water supply needs, instead of continuing to use groundwater aquifers. Because the City of Ramsey borders the Mississippi River, the City was previously directed to explore the use of the river as a potential water supply source before any new groundwater supply wells would be permitted. In response, the City completed a study which showed that a surface water treatment facility may indeed be technically feasible, though it would not be economically feasible if the intent is to serve only our water supply needs. However, it could be economically feasible if multiple communities were to partner in constructing a regional surface water treatment facility to serve the needs of all partnering communities.

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.

If you have any questions on these comments, please call me at 763-433-9825, or email me at bwestby@cityoframsey.com.

Sincerely,



Bruce Westby, P.E.
City Engineer

C: Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator



Board of Commissioners

Fran Miron, District 1

Ted Bearth, District 2

Gary Kriesel, Chair, District 3

Karla Bigham, District 4

Lisa Weik, District 5

August 18, 2015

Ms. Lanya Ross
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert St. N.
St Paul, MN 55101

Ms. Ross:

On behalf of the Washington County Board, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Metropolitan Council's update to the Master Water Supply Plan. The county recognizes that groundwater and surface water are one of its most valuable natural resources. High quality drinking water, healthy streams and lakes, and economic vitality all depend on protecting and conserving water resources. The county has and continues to play a leadership role with relation to water management. Washington County is currently the only metro county that utilizes groundwater planning authority granted under Minnesota State Statute 103B.255, initially adopting a groundwater plan in 2003. In 2014 the county board adopted our updated groundwater plan after a thorough stakeholder process. Guided by the county groundwater plan and annual work plans, for many years we have been implementing groundwater protection activities in a collaborative manner with local governments (cities, townships, soil and water conservation district, watershed districts and others) and state agencies. The county's strong role in leadership with regard to water demonstrates our commitment to sound management of the resource.

Washington County looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Metropolitan Council to make the Twin Cities area a great place to live, work and play for the next 30 years and beyond. Included in this letter are the County's comments on the draft Master Water Supply Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Kriesel".

Gary Kriesel, Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Washington County Board of Commissioners
Molly O'Rourke, County Administrator
Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment

Washington County, a great place to live, work and play....today and tomorrow.

General Comments

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.

We encourage the Council to continue working with communities and particularly public water suppliers, to address water supply issues. Many entities, including the Council, counties, and communities have invested significant resources into infrastructure that will support economic development and anticipated population growth, including roads, sewer, and water supply infrastructure. Our communities have planned for growth according to Met Council projections and with Met Council direction.

The county also encourages the Council to continue to work with state agencies to reduce overlap of authority with regards to water management, as well as encourage further collaboration among the Council and state agencies, on issues such as barriers to reuse.

Chapter 2

Figure 4, Page 14.

While the county understands the Council's desire to show visual representation of sustainable water management, the graphic has limited value, since there isn't an actual number subscribed to that. In addition, it should be clear that water conservation and even reuse can and should be a part of the discussion well before you are past the "threshold" for available groundwater.

Chapter 3

Units

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.

Special Categories and Pollution Containment

Page 22. The section which discusses "special categories" of water use, does not provide any details regarding pollution containment. While pollution containment may be a very small percentage of use, in the context of the entire metro, the Council's document should acknowledge that this use category, and other use categories for that matter, can have very localized effects on aquifers and on communities who are planning for water supply. For example, in Washington County, according to DNR pumping data, the three single highest pumping permits for 2011 were all related to pollution containment. Compared with other counties, pollution containment is a much bigger user of water.

Furthermore, the Council's plan should discuss reuse of pollution containment water as a potential option with regards to water reuse, where it is feasible.

Small private water supply

Page 23. The Council should also include local health departments as a resource for private well owners – in addition to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Chapter 5

Figure 18, page 40. The hydrogeological boundary for the North and East Metro determined by the Council 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.

This section could also restate the localized effects of pollution containment on groundwater resources.

Chapter 6

Table 3, page 60. Table 3 describes the estimated sustainable groundwater withdrawal rate of the various sub-regions, along with a column labeled “difference between estimated sustainable withdrawal and projected withdrawal.” This column should include actual numbers, if available, as opposed to narrative statements like “approaching” or “exceeds.”

Chapter 7

Council Actions. 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. The county is supportive of a grant program to encourage conservation. The Council should consider reuse of pollution containment water, where feasible.

Page 70 – though all of the partners are described later on in the document, it would provide more clarity if the “others” category – which includes counties, watersheds, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), etc – were defined up front.

Chapter 8

Page 81 – Counties and SWCDs should be distinguished; 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.

Page 82 – 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.

Page 84 – Community responsibilities. 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.

Page 88 – Among MPCA responsibilities, the Council should include a statement regarding siting of industrial landfills. 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.

Page 90-91 County Responsibilities. 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.

Page 91 SWCD Responsibilities. 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.

Community Profiles

The community profiles are lacking a crucial piece of information that is not readily available by looking at the tables provided. Each profile should include a statement, near the top, that states the actual number for current average annual use.

For the Washington County profile – we recommend reviewing the numbers provided for use categories. In reviewing available DNR data, county staff were not able to identify the large (6+ MGD) amount allocated for “Water Level Maintenance” that is supposedly being drawn from the quaternary aquifer. When compared to the North and East Metro profile, where water level maintenance is barely reflected, this does not line up.

In addition, for the Washington County profile, as well as several of the communities found within our county, the Council may consider recognizing that “other” uses (e.g. pollution containment) can make up a substantial portion of that community’s water use profile.

Ross, Lanya

From: Rick Wahlen <rwahlen@edenprairie.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:03 AM
To: Ross, Lanya; Brown, David
Subject: Eden Prairie's Well Map files - hot off the press - for Water Supply Plan
Attachments: EPwells.zip

Lanya and Dave,

Attached are the files containing the map and GIS coordinates which show our existing and projected future well locations for the City of Eden Prairie.

Please include this information your final copy of the water supply plan.

Sincerely,

Rick



DRAFT

From: Beth Kaszynski
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 1:29 PM
To: Rick Wahlen
Subject: RE: map of wells

Rick,
Here is the file. Both existing and future are contained in this.
You're welcome 😊
Beth

From: Rick Wahlen
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 12:21 PM
To: Beth Kaszynski
Subject: RE: map of wells

Beth, the map is perfect. Thanks so much!

Please send me the GIS files that I can pass on to Lanya Ross at the Met Council.

You do awesome work!

Rick

From: Beth Kaszynski
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 10:35 AM
To: Rick Wahlen
Subject: RE: map of wells

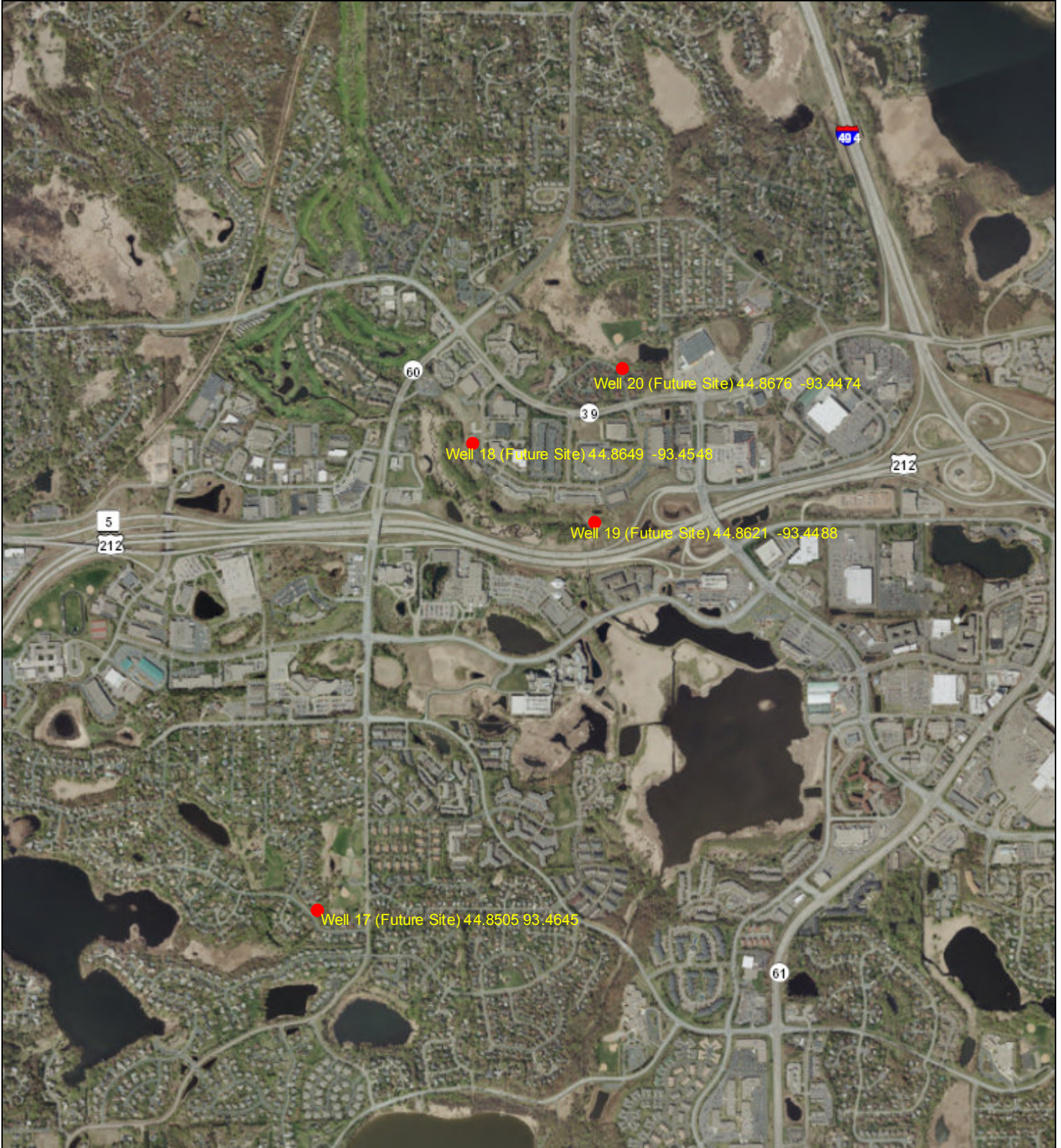
Rick,

How's this map? If it works, I'll send you the two GIS files to forward onto Met Council. Or I could forward them. Whichever you'd prefer.

Beth

DRAFT

City of Eden Prairie Future Well Locations



Well 17 (Future Site) 44.8505 -93.4645

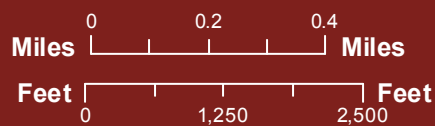
Well 18 (Future Site) 44.8649 -93.4548

Well 19 (Future Site) 44.8621 -93.4488

Well 20 (Future Site) 44.8676 -93.4474



Wells 17-20 Map Coordinates



Scale: 1:20,736

DISCLAIMER: The City of Eden Prairie does not warrant the accuracy nor the correctness of the information contained in this map. It is your responsibility to verify the accuracy of this information. In no event will the City of Eden Prairie be liable for any damages, including loss of business, loss of profits, business interruption, loss of business information or other pecuniary loss, that might arise from the use of this map or the information it contains. Map information is provided to be accurate but accuracy is not guaranteed. Any errors or omissions should be reported to the City of Eden Prairie.

*Aerial photography and parcel geometry was obtained from Hennepin County and a user is bound by the express written contract between Hennepin County and the City of Eden Prairie.

Ross, Lanya

From: Sund, Elizabeth on behalf of PublicInfo
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 11:17 AM
To: Ross, Lanya
Subject: FW: Water Supply Plan Comments

Water Supply Plan comment below.

From: McElhinney, Cary [mailto:mcelhinney.cary@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 3:27 PM
To: PublicInfo
Subject: Water Supply Plan Comments

- The Metropolitan Council and other applicable organizations should consider leveraging the USEPA WaterSense program by becoming voluntary partners with WaterSense and utilizing the resources and consistent messaging WaterSense has to offer for robust water conservation and efficiency programs:
<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>
- P.25/26 Be sure to explore supply-side water efficiency in municipal water and not just demand reduction. Water loss control and other non-revenue water programs can enhance utility supply concerns as well as revenue issues.
- P.53 Even for communities that have interconnections, they need to be tested/exercised regularly to ensure they will work in an emergency

Cary McElhinney
WaterSense Coordinator
(312)886-4313

DRAFT



Office of County Commissioners
Carver County Government Center
Human Services Building
602 East Fourth Street
Chaska, MN 55318-1202
Phone: 952 361-1510
Fax: 952 361-1581

August 18, 2015

Adam Duininck, Chair
Metropolitan Council
300 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Draft Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP)

Dear Chairman Duininck:

The Carver County Board is pleased to offer comments on the Metropolitan Council's draft Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP). As the Board has consistently expressed in its comment letters related to regional plans, the Board and County staff appreciate being involved in discussions and open processes to develop regional policy plans and system statements. The Board appreciates the engaged process that has produced the draft of the Water Supply Master Plan and would like to highlight some areas of concern that need additional attention in the Council's regional approach to water supply management.

Water Supply

The County is encouraged that the Council recognizes in the WSMP that water supply issues vary greatly at the sub-regional level and supports the Council not adopting "one-size-fits-all" policies and strategies regarding regional water supply.

The Board supports local communities managing water supply systems in order to meet locally defined needs. Likewise, the Board supports technical assistance and facilitation by the Council at a more sub-regional level as requested by local communities.

Duplication of Effort

As mentioned in the Board's March 17, 2015 Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP) comment letter, the Council's approach to water management proposes and maintains several areas of involvement that are duplicative of efforts conducted by other state agencies or local watershed jurisdictions. The Board strongly believes this duplication causes confusion at the local level, overlapping and uncoordinated efforts at the state level, and in the end, less efficient and less effective implementation. The Board appreciates the Council acknowledging this issue in its WSMP.

The Board supports the Council including a concerted effort in its implementation plan to better define approaches that reduce the level of duplication for all areas of water resources planning.

The Board suggests that 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.

Monitoring and Prioritization

The WSMP 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. Carver County's draft groundwater plan places a strong emphasis on improved groundwater monitoring and data coordination as well. While Carver County has had an active and robust surface water monitoring program for nearly 20 years, the County strongly believes that well informed future water supply decisions will require vastly improved groundwater data resources in particular. 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, in the WSMP, methods that the Council could use to rank and address existing water supply data gaps to inform decision-making.

Water Re-Use

The Board repeats the request in its WRPP comment letter that the Council continue to lead by example in stormwater and wastewater reuse by helping to remove barriers to more reuse and consider reuse of water pumped for pollution containment.

The Board supports the Council providing technical assistance and leadership on implementing feasible re-use systems that meet state standards. In addition, the Board notes that the Council plans to support "regionally significant" reuse projects and requests that the Council define "regionally significant" reuse projects.

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.

Sincerely,



Randy Maluchnik, Chair
Carver County Board of Commissioners

cc. Deb Barber, District 4 Council Member
Jennifer Munt, District 3 Council Member
Angela Torres, Sector Representative



Public Works Department

August 20, 2015

Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street N
Saint Paul, MN 55101

MAYOR
DEBBIE GOETTEL

CITY COUNCIL
PAT ELLIOTT
TOM FITZHENRY
EDWINA GARCIA
MICHAEL HOWARD

CITY MANAGER
STEVEN L. DEVICH

Subject: Draft Master Water Supply Plan (MWSP) Comments - Richfield, MN

To Whom It May Concern:

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. The following comments are offered for consideration in the future planning efforts for the region.

Section 1- Master Water Supply Plan Overview

- An additional benefit of the MWSP 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?**
 - Limiting growth where water supply is not sustainable or cost-effective.
 - Identify areas for growth that have reasonable access to both surface and ground water.
 - Focus 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?**
- Local water supply plan
 - *Monitoring and ongoing evaluation* (Part 1-E) – Recommend including routine leak detection as a requirement of the local plans.
 - *Proposed approaches to meet extended water demand projections* (Part 4) – The approaches seem reasonable to an extent; however, limiting growth in areas that cannot provide cost-effective, sustainable supplies of water should also be a consideration.

Section 5 – Key Water Supply Issues

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 plan identified in Thrive MSP 2040?**

The Urban Hometown

- **Is Met Council's forecasted population growth mindful of the need to be sustainable with water supply?**

The City greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide this input and looks forward to ongoing involvement in the water supply discussions in the future, please feel free to contact me at 612-861-9795 to discuss these comments.

Sincerely,



Kristin Asher, P.E.
Acting Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Cc: Steve Devich, Richfield City Manager
Robert Hintgen, Richfield Utilities Superintendent



City of Maple Grove

12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, P.O. Box 1180, Maple Grove, MN 55311-6180 763-494-6000

August 20, 2015

Metropolitan Council
Attn: Lanya Ross, Environmental Scientist
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Subject: Regional Water Supply Master Plan – Comments

To the Metropolitan Council:

The City of Maple Grove appreciates the efforts of the Metropolitan Council and its staff in preparing the draft Regional Water Supply Master Plan. It is appreciative of its role as facilitator in a regional planning process to ensure that local water suppliers have control of and responsibility for their water supply systems; and for technical assistance provided in developing local water supply plans. It acknowledges emerging water supply planning issues, and supports managing for sustainable water quality and supply.

The following comments are made with respect to the RWSMP and Maple Grove Water Supply Profile:

1. The Maple Grove Water Supply Profile provides a general overview of the local water supply system, which does not necessarily provide an accurate representation of the local water supply system and management efforts.
2. Maple Grove has constructed eleven (11) wells in the “Drift Aquifer” formation; one of which wells has not been developed. Maple Grove has constructed two (2) wells into the MTSB bedrock formation, which are restricted by MNDNR to emergency use only. Updated information for wells and water use was provided to MDH for *Metro Model 2* during the 2012 update of the *Maple Grove Drinking Water Management Water Supply Plan*.
3. Municipal water use is currently supplied entirely by ten (10) “Drift Aquifer” wells.
4. The options available to meet water demand are locally perceived to include Quaternary groundwater source, groundwater storm water infiltration and conservation.

“Serving Today, Shaping Tomorrow”

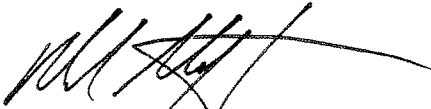
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

5. The permitted appropriation amount for 2012 municipal water supply was approximately 3,783 MGY. While the unaccounted water use was estimated to be approximately 11% in 2012, the City since implemented a water meter replacement project and the unaccounted water use in 2014 was estimated to be less than 3%.
6. The average daily water use is projected to grow to about 14.4 MGD for 2040; assumption about water use remaining at 2012 levels does not apply. Water use projections will be reviewed in the next plan update.
7. Maple Grove monitors an observation well network for changes in groundwater level, and does not anticipate water use conflicts, well interference issues, or surface water/ecosystem impacts within the DWSMA based on various well field studies, wellhead protection planning efforts and modeling. These concerns are being addressed through existing planning and permitting requirements.
8. Vulnerability to contamination is addressed by the *Maple Grove Wellhead Protection Plan*; a statement of this fact in the water plan update is perceived to be unnecessary.
9. A good understanding about aquifer productivity and extent has been gained through various well field studies, wellhead protection planning efforts, observation well network monitoring, and regional modeling. Statements made to the contrary are misleading.
10. The City is not compelled to acknowledge non-existent issues in its water plan update. Maple Grove's water supply management efforts currently incorporate the recommendations made in the water supply profile. It is responsible to evaluate potential impacts of its groundwater appropriations, and to work with other governmental agencies on issues and to reduce duplicate work.
11. Community specific concerns made in the Comments Appendix suggest Maple Grove's groundwater appropriations as a potential source of the disappearance of several DNR protected wetlands near Lake Success in Brooklyn Park. Maple Grove has not observed impacts to surface waters located within its DWSMA; it is highly unlikely Maple Grove groundwater withdrawals are connected to this impact. It is concerning to suggest the matter be flagged in the community profile.

In closing, 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Steffenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Steffenson, Mayor
City of Maple Grove

Ross, Lanya

From: Sund, Elizabeth on behalf of PublicInfo
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 9:32 AM
To: Ross, Lanya
Subject: FW: MCES Water Supply Plan -official public comments from the City of Centerville

Comments from the City of Centerville

From: Mike Ericson [mailto:MEricson@CENTERVILLEMN.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 4:00 PM
To: Munsell, Anneka
Cc: PublicInfo; Statz, Mark; Paul Palzer; Kurt B. Glaser
Subject: MCES Water Supply Plan -official public comments from the City of Centerville

Anneka...

Here are three comments that we after to the Met Council after reviewing their profile for Centerville:

1. The profile for Centerville notes that a “nearby DNR observation well documents a declining trend in aquifer water levels,” but then follows up to say that “parts of the community may not be represented by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources observation well.” Since it appears that there is a nearby DNR observation well, based on the first statement, it would be helpful if the Met Council were to provide recommendations on where additional DNR observation wells may be needed and in what aquifer they should be completed.
2. Since the Centerville area is within a designated Groundwater Management Area, it would be helpful if the plan would provide more details on how the Met Council and the DNR are working cooperatively to develop groundwater management strategies that achieve a common goal. Additionally, the implications of the DNR plan for the Groundwater Management Area do not yet appear to be fully laid out in the DNR’s draft plan from February 2015. Is the Met Council considering amending the Master Water Supply Plan based on the recommendations from the finalized DNR plan?
3. In order to provide a good tool for comparing per capita usage in each community’s “Water Supply Profile,” the per capita value should also include a metric for residential usage. Otherwise, communities with large industrial and commercial users may create higher per capita values, even when residential users are making significant efforts to reduce their usage or they already have low usage. Calculating residential usage provides a better means of gauging a community’s success with water conservation efforts. This is especially important, since “residential usage is the largest category of municipal water use in the metropolitan area” (as noted on page 21 of the Master Water Supply Plan).

Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Best Regards,

Mike

Michael A. Ericson

City Administrator
City of Centerville, MN
DID: 651-792-7931
O: 651-429-3232
C: 612-790-5166

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

DRAFT



August 21, 2015

Attn: Lanya Ross
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

RE: Comments on the Draft Water Resources Policy Plan – City of Bloomington

Dear Ms. Ross,

Please consider the following comments pertaining to the Draft Water Resources Policy Plan.

Statement of Interest

The City of Bloomington has an interest in this Draft Water Resources Policy Plan as owner and operator of a public water supply and distribution system, wastewater collection system, and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System owner/operator.

Comments

Bloomington Water Supply Profile

Number of withdrawals permitted by DNR within the community:

- **The first table listing the municipal wells is incorrect. The City of Bloomington has five (5) wells open in Prairie du Chien-Jordan (PDCJ) and one (1) well classified as “other”.**

Available options to meet water demand:

- **Suggest re-ordering the available options to meet water demand. The current list has stormwater reuse as #3. It is not clear if this list is intended to prioritize the options, but regardless, stormwater reuse is currently very limited due to regulatory requirements and practical applications. Suggest re-ordering the list as follows:**
 - 1. Conservation**
 - 2. Groundwater sources**
 - 3. Surface water sources**
 - 4. Stormwater reuse**
 - 5. Enhanced recharge**
 - 6. Reclaimed wastewater**

Municipal Water Use

- **The rate structure for Bloomington is not accurately described. Bloomington's current rate structure is simply an increasing block depending on volume used.**

The following should be addressed as water plans are updated:

Significant uncertainty about aquifer productivity and extent

- *Parts of the community may not be represented by the Minnesota Department of Health aquifer test*
- *The county geologic atlas is more than twenty years old*
- *Parts of the community may not be represented by a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources observation well*
- **The above items aren't significant issues for the City specifically, nor do we have the statutory authority to address them. These can only be addressed by MDH, the County, and/or the DNR and should not be the responsibility or a requirement of a local water plan.**

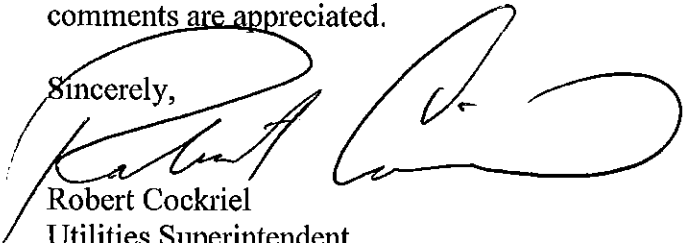
The following actions are recommended:

- *Acknowledge the issues above in local water supply plans and water appropriation permit applications, including a plan to monitor*
 - **As identified earlier, not all of the above issues should be requirements of local water plans. Additionally, references to undefined monitoring plans are not appropriate to require as part of this profile.**
- *Before requesting water appropriations, water users in this area should evaluate the need to address water conflict and well interference including a) an inventory of all active domestic and public water supply wells near proposed well locations and b) an analysis of existing water level/water withdrawal data to identify where future drawdowns could affect domestic wells.*
 - **The above action recommendation should specify "additional" municipal water supply appropriations.**

The Council should consider continuing to use its review authority of local comprehensive planning efforts to ensure that regional goals are being met without expanding regulatory authority, policies, or implementation measures with particular emphasis on regional wastewater services.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report. Responses to the above comments are appreciated.

Sincerely,


Robert Cockriel
Utilities Superintendent
City of Bloomington

August 18, 2015

Metropolitan Council
Attention: Ms. Lanya Ross
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Master Water Supply Plan – City of Rosemount Comments

Dear Ms. Ross:

On behalf of the City of Rosemount and City Council, thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Metropolitan Council Draft Master Water Supply Plan. The goals and strategies that are identified in the plan related to water supply, wastewater, and surface water planning, management and operation are important issues to the City of Rosemount.

The City of Rosemount offers the following comments:

General Comments:

1. 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.
2. The recognition and increased awareness related to water conservation as a viable method to sustainable water use is also greatly appreciated.
3. As water policy continues to evolve in the State of Minnesota, the effect of surface water on groundwater should be evaluated further in cooperation with all applicable Government agencies. At this time, there are additional groundwater management plans that have been completed by multiple agencies. It is recognized that this is a water supply planning document; however, since a majority of the region's water supply is groundwater, it would be advantageous to continue to strive for a more coordinated approach to water planning and permitting in the coming years.
4. This document attempts to address challenges related to pumping groundwater and water supply; however, the plan should also provide additional discussion relating to the policy challenges related to recharge of the regional groundwater aquifers and identify feasible opportunities for recharge.
5. The Metropolitan Council and MnDNR have collaborated in the past to create a Water Supply Plan Template for all municipalities to complete during the Comprehensive Planning process. It is our understanding that a new draft of that template has been completed. That draft template should have been provided in the Water Supply Master Plan in order for the Municipalities that are required to complete that template to have the opportunity to comment on the specific template document. Changes in that template will affect the City's

SPIRIT OF PRIDE AND PROGRESS

level of effort in the planning process compared to what was completed during the 2030 Comprehensive Planning process.

Specific Comments:

1. Chapter 1, Page 2; 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.
2. Chapter 1, Page 3; The Plan recognizes the close collaboration with the MnDNR; however, as the Metropolitan Council moves towards a more integrated approach to water planning, it would be advantageous to work equally as close with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). As it identifies in the last chapter of the Plan there are many agencies that regulate different types and aspects of water in the State.
3. Chapter 1, Page 3; The Plan states that when a community's local water supply plan reflects this Master Water Supply Plan and the local plan is approved then, as long as the requested water appropriation permit actions are consistent with the local plan, permits are more likely to be granted. This statement should be deleted or revised to recognize the increased scrutiny and required investigative work that is currently being required by the MnDNR when applying for an appropriations permit regardless of whether the well is being installed consistent with the City's approved 2030 Water Supply Plan.
4. Chapter 2; 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.
5. In addition, this document serves to provide goals, framework, and recommendations for the region. 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.
6. Chapter 3, Page 16; The Plan identifies by State Statute the water use priorities for the State with domestic water supply being the first priority. With this designation, it is advantageous for the Metropolitan Council to report and provide projects for domestic water usage per capita in lieu of total water usage per capita. The commercial and industrial water users vary from City to City and it should be recognized that the residential per capita usage would be a

- more accurate measurement of the current state of usage and conservation measures implemented into the future.
7. Chapter 3, Page 17; Special categories and water level maintenance should be further defined as to what entity or types of entity are permitted for those special uses and water level maintenance.
 8. Chapter 4, Page 32; The Plan identifies an estimate sustainable amount of water available for each water supply source utilized in the Metropolitan area. The method for calculating that volume should be cited or referenced in that section.
 9. Chapter 4, Page 38; The Plan discusses treated effluent water reuse as an opportunity to provide a non-potable water supply to the region. The Plan does not provide the Metropolitan Council's plan or outline an implementation strategy to continue that evaluation and feasibility.
 10. Chapter 4; The Plan identifies a great number of opportunities to manage our water resources with an integrated and sustainable approach which is greatly appreciated; however, it should be recognized in the plan the specific policies in place that prevent or inhibit some of those practices at this time.
 11. Chapter 5, Page 40; The Plan acknowledges the regulatory complexity; however, the plan should provide in detail what policies are in place that may prevent or inhibit alternative water source development or increase aquifer recharge.
 12. Chapter 5, Page 51; 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.
 13. Chapter 6, Page 60; By providing the estimated sustainable groundwater withdrawal rate by region based on the regional planning model, the Plan implies that where the demand is approaching or exceeds the sustain water use level based on the groundwater and surface water interactions as a constraint, the Metropolitan Council is confident that there is an accurate way to model and predict this interaction. Studies that have been published by other agencies to date have indicated that additional study and model refinements are required in order to definitively establish a protective yield. The Plan does reference additional information in Appendix 4; however, the certainty of these numbers should be qualified for purposes of this Plan in the text.
 14. Chapter 7, Page 70; 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 municipalities 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.

15. Chapter 8, Page 81; The Plan identifies the MDH as a supporting partner; however, given the MDH's role in permitting the construction of safe drinking water infrastructure and their role in providing public health guidance, it is recommended that at a minimum the MDH is engaged as a Key Partner. In addition, the distinction of a Key Partner versus a Supporting Partner should be further developed and defined as all the supporting partners identified have a key role in water quality and quantity considerations in the State.
16. Appendix 1, Community Profiles; It is recommended that each community's residential water use per capita be reported rather than total water use per capita. The commercial and industrial water usage varies considerably from City to City and does not provide a useful regional comparison. In addition, it will not provide a useful benchmark for conservation measurements in the years to come.

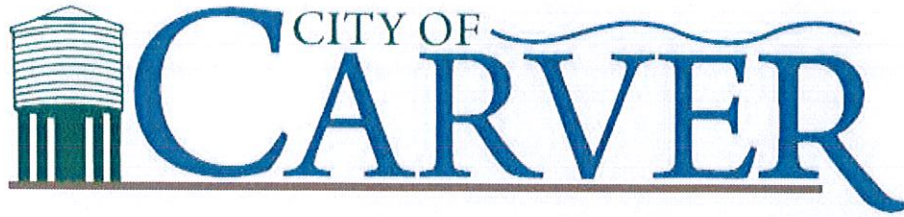
Thank you for your consideration of the above comments. We look forward to continuing to work with the Metropolitan Council as it develops the final Master Water Supply Plan.

Sincerely,



William Droste, Mayor
Rosemount City Council

cc: Rosemount City Council Members
Dwight Johnson, City Administrator



August 18, 2015

Ms. Lanya Ross
Water Supply Planning
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Draft Water Supply Master Plan

Dear Ms. Ross:

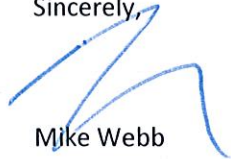
Please accept the attached comments on behalf of the Carver City Council related to the Draft Water Supply Master Plan.

1. The profile for the City of Carver shows that the City has four wells, one in the Mt. Simon aquifer, two in the TCW (Tunnel City-Wonewoc) aquifer, and one under the category of "other." In reality, the City has one well in the Mt. Simon aquifer and three wells in the TCW aquifer. Carver Well 4 did not have an aquifer named in the listing on County Well Index, so that is likely the reason why it was listed as "other." Well 4 is a TCW aquifer well.
2. The profile for Carver notes that "surface water in the community may be directly connected to (the) regional groundwater system." While surface waters are often connected to upper groundwater aquifers (such as the water table aquifer), it is believed that surface waters are not in direct connection to any of the bedrock aquifers that Carver currently utilizes for its water supply source.
3. The profile for Carver notes that there exists a potential for well interference with private wells in the area. While that possibility cannot be totally ruled out, it should be noted that the majority of private wells in the area are completed in a more shallow drift aquifer and not in the deeper bedrock aquifers that the City utilizes. Therefore, the risk of interference with private wells in Carver is relatively low.

4. In order to provide a good tool for comparing per capita usage in each community's "Water Supply Profile," the per capita value should also include a metric for residential usage. Otherwise, communities with large industrial and commercial users may create higher per capita values, even when residential users are making significant efforts to reduce their usage or they already have low usage. Calculating residential usage provides a better means of gauging a community's success with water conservation efforts. This is especially important, since "residential usage is the largest category of municipal water use in the metropolitan area" (as noted on page 21 of the Master Water Supply Plan).

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Water Supply Master Plan. If you have any questions about these comments or wish to discuss them further, please contact Dan Boyum, City Engineer, at 651-775-5098.

Sincerely,



Mike Webb
Mayor

cc: Deb Barber, District 4 Metropolitan Council Member
Angela Torres, Sector Representative

City Council:
Sandy Martin, Mayor
Emy Johnson
Terry Quigley
Cory Springhorn
Ady Wickstrom



City of Shoreview
4600 Victoria Street North
Shoreview MN 55126
651-490-4600 phone
651-490-4699 fax
www.shoreviewmn.gov

August 20, 2015

Ms. Layna Ross
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Public Comment on Master Water Supply Plan

Dear Ms. Ross,

The City of Shoreview appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Master Water Supply Plan, draft dated June 16, 2015. Please note the following comments and observations:

Page 2 “Better data, Better analyses” - The paragraph would benefit from an explanation or example of how the MnDNR water use database and the regional groundwater flow model (Metro Model 3) can (or should) inform one another.

Page 42 “water that is not accounted for (non-revenue)” - 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).

Pages 62, 63 “Improved local planning assistance” - In this and others areas of the Master Water Supply Plan 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.

Page 64 - There appears to be a typo or words missing from the first sentence at the top of the page.

Page 66- First sentence in paragraph typo – maybe intended “the” instead of “that”?

Page 71 – See note for pages 62, 63

Page 84 - See note for pages 62, 63

Page 86 - See note for pages 62, 63

Overall I am quite pleased with both technical content and tone of the Master Water Supply Plan draft dated June 16, 2015. I believe that the process that integrated local subject matter experts helped the Plan reflect the realities of the water “business” here in the Twin Cities area, and accordingly, will realistically guide water supply planning efforts to accommodate the expected growth in our region. Thanks again for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Sincerely,

THE CITY OF SHOREVIEW

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Maloney', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mark J. Maloney, PE
Director of Public Works

August 21, 2015

Metropolitan Council
Attention: Lanya Ross
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Comments on Draft Master Water Supply Plan

Dear Ms. Ross:

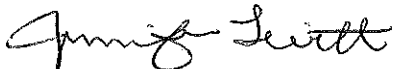
The City of Cottage Grove appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the draft Master Water Supply Plan. Our comments are as follows:

1. The plan makes mention that a Special Well and Boring Construction Area has been designated within Cottage Grove. A review of the Minnesota Department of Health website indicates that there are currently no Special Well and Boring Construction Areas shown to exist within Cottage Grove. This is backed up by the absence of a designated area on Figure 19 on Page 42 of the Met Council plan. The nearest designated area is in St. Paul Park and Newport. Likewise, while the 3M Woodbury landfill site is also near the border of Cottage Grove, it does not currently appear to have a Special Well and Boring Construction Area designation.
2. The plan references that "parts of the community may not be represented by a Minnesota Department of Health aquifer test." The City of Cottage Grove has conducted several aquifer pumping tests at their municipal water supply wells and has reported this data to the MDH in the past. Specifically, aquifer tests at Wells 8 and 11 were conducted approximately 10 to 15 years ago and are on file with the MDH. These tests have recently been used as a basis to update the City's Wellhead Protection Plan and were part of an Aquifer Test Plan submitted to (and approved by) the MDH in March 2015. Additionally, Figure 24 on Page 52 of the plan indicates that MDH aquifer tests have been conducted in the community.
3. In order to provide a good tool for comparing per capita usage in each community's "Water Supply Profile," the per capita value should also include a metric for residential usage. Otherwise, communities with large industrial and commercial users may create higher per capita values, even when residential users are making significant efforts to reduce their usage or they already have low usage. Calculating residential usage provides a better means of gauging a community's success with water conservation efforts. This is especially important since "residential usage is the largest category of municipal water use in the metropolitan area" (as noted on page 21 of the Master Water Supply Plan).

4. 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. The 3M Woodbury site, for example, has limited Cottage Grove's ability to explore adding future water supply wells in the northwest portion of the City, despite the lack of the Special Well and Boring Construction Area. 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.
5. The draft plan makes mention of the DNR's North and East Groundwater Management Area, but there is little mention of how the DNR plan will fully integrate into the Master Water Supply Plan. It would be helpful for communities to know how these two plans and agencies will be working together to assist cities with water supply challenges in the future. Given the implications of the DNR's North and East Groundwater Management plan, there should be mirrored focus and emphasis in the Master Water Supply Plan.

Thank you again for receiving the City of Cottage Grove's comments and we look forward to working cooperatively with the Metropolitan Council on meeting the water needs of our community.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Levitt, P.E.
Community Development Director/City Engineer



Community Planning and Economic Development
105 Fifth Avenue S - Room 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Department of Public Works
350 South Fifth Street – Room 203
Minneapolis, MN 55415
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August 21, 2015

Adam Duininck
Chair, Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101

RE: City of Minneapolis comments on the Metropolitan Council draft Master Water Supply Plan

Dear Chair Duininck,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Master Water Supply Plan. We appreciate the work of the Metropolitan Council staff that developed the plan as well as the efforts of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Group (MAWSAC). We commend you on developing a strong document and taking leadership in renewing the Master Water Supply Plan. The plan should serve the region well.

The City of Minneapolis recognizes 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. The draft plan strikes this balance.

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.


While the plan sets the stage for regional cooperation, more policy development will be required as the region continues to grow. Before any additional regional or statewide policies addressing water supply are proposed, it will be important to adequately engage all stakeholders and to consider impacts on city planning and municipal budgets.

We look forward to continued engagement in this regional conversation. Please contact Glen Gerads, Director of Water Treatment and Distribution, with any questions.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Kotke, P.E.
City Engineer
Director of Public Works



Craig Taylor, Executive Director
City of Minneapolis
Department of Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED)

cc: Councilmember Kevin Reich, Transportation and Public Works Committee Chair
Leisa Thompson, Environmental Services General Manager, Metropolitan Council
Libby Starling, Manager of Regional Policy and Research, Metropolitan Council
Michael Larson, Sector Representative, Metropolitan Council
Kjersti Monson, Director of Long Range Planning, Minneapolis CPED
Heidi Hamilton, Deputy Director, Minneapolis Public Works
Gene Ranieri, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, City of Minneapolis
Loren Olson, Government Relations Representative, City of Minneapolis
Glen Gerads, Director of Water Treatment and Distribution Services, Minneapolis Public Works
Annika Bankston, Superintendent of Water Operations, Minneapolis Public Works
Jack Byers, Manager of Long Range Planning, Minneapolis CPED
Paul Mogush, Principal City Planner, Minneapolis CPED

August 21, 2015

Metropolitan Council
Attn: Adam Duininck, Chair
390 Robert Street N.
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Burnsville Review Comments for Water Supply Master Plan 6/16/2015

Dear Mr. Duininck,

The purpose of this letter is to submit comments, questions and responses to Metropolitan Council from the City of Burnsville on the draft Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) dated 6/16/2015. The City supports the overall WSMP goals. The City has been involved with and given input already via the Community Technical Work Group and the Southwest/Southeast Metro work groups. Through our involvement in these groups we appreciate the collaborative nature and partnership with your staff as we work together to provide a safe and sustainable water supply. Please consider the following comments and questions as you prepare the final WSMP:

- While there is currently adequate water supply available in the metro area, we believe that long term management of the supply is critical to ensuring it is sustainable. We appreciate that the document attempts to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies and parties involved in water supply protection and management. The sheer number of involved parties supports the assertion that there are too many groups involved to allow for us to efficiently meet the goals of the WSMP. We need to work together to develop efficiencies and to consolidate responsibilities. Cities are charged with delivering safe and sustainable water supplies to the public. This effort requires substantial financial commitment and long term planning. Clear and concise guidance by planning and regulating agencies is critical to the success of this effort.
- The City appreciates the focus on conservation as a priority. Prior to utilizing new alternative sources we need to ensure that we are properly managing existing water supply resources. The public has invested substantial funding in existing resources and conservation of those resources should be a top priority.
- The focus on reduction of residential irrigation use is important. This segment of residential use is responsible for peaking demands and makes up about 25% of use. Reduction of this demand not only reduces pressures on the water supplies, but can reduce the size and cost of the associated infrastructure.
- There is also an opportunity to reduce base demand via a focus on high efficiency building products in developing areas and programs to replace inefficient fixtures/appliances in developed communities. The base demand makes up 75% of the total residential water use.
- The focus and exploration of reuse of treated wastewater for non-potable purposes needs to be continued.
- Does the 2040 information shown in Figure 21 consider the eventual cessation of dewatering at the Kraemer Quarry in Burnsville?
- In the City's Water Supply Profile, the issues and recommended actions appear "cookie cutter" and not up to date in many instances. Please contact the City to discuss further.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft WSMP. The City of Burnsville takes long-term planning seriously, and we are committed to being part of a successful region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SA', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steve Albrecht
Public Works Director

Attachment

Cc: Burnsville City Council
Heather Johnston, City Manager

Freshwater Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring people to value, conserve and protect all freshwater resources.

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August 21, 2015

Lanya Ross
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert St N
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Water Supply Master Plan, 6/17/2015

Ms. Ross:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Metropolitan Council Water Supply Master Plan (the Plan). Freshwater Society has a long history of considering groundwater supply and quality issues facing Minnesota, from a report in 1979, "Water Awareness '79 & the Minnesota Plan" to our most recent report in 2013, "Minnesota's Groundwater: Is our use sustainable?"

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.

There are a few observations, comments, inquiries, and recommendations we would like to offer.

- 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.
- On Page 23, 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.
- On pages 40-41, the Plan lists a number of regulatory complexities

challenging water supply management. Unfortunately, this section but does not provide a plan for relief or aid to local communities to address these challenges. It may lie outside of Met Council's purview to directly change the policies but the Council can provide assistance to local communities or work with partners to develop new policies for more effective water supply management. We suggest planned or potential approaches be listed here and/or cross referenced to other sections that go into more detail if appropriate.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the Water Supply Master Plan. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with the Metropolitan Council on these and other issues affecting the region's water supply.

Darrell Gerber

Research and Policy Director
Freshwater Society

DRAFT

DRAFT



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