

Information Item:
Master Water Supply Plan
Summary of Public Comments

Lanya Ross, Principal Environmental Scientist

Environment Committee: September 8, 2015



Public Engagement Process

Spring 2014

- Kickoff meetings with city staff

Summer 2014

- Public meetings with elected officials

Winter 2015

- Public meetings with city staff to preview technical information

Spring 2015

- Community Technical Work Group reviewed technical information and plan content

Summer 2015

- Public information meetings and public hearing



Public Comments Received

June 24 through August 21, 2015

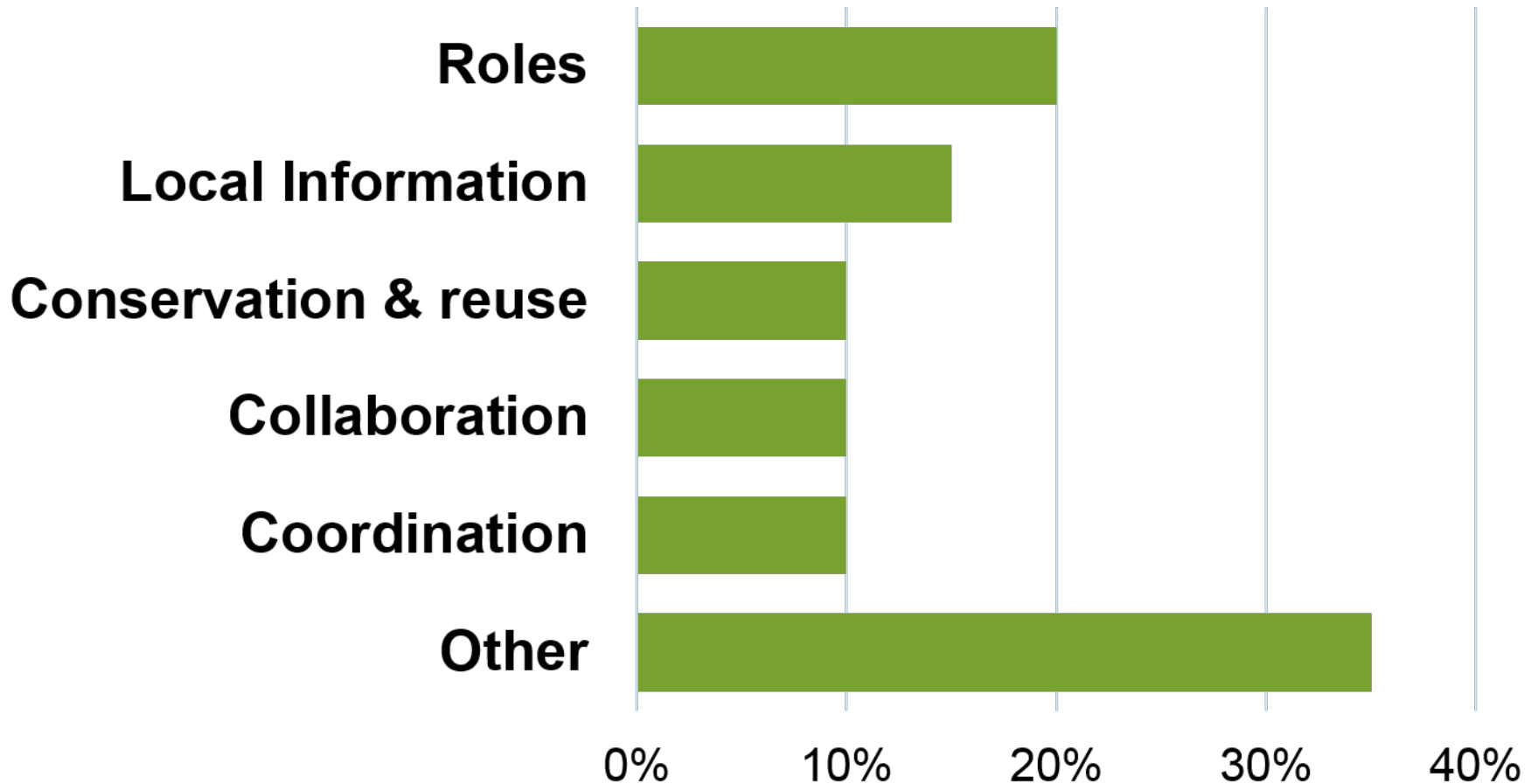
- **17** individuals/organizations provided comments
- **1** individual testified at the public hearing
- A range of constituents were represented:
 - **12** City/Township/Local Governments
 - **2** County Governments
 - **3** Organizations

Process to review and respond



Review and response by
MAWSAC, CTWG, Council

Common Themes



Support for Council Role in Water Supply (1 of 3)

“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.”

– *City of Minneapolis*



Support for Council Role in Water Supply (2 of 3)

“... 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. ”

– *City of Shoreview*

Support for Council Role in Water Supply (3 of 3)

“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.”

– *City of Richfield*



Example Text Changes: Roles and Responsibilities

Original language

- In 1987, metropolitan counties were given the authority to prepare and adopt groundwater plans. Added based on comment from Washington County.

Proposed new language

- Though it varies across the Twin Cities metropolitan area, counties may play an important role with respect to land use, including zoning, shoreland, and mining operations. Additionally, in 1987, metropolitan counties were given the authority to prepare and adopt groundwater plans.

Example Text Changes: Updated Local Information

Original language

The following actions are recommended:

- Before requesting water appropriations, water users in this areas should (*et al.*)

Proposed new language

As appropriate, incorporate the following actions into plans and programs, consistent with your organization's roles and responsibilities:

- Support collaborative efforts to evaluate (*et al.*)

Example Text Changes: Conservation & Reuse

Proposed new language

Chapter 7, Strategy 5

- Include support for collaborative efforts to reuse pollution containment water, where feasible, and to explore partnerships with USEPA as part of the WaterSense program.

Example Text Changes: Support for Collaboration

Proposed new language

Chapter 7, Strategy 4

- Include Council support for efforts to analyze the viability of regional partnerships.

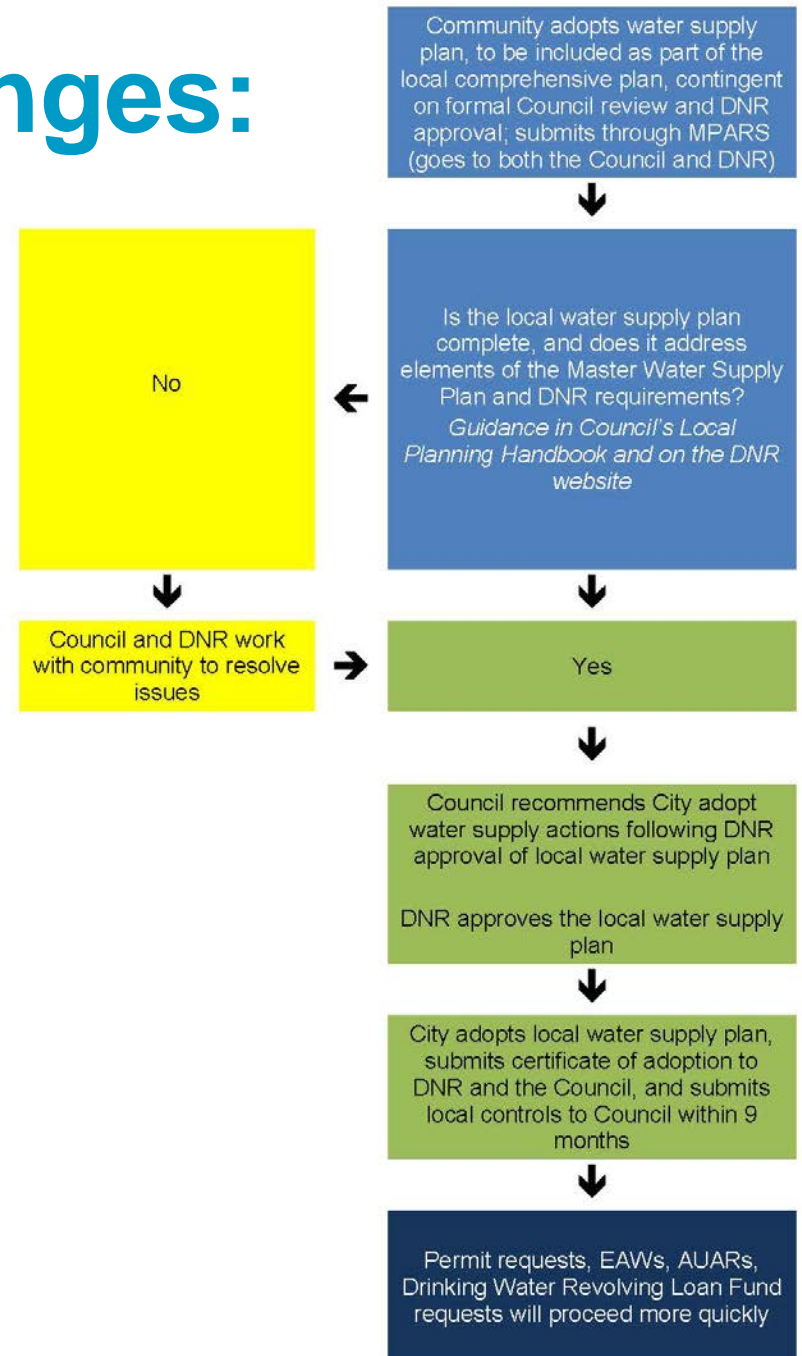
Example Text Changes: Coordination

Original language

- Chapter 1, Figure 3 – Diagram of Metropolitan Council and DNR review process for local water supply plans

Proposed new language

- Chapter 1, Figure 3 – Simplified process



Next Steps

1. Revise the draft and finalize the plan
2. MAWSAC approval (week of Sep. 14th)
3. Council adoption (week of Sep. 21st)
4. Implement with partners