



IMAGINE²⁰₅₀

water policy plan

Business Item 2024-192 JT

Recommend Draft 2050 Water Policy Plan for Public Comment

Jen Kostrzewski

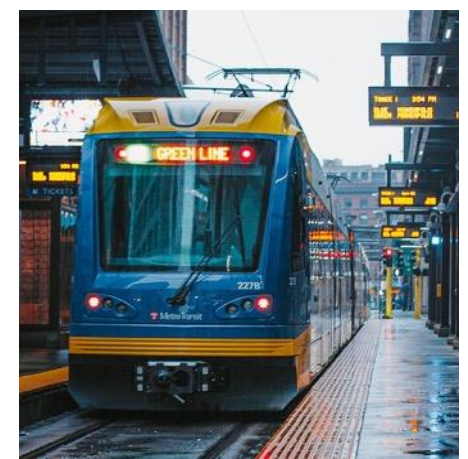
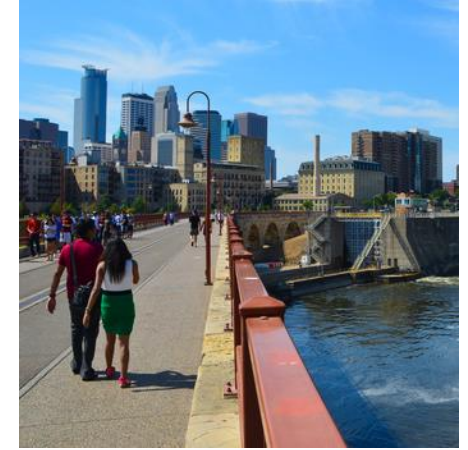
Environment Committee July 23, 2024



Water Policy Plan (WPP)

Plan Purpose

- Met Council is developing the 2050 Water Policy Plan, which **focuses on ensuring sustainable water resources in the region**. It is a part of and informed by the Regional Development Guide.
- The WPP provides a **framework for integrative water planning** (wastewater, water supply, and water resources) the Metro Area Water Supply Plan, and the Wastewater System Plan.
- It contains water **policies, strategies, and actions** for both the Met Council and our 180+ local governments within the seven-county region.
- WPP policies **will commit the Council** to take action in the areas of long-range visioning and planning, regional system investments, facility management, technical assistance, research and assessment, and partnerships.



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Water Policies – Front Matter

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Metro Area Water Supply Plan

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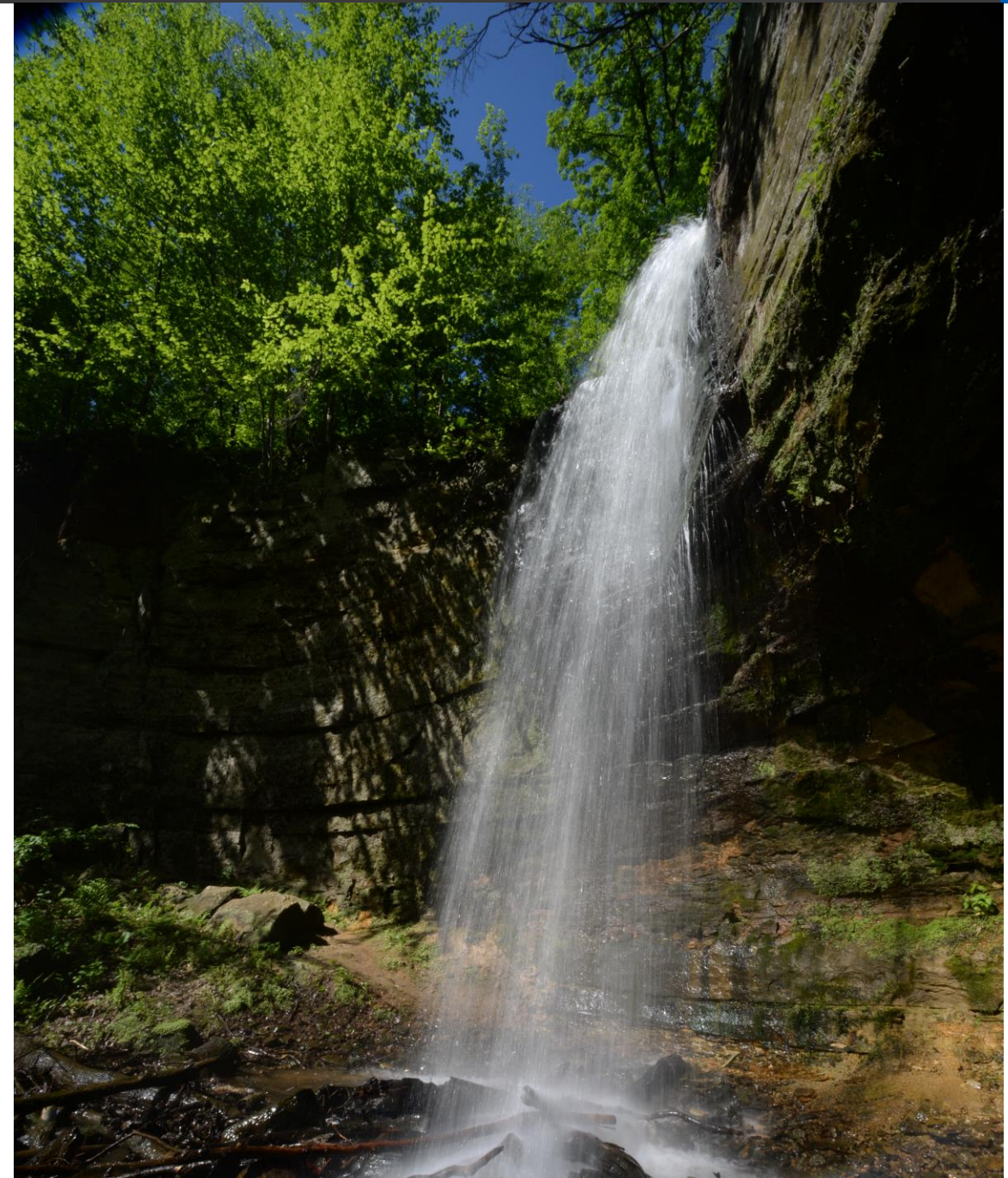
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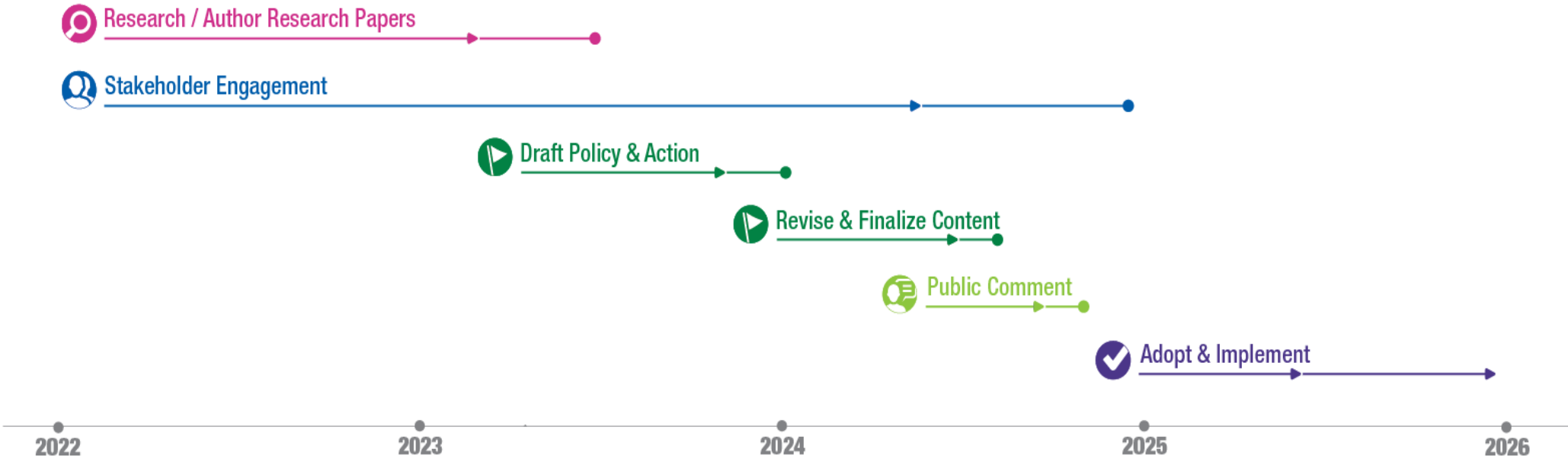


Background - Purpose

Recommend release for public comment

Public Participation Procedure PIC 2-2a

Public engagement is an essential component to the work we do at the Metropolitan Council. Creating opportunities for people to debate issues, develop alternative approaches and affect final decisions in realistic ways is vital to ensuring the metro area remains one of the best places to live, work, raise a family and do business. Input from a variety of perspectives - including the public - helps us arrive at better solutions than we could achieve working on our own.



WPP edits and modifications (1/3)

Water Policies - Front Matter

Editorial changes throughout

Enlarged figures for ease of reading

New content added:

- Revised objective language for climate, investments, health, and equity
- Revised policy language for clarity
- Clarified desired outcomes for all policies
- Added actions to clarify planning expectations for local comprehensive plans

Draft WPP objective language (1/2)



Old language -- CLIMATE: Create climate-resilient water sources, ecosystems, and water infrastructure through mitigation, innovative design, and adaptive planning.

New language -- CLIMATE: The region's waters and water services are protected from and made resilient to the ongoing and future effects of climate change.



Old language – INVESTMENTS: Optimize regional water protection, planning, and infrastructure investments.

New language -- INVESTMENTS: Water protection, planning, management, and infrastructure investments are optimized to ensure public and ecosystem health are fully protected now and for future generations.

Draft WPP objective language (2/2)



Old language -- HEALTH: Protect public and ecosystem health to maintain, restore, and enhance a high quality of life, regional waters, and water services across the region.

New language -- HEALTH: Natural waters, source waters, water services, and infrastructure are managed, restored, and enhanced to protect public and ecosystem health that ensures a high quality of life in the region.



Old language -- EQUITY: Water benefits and services are accessible and shared amongst all residents and communities.

New language -- EQUITY: The benefits of clean and abundant water and water services are defined by local needs and environmental context, accessible, and justly shared by all residents and communities

WPP edits and modifications (2/3)

System Plan

Editorial changes throughout

New content added:

- Community forecasts and flow projections
- Estimates on capital improvements in response to regulations

Content removed:

- Merged redundant climate impacts to front matter

WPP edits and modifications (3/3)

Metro Area Water Supply Plan

Editorial changes throughout

New content added:

- Funding
- Introduction to subregional action plans
- Version 1 demand projections

TAC-recommended revisions:

- Definition of water supply sustainability
- 'SMART' goals for definitions of success
- Definitions for key water supply terms

MAWSAC-recommended revisions:

- Funding for regional water supply planning
- Regional Water Supply action plan
- Management Considerations
- Definition of success for water supply planning:
- Water Quality
- Land Use and Water supply connections:
- Performance Measures
- Appendices

MAWSAC approved the release of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan on July 11, 2024

Proposed Action

The Environment Committee recommends to the Metropolitan Council to release the 2050 Water Policy Plan for formal public comment.

Questions?

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