

Minutes

Land Use Advisory Committee



Meeting date: March 20, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Diego Morales, D9
- ☐ Jonathan Bottema, District 1
- ☐ Vacant, District 2
- ☐ Vacant, District 3
- ☒ Gerald Bruner, District 4 Carver
- ☐ Kathi Mocol, District 4 Scott
- ☐ Vacant, District 5

- ☐ Vacant, District 6
- ☐ Vacant, District 7
- ☒ Noah Keller, District 8
- ☐ Vacant, District 9
- ☐ Dan Roe, District 10
- ☒ Phil Klein, District 11

- ☐ Vacant, District 12
- ☐ Vacant, District 13
- ☐ Vacant, District 14
- ☒ William Droste, District 15
- ☐ Vacant, District 16
- ☐ = present,

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Morales called the regular meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:02 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Morales.

Agenda approved

Committee Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Klein, seconded by Bruner to approve the minutes of January 16, 2025, regular meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. Decennial System Statements (Amber Turnquest)

Turnquest gave a presentation on the Decennial Systems Statements as outlined in the materials provided.

Torres discussed past disputes and how it's been handled. Also discussed process of administrative hearings either through the Office of Administrative Hearings or through this committee. Lisa Barajas, Executive Director Community Development, further explained how the process works if the hearings are to be held by this committee.

2. Small Communities Planning Program and Planning Assistance Grant Program Eligibility Criteria Options (Merritt Clapp-Smith)

Clapp-Smith gave a presentation on the Small Communities Planning Program and Assistance Grant Program Eligibility Criteria Options as outlined in the presentation and materials provided. This is a continued discussion of the one held at the January 16, 2025 LUAC meeting.

Bruner feels grant money should be given to those who need it, not those who want it.

Droste feels the opposite and feels it helps buy goodwill towards the Metropolitan Council.

Klein would like to see more grants go out to more cities and agreed with Droste that giving back to cities is a good thing. He asked how much grant money there will be. Torres noted it will be funded by the Metropolitan Council, if the Legislature doesn't award it and staff hope to maintain the amount that went out last time which was roughly \$1.9 million.

Kelin discussed the requirements of all that maybe could be excluded for smaller cities. Torres discussed much of the assistance given by helping local governments to meet the minimum requirements to the greatest degree possible.

Klein shared concerns that some of the new requirements are going to be costly for smaller communities. Morales would like to look into this further. Torres stated staff will be bringing this to a future Community Development Committee and Council Meeting, discussing the tools/strategies etc. to help local governments achieve and navigate the process as easily as possible. She shared the role of sector representatives to help communities with their planning. Droste stated good sector representatives can really help navigate the process.

Bruner asked if the Metropolitan Council could ensure that communities in need get 100% of funding prior to communities that don't need it. Torres explained the process where eligible communities get half of the money up front and half when their plan is complete.

Keller asked if the \$1.9 million issued last time was a projection. Torres stated it started with \$1.5 million, and the Council wanted to extend to more small communities, so they added around \$400,000.00. She noted that a few communities did not receive their second half due to not completing their plan even after two extensions. She stated the budget for the next round has not been set yet.

Clapp-Smith asked if the committee is comfortable with the criteria and if so, she will return in May with a list of eligible communities and will then be looking for this committee to make a recommendation to the Council.

Torres read an email from Committee member Dan Roe and noted that he's overall okay with the program but is concerned with a smaller community just missing the qualifications. He'd like to include the near qualifiers. Smith-Clapp responded that she'll look at this.

3. 2025 LUAC Work Plan (Angela Torres)

Torres gave an update on the 2025 LUAC Work Plan as outlined in the materials provided.

Bruner would like to see more information on water. He feels that we need to protect our water more than we do and he would like to see what the Metropolitan Council does. Torres discussed MAWSAC Committee and inner relationships with land use and water.

Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, Chair Morales discussed the interviews being conducted to fill vacancies on the Land Use Advisory Committee. He thanked Council Member Wulff for all of her

help in these endeavors and noted that staff hope to have many of the vacancies filled by our May 15, 2025 meeting.

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Land Use Advisory Committee meeting of March 3, 2025.

Approved this 15th day of May 2025.

Council contact:

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