

Minutes

Land Use Advisory Committee



Meeting date: July 17, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Diego Morales, District 9
- ☒ Tom McKee, District 1
- ☒ Lona Doolan, District 2
- ☐ Erik Anderson, District 3
- ☒ Gerald Bruner, District 4 Carver
- ☒ Kathi Mocol, District 4 Scott
- ☒ Sean Hayford Oleary, District 5

- ☒ Robert Glisky, District 6
- ☐ Gunnar Carlson, District 7
- ☒ Noah Keller, District 8
- ☐ Beketa Jilo, District 9
- ☒ Dan Roe, District 10
- ☐ Kirsten Libby, District 11

- ☒ William Droste, District 12
- ☐ Mai Chong Xiong, District 13
- ☒ Heather Worthington, District 14
- ☒ Christos Jensen, District 15
- ☒ Daniel Wolter, 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 4:00 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Glisky, seconded by Mocol to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025, regular meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. 2025 Regional Economic Framework Update (Merritt Clapp Smith, 651-602-1567)

Clapp-Smith gave a presentation and overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Survey (CEDS) as outlined in the presentation provided and discussed its connection to Imagine 2050. She also gave a project update on 2025 CEDS and then opened the conversation for discussion using a Mentimeter Survey.

2. Comprehensive Planning Technical Assistance Program Overview (Angela R. Torres, 651-602-1566, and Emma Dvorak, 651-602-1399)

Torres and Dvorak gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Planning Technical Assistance Program as outlined in the materials provided.

Shawn James, Local Planning Assistance, gave a demonstration of the toolkit that is available on the Council's website to help local jurisdictions with their comprehensive plan updates.

Worthington asked about the tool that correlates infrastructure and economic development. Torres discussed the difficulty with collecting data on redevelopment. Staff are exploring redeveloping monitoring. Worthing asked about correlation with infrastructure and land use and stated she is happy to talk 'offline' about this more.

Doolan asked how to handle natural systems, i.e., a lake within several jurisdictions, cities, counties, and watersheds. She asked, does the Met Council force collaboration? Torres stated the Council doesn't force collaboration, but they do encourage and help coordinate planning amongst adjacent jurisdictions.

3. Planning Assistance Grant Program and Small Communities Planning Program (Merritt Clapp-Smith, 651-602-1567, and Angela R. Torres, 651-602-1566)

Clapp-Smith and Torres gave a presentation of the Planning Assistance Grant Program as outlined in the materials and presentation provided.

The commission discussed eligibility criteria for the small communities planning program and all felt it was good.

Torres delved deeper into the Planning Assistance Grant Program criteria, outlined in the presentation provided, and noted those eligible for the Small Communities Planning Program are not eligible for this grant program.

Droste asked about the total funding amount. Torres stated it has not yet been determined.

Torres discussed advancing regional goals and asked what level of financial incentive (with a planning grant) would it take for communities to participate?

Droste suggested looking at a number that would cover costs of doing the work, i.e., engagement, etc. Torres stated it can supplement other work already being done anyway, but it is not intended to cover all costs.

Torres discussed incentivizing an efficient process for communities eligible for planning grants.

Mocol discussing using AI in the review of plans. Torres stated that this is being looked at but talked about professional judgements and collaboration being done with local jurisdictions.

Due to time constraints, Chair Morales suggested continuing this discussion at our next meeting in September.

Announcements/Reminders

None.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:05 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 July 17, 2025.

Approved this 18th day of September 2025.

Council contact:

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