

Environment Committee

Meeting date: January 13, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 14, 2015

Subject: Authorize the Release of the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan to Full Council for Approval, Start Formal Public Review Process and Adopt March 10, 2015 Public Hearing Date

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Water Resources Policy Plan, Minn. Stat. 473.145, Minn. Stat. 473.157

Staff Prepared/Presented: Judy Sventek, 651-602-1156

Division/Department: MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

Proposed Action

That, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council:

- Release the Draft 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP) for public review and comment; and
- Authorize a public comment period from January 15, 2015 to March 20, 2015, including a public hearing on March 10, 2015 at 5:00 PM.

Background

The *Water Resources Policy Plan* directs its attention to both the quantity and quality of our water resources. It includes policies and strategies to ensure a sufficient, sustainable water supply and to manage surface water runoff and our wastewater systems to protect water quality.

The overall theme of this policy plan is to move the Council toward more integration of our roles in wastewater, water supply, and surface water planning, management and operation. For the Council, it means leading by example and working across agency divisions to promote water sustainability. The Council will work with partners to identify emerging issues and challenges for the region as we work together on solutions in order to promote a more sustainable region. Only through cooperation and collaboration can the region expect to manage its water resources in a sustainable way aimed at:

- Providing an adequate water supply for the region
- Promoting and implementing best management practices aimed at protecting the quality and quantity of our resources
- Providing efficient and cost effective wastewater services to the region
- Efficiently addressing nonpoint and point sources pollution issues and solutions, and,
- Assessing and monitoring of lakes, rivers, and streams so that we can adequately manage, protect and restore these valued resources.

Rationale

The Council has prepared this Policy Plan under state law (Minn. Stat. 473.145) directing it to prepare a metropolitan development guide that includes a plan for the region's wastewater collection and treatment system, along with supporting

policies, goals, standards, and maps. The Policy Plan is also prepared in response to Minn. Stat. 473.157 requiring the Council to adopt a water resources plan and federal requirements for a regional management plan to address pollution from point sources (such as treatment plant discharges) and nonpoint sources (such as stormwater runoff). When adopted by the Council, this Policy Plan will replace the current plan adopted in May 2005 with amendments in 2006 and 2010.

Funding

None

Known Support / Opposition

MCES held three meetings in October, 2014 to get feedback on the draft plan prior to adoption for the formal public review process. Over 95 city staff, leaders, state agency employees, and elected officials attended these meetings. In addition, the draft policy plan was shared with the Council's Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee, the Watershed Administrator technical advisory committee, and Metro Cities' Local Government Committee to get input and feedback on all aspects of the plan prior to adoption.