

## Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 8, 2021

**Subject:** 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan Advisory Group

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan, which includes the Wastewater System Plan

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

**Division/Department:** Chair's Office

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve Chair Zelle's recommendation to establish a Water Resources Policy Plan Advisory Group to advise and guide Council staff throughout the entire process of developing the new 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan, which includes the Wastewater System Plan. The Advisory Group will be responsible for advising MCES staff on the process to develop the 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan, outreach activities, and proposed content for the new plan. The Advisory Group meetings will be facilitated by MCES staff Judy Sventek and Kyle Colvin, co-leads of the update process for the Water Resources Policy Plan and the Wastewater System Plan. Furthermore, that the following members be appointed to the work group.

Community/Organization	Name	Title
Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization	Phil Belfiori	WMO Administrator
Coon Creek Watershed District	Tim Kelly	District Administrator
Rice Creek Watershed District	Nick Tomczki	District Administrator
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	James Wisker	District Administrator
Scott County Watershed Management Organization	Vanessa Strong	Water Resources Supervisor
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization	Laura Jester	WMO Administrator
Carver County Watershed Management Organization	Paul Moline	WMO Administrator
Chanhassen	Charles Howley	Public Works Director

Cottage Grove	Jennifer Levitt	City Administrator
Hugo	Bryan Bear	City Administrator
Shakopee	Steve Lillehaug	Public Works Director
Shoreview	Mark Maloney	Public Works Director
Eagan	Russ Matthys	Public Works Director
Robbinsdale	Richard McCoy	Public Works Director
Ramsey	Bruce Westby	City Engineer
St. Paul	Bruce Elder	Sewer Utility Manager, Assistant City Engineer
Bloomington	Scott Anderson	Utilities Superintendent
St. Francis	Joe Kohlmann	City Administrator
St. Paul Regional Water System	Pat Shea	General Manager
Minneapolis	Stephanie Johnson	Director, Surface Water and Sewers

## Background

The Council adopted the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan in May of 2015, which was amended in May of 2018 to incorporate additional wastewater reuse policies. The Council adopted the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan in partnership with local communities, watershed organizations and other stakeholders. Policies and strategies in the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan focus on supporting outcomes identified in the Council's current Regional Development Framework, Thrive MSP 2040, the region's overall development framework for the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The new plan is anticipated to build on the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan. The process will:

- Identify water issues, concerns, and solutions early on and throughout the process from our communities, partners, stakeholders in the region to better reflect the vision and direction needed for the region
- Optimize regional wastewater investments by aligning work with water quality, water quantity, water conservation, and water supply concerns as appropriate
- Expand the work and direction we began in the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan as directed by the needs of the region
- Foster approaches and projects that are supported by our partners that allow for growth while promoting sustainable water resources
- Coordinate activities and resource needs

The purpose of the **2050 Water Resources Policy Plan Advisory Group** is to advise and guide Council staff throughout the entire process of developing the new 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan, including the Wastewater System Plan. The Advisory Group will be responsible for advising MCES staff on the process to develop the 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan, including outreach activities needed to gather input from stakeholders and partners as well as on draft ideas and content for the new plan.

## **Rationale**

The Council is required under state law (Minn. Stat. 473.145) 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 Council is also required under state law (Minn. Stat. 473.157) to adopt a water resources plan and federal requirements (33 U.S. Code 1288) to adopt requirements for a regional management plan to address pollution from point sources and nonpoint sources. Finally, under state law (Minn. Stat. 473.1565) the Council prepares the Twin Cities metro area Master Water Supply Plan. Together these plans make up the requirements and content for the Water Resources Policy Plan. In addition to providing guidance and direction for the region related to water issues, the Water Resources Policy Plan drives the decisions we make and directs the work we do in MCES.

## **Thrive Lens Analysis**

*The 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan* supports the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship, Sustainability, Equity, Prosperity, and Livability through wise use of water, protection and restoration of water resources in the region, and efficient operation of the Council's wastewater systems.

## **Funding**

The work group's administrative costs will be small and will be managed within MCES' adopted operating budgets.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition.