

Report from the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee

Recommendations for Water Supply Planning in the Metro Area

February 9, 2022

Metropolitan Council – Information Item



MN Statutes 473.1565:

METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY PLANNING ACTIVITIES; ADVISORY COMMITTEES

By February 15, 2017, and **at least every five years thereafter**, the policy advisory committee shall report to the council, the Legislative Water Commission, and the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources with the information required under this section.

The policy advisory committee's report and recommendations must include information provided by the technical advisory committee.

Working Together

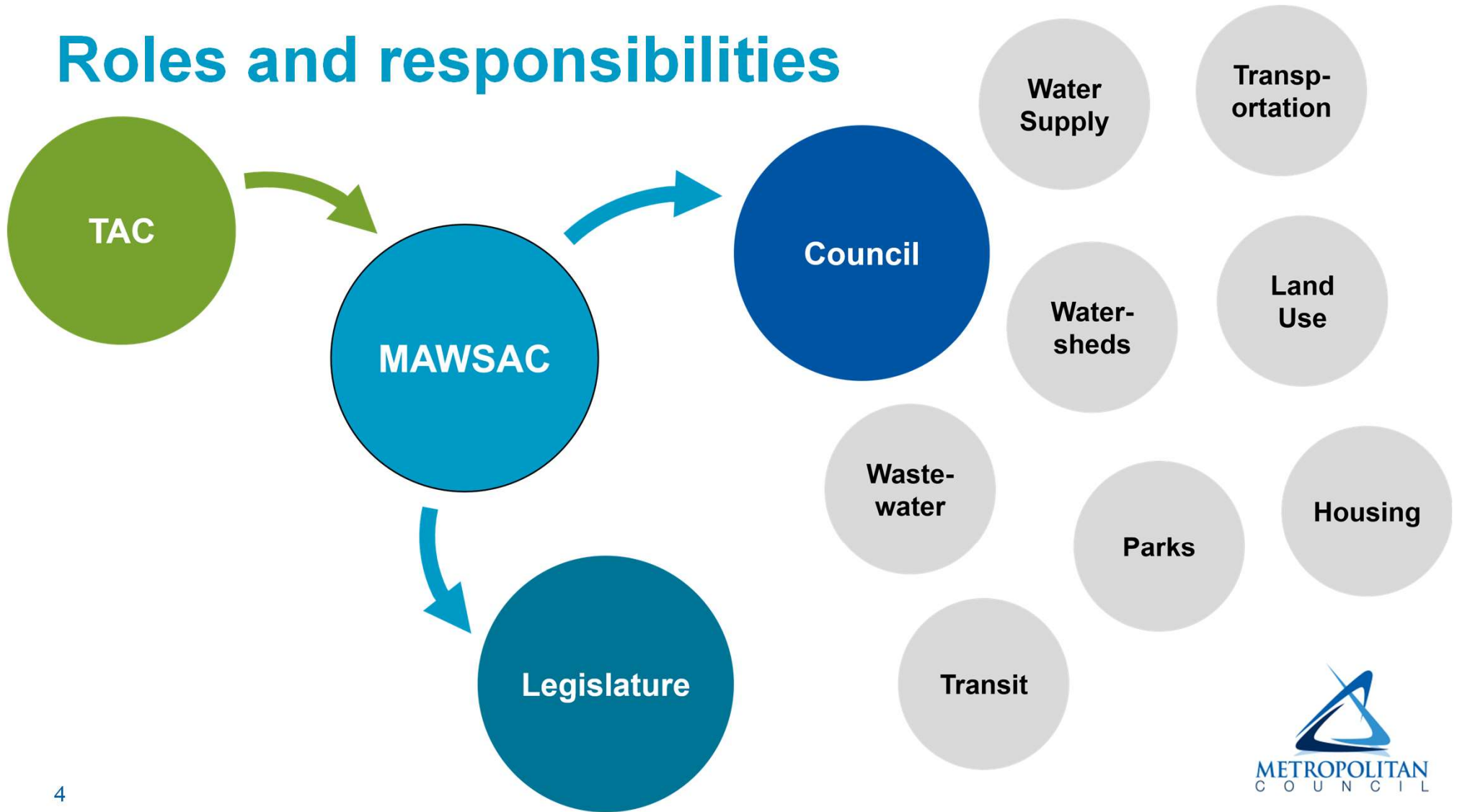


Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC)

- Informs the Council's water supply planning activities and preparation of its regional development framework
- Pools collective expertise to address increasingly complex water problems that need a collaborative approach

- MAWSAC and TAC are unique resources the Council can tap for water supply planning expertise and partnerships
- The update of the Council's regional development framework will benefit from the information in this report

Roles and responsibilities



Vision: Regional water supply sustainability



**Maximize use
of existing
infrastructure**



**Offset demand with
efficiency and
conservation**



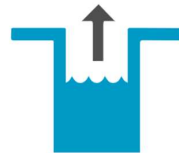
**Balance multiple
water sources to
meet demand**



**Align agency
directions**



**Recognize
uncertainty and
minimize risk**



**Maintain
groundwater
levels**



**Prevent
groundwater
contamination
spread**



**Protect surface
water flows**

Consider the following:

- Water supply goals identified in this report are essential to consider as the high-level goals for the region are developed.
- Ongoing and strong support for funding, cooperation, and education is needed.
- Policies should recognize the opportunities that our region's rich water supplies provide while also acknowledging that supplies are not unlimited.
- Coordination and accountability where community water supplies overlap is critical.
- Water-related policies specifically should consider long-term changes across all aspects of the water supply system.
- Support for local land use decisions can affect both private and public water supply infrastructure and potential contamination sources.

Focus Area Goals

- 1. Water Quality:** Communities have the resources they need to provide a safe water supply. A shared process is developed that allows communities, water utilities, and regulators to respond in a more coordinated and effective way to both contaminants of emerging concern and existing contamination.
- 2. Land Use and Water Supply Connections:** Public water suppliers, land use planners, and developers have tools and are empowered to work together to guide and support development in ways that balance communities' economic needs while protecting the quantity and quality of source waters that are vital to the region's communities.
- 3. Understand and Manage Groundwater and Surface Water Interactions:** Water resource managers, community planners, and leaders understand how groundwater and surface water interact and how those interactions impact water supply sustainability.
- 4. Water Supply Infrastructure:** Communities can act quickly, thoughtfully, and equitably to address aging infrastructure, contamination, changing groundwater conditions, changing water demand, and financial challenges.

Framework for Action



COLLABORATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Engage leaders
2. Connect to technical experts
3. Build capacity



SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

1. Describe, document and diagram
2. Assess hazards
3. Characterize risk



MITIGATION MEASURE EVALUATION

1. Identify and evaluate mitigation measures
2. Reassess and prioritize risks



PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. Establish subregional planning approach
2. Target regional guidance and incentives
3. Better prepare for the unexpected
4. Support local planning and implementation
5. Check outcomes and adapt to continuously improve

Reflecting Local Perspectives

Cleanup of existing pollution and water contamination is needed and costly. Can federal dollars be available for cleanup activities?

Let's learn from the drought this year. How can we better prepare for next time? Can we have better alignment between drought plans and water supply plans? State and local levels.

Chloride is still a big issue.

Need for water reuse, both wastewater and stormwater.

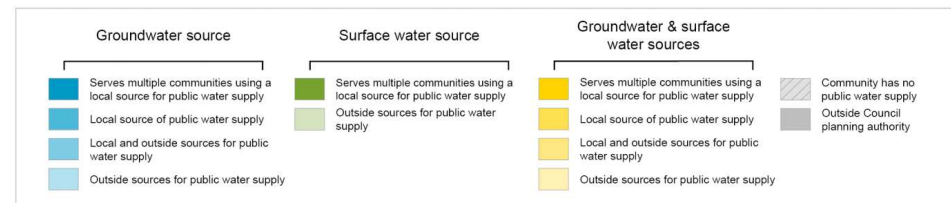
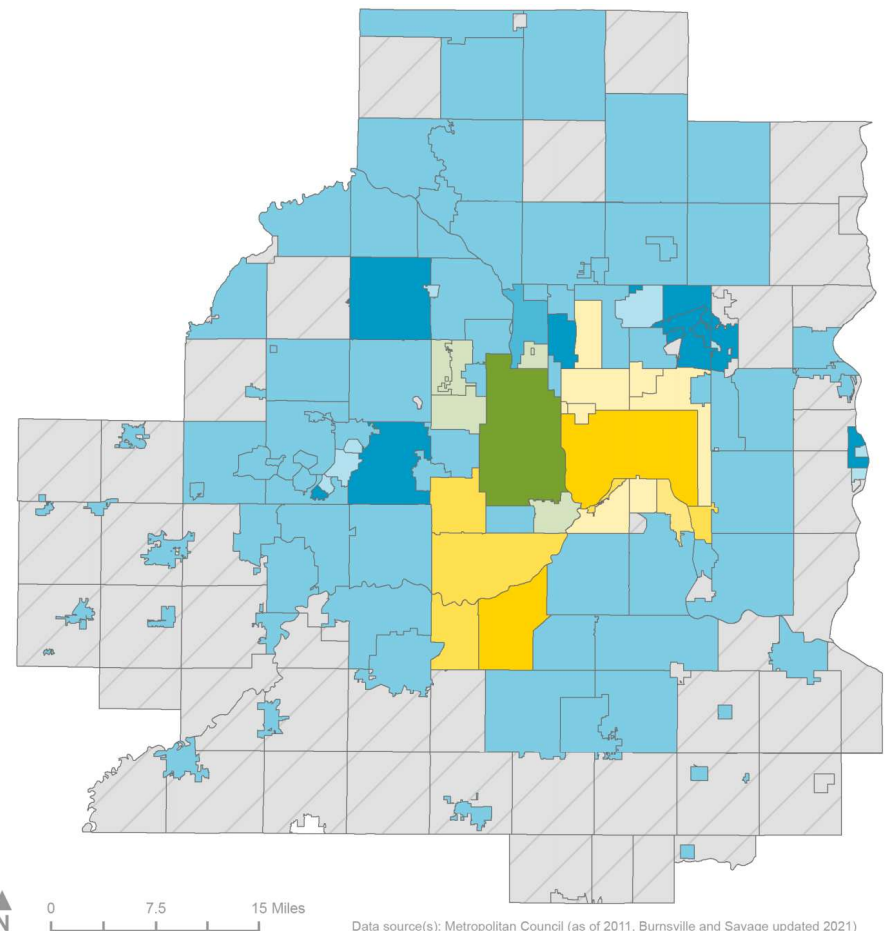
Staffing is an issue. The pool of qualified candidates is small.

We need more interagency collaboration to improve submittal requirement redundancy, pool knowledge, not duplicate efforts, and have strength in numbers.

Aging infrastructure is a huge, costly issue. Funding is needed to maintain systems. It is easier to get funding for new infrastructure than repair of existing, aged infrastructure.

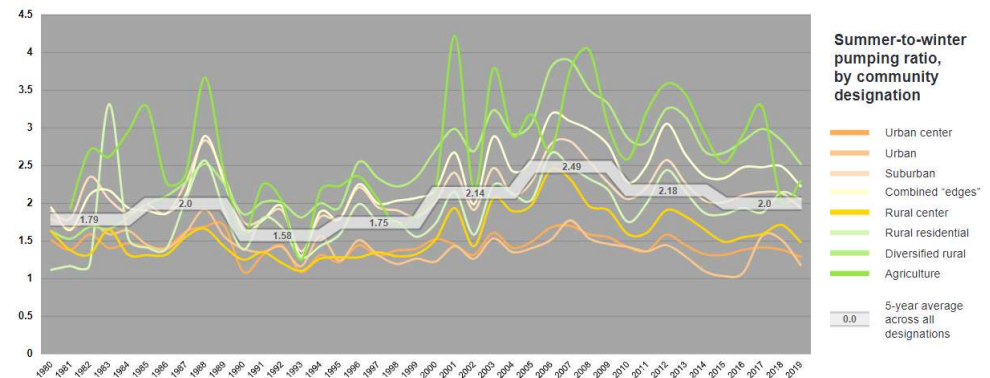
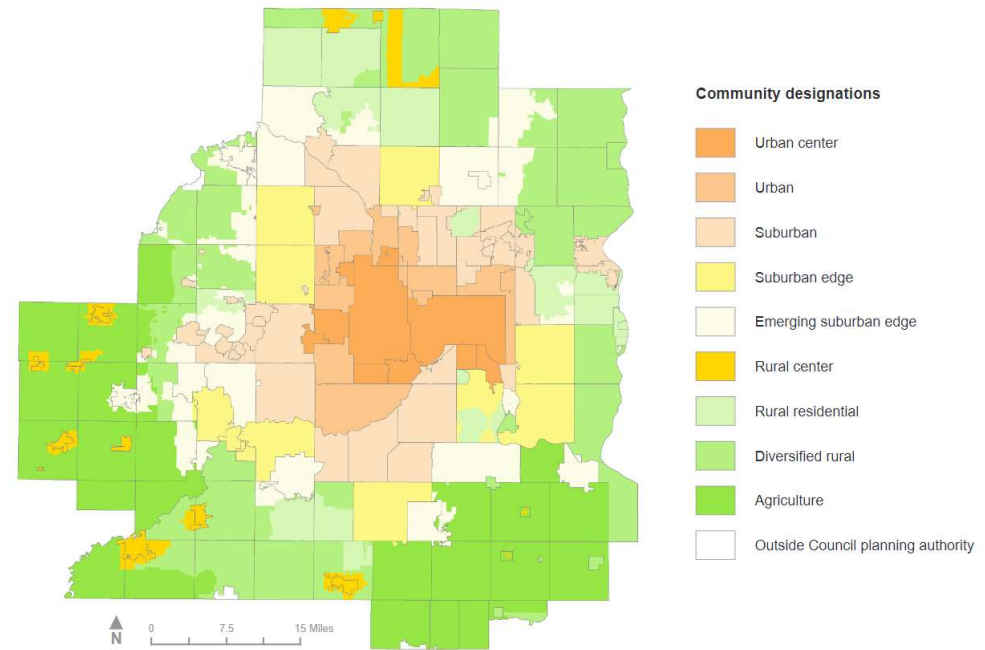
Community water sources

- Water supplies:
 - Over 100 different public water utilities
 - 60,000 private wells
- Local control and responsibility for water supply.
- Where challenges extend beyond local boundaries, regional efforts can help.



Summer versus winter water use varies by community type

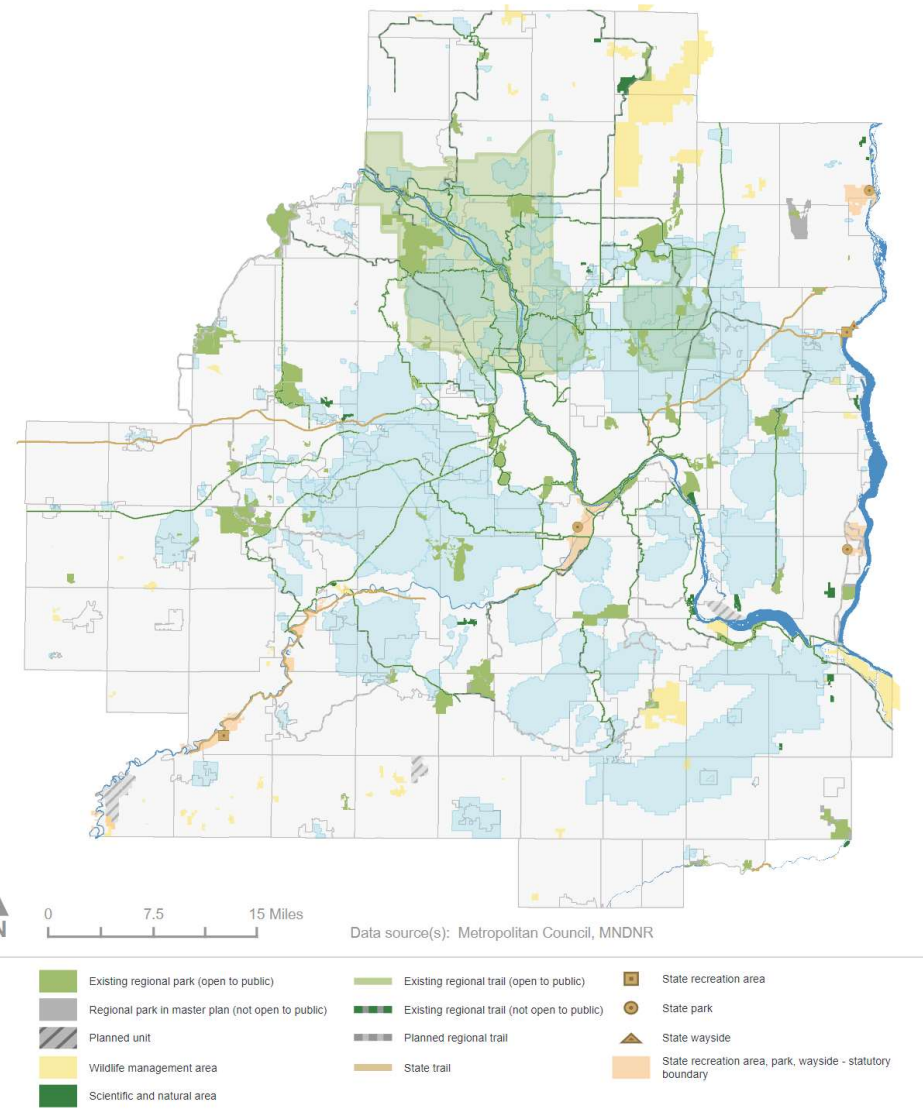
- Different types of communities have different water demand patterns and challenges.
- Opportunities to tailor regional water policy development and technical assistance



Data source(s): Metropolitan Council

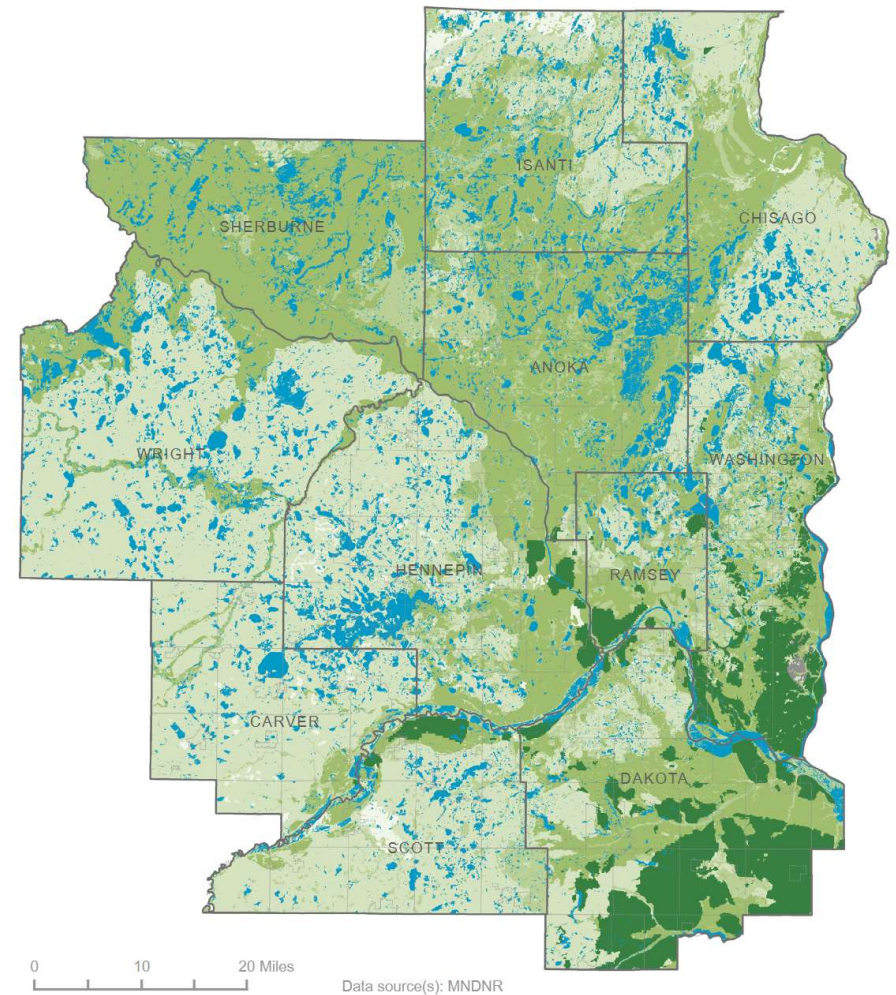
Regional parks and source water protection

- Regional and state parks and trails connect to water.
- Opportunities for water quality protection through land management and outreach and engagement.



Pollution sensitivity of the landscape

- Some areas are more sensitive to pollution.
- Opportunities to prioritize pollution prevention or remediation programs.



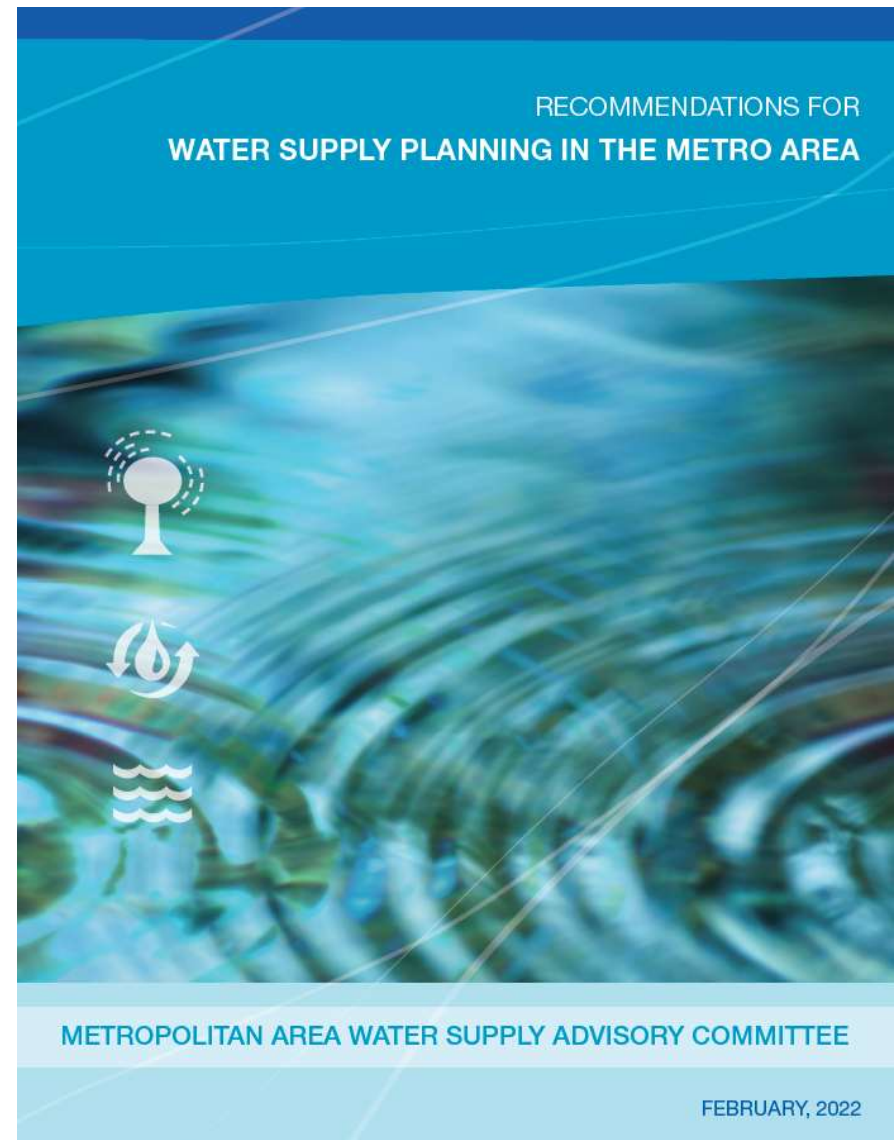
Resources

See the full report and other committee work on MAWSAC's webpage:

- <https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Water-Supply-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

Learn more about the Council's water supply planning work on the Water Supply Planning webpage:

- <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning.aspx>



Questions

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