

# Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: January 10, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-13

Appointment of MAWSAC Representative to the White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minnesota Laws 2023 ch. 60, art. 1, § 5(f); Metropolitan Council Bylaws art. I.D.5.
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Charlie Zelle, Chair Judy Sventek, Manager Water Resources, 651-602-1156
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Chair's Office

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the appointment of Phil Klein as the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee representative on the White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group.

### Background

During the 2023 legislative session, the Council was awarded \$2 million dollars to lead the White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan development. The comprehensive plan must:

1. Evaluate methods for conserving and recharging groundwater in the area including:
  1. Converting water supplies that are groundwater dependent to total or partial supplies from surface water sources;
  2. Reusing water, including water discharged from contaminated wells;
  3. Projects designed to increase groundwater recharge; and
  4. Other methods for reducing groundwater use.
2. Based on this evaluation, determine which existing groundwater supply wells, if converted to surface water sources, would be most effective and efficient in ensuring future water sustainability in the area.
3. Identify a long-term plan for converting the identified groundwater wells to surface water sources, including recommendations on water supply governance and concept-level engineering that addresses preliminary design considerations, including: supply source, treatment, distribution, operation, and financing needed to complete any changes to water supply infrastructure.
4. Include any policy and funding recommendations for converting groundwater supply wells to surface water sources, recommendations for treating and reusing wastewater,

and any other recommendations for additional measures that reduce groundwater use, promote water reuse, and increase groundwater recharge.

5. Include any policy and funding recommendations for local wastewater treatment and recharge.
6. Be submitted to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources finance and policy by June 30, 2027.

In addition, the Council is required to establish a work group consisting of the commissioners of natural resources, health, and the Pollution Control Agency or their designees and representatives from the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC); the St. Paul Regional Water Services; the cities of Stillwater, Mahtomedi, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Lino Lakes, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights, Shoreview, Woodbury, New Brighton, North Oaks, and White Bear Lake; and the town of White Bear to advise the Council in developing the comprehensive plan.

### **Rationale**

MAWSAC Chair Wendy Wulff recommended Phil Klein to serve as MAWSAC's representative on the work group because Mr. Klein is from Hugo which is one of the communities represented on the work group which makes him the best candidate for this role. Under the Council bylaws the Metropolitan Council Chair recommends to the Council for its approval members of work groups.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

The White Bear Lake Project supports the Thrive Principle of Collaboration. Council staff will lead a work group consisting of 14 members from outside the Council who will advise the Council in developing the comprehensive plan.

### **Funding**

The Council was awarded \$2 million during the 2023 legislative session to lead the White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

No small business inclusion requirement at this time.

