

## Minutes of the

### MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

#### Committee Members Present:

Sandy Rummel (Metropolitan Council); Mark Daleiden (Wright County); Terri Yearwood (DNR); Randy Ellingboe (MDH); Georg Fischer (Dakota County); Tom Furlong (Chanhassen); Katrina Kessler (PCA); Susan Morris (Isanti County); Michael Robinson (Chisago County); Steve Schneider (St. Paul Regional Water Services); Jamie Schurbon (Anoka County); Barry Stock (Savage); Jeff Berg (Department of Agriculture)

#### Committee Members Absent:

Chuck Haas (Hugo); Lisa Vollbrecht (Sherburne County)

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee to order at 10:04 a.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Schurbon, seconded by Stock to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of the minutes of the October 23, 2013 meeting will be considered at the next meeting.

#### WATER CONSERVATION AND REUSE IN THE CITY OF HUGO

Bryan Bear, Hugo City Administrator, and Jay Kennedy, Hugo City Engineer presented information to the Water Supply Advisory Committee and provided an update on ongoing water conservation efforts within the City.

The City of Hugo has developed a unique city-wide approach that involves the re-use of stormwater to meet irrigation needs within the city, and results in the reduction of the city's reliance on groundwater.

The city's objective is to reduce, reuse and replenish. The city developed water conservation guidelines and incentives for new development by converting the largest irrigation accounts to stormwater, if feasible. It also offers incentive programs for homeowners and adjusts water conservation rates as necessary to promote good water stewardship practices.

The water conservation guidelines include landscaping and water audits. Since an objective is to reduce irrigation, the use of shade trees, native landscaping and topsoil requirements are included in development agreements. By conducting water audits on industrial and residential properties the city reduces water usage and water bill amounts. The audits will begin with city properties such as buildings, parks and parkways. Conservation efforts also will include sprinkling restrictions, soil monitoring with irrigation sensors, incentive rebate program and commercial incentives. Current plumbing codes prohibit use of some of the water, and the city would like the state to consider changing some of the plumbing codes to allow for water reuse within industrial buildings. The city also believes that SAC and WAC credits would be a good incentive.

Hugo and the Rice Creek Watershed District are working collaboratively on 19 regional projects to reduce water use by reusing stormwater and infiltration.

One project that is currently under construction and will be operational this spring is Oneka Ridge Golf Course Project. This is a joint project between Hugo, Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD), BWSR, and Oneka Ridge Golf Course and is funded through Legacy Funds that were obtained by RCWD and Hugo.

There are three potential stormwater irrigation projects planned: Water's Edge, Beaver Ponds and CSAH 8 City Accounts. The preliminary estimates for capital costs are \$1M - \$1.9 M. Annual maintenance cost and cost to provide storm water for irrigation is \$0.05 - \$1.00 / 1,000 gallons.

Hugo is hoping to create a model community in the re-use of stormwater. Hugo has aggressive goals and has adopted a reuse of 100% of the stormwater run-off in its management plan that it plans to incorporate into every development project. A conservation mind set has transcended building officials, developers and the community.

Rummel asked for clarification on 'credits.' Kennedy explained that there are fees for innovative reuse of stormwater.

Robinson asked if the city will be able to use as much water as it wants. Kennedy said it will depend on precipitation. It is under construction right now. We are able to store in ditches if it is a very dry year – there is equipment that needs to be installed. If a chemical gets in there, they will be allowed to use the back up system if there is no water in the ponds.

Fischer: You indicated that the city council has established a goal of reuse up to 100% runoff. Has a minimum been established? Bear said only a maximum has been established. There is pressure to get projects in motion. Policies that deal with development are being amended now.

There was discussion on credits. Bear commented that if the city waters 3 inches a week we are only able to take credit for infiltration 1 inch per week per acre (May to Sept). There is no credit outside of that. Rather than a conservation mindset the objective is to use it. We only get credit for that first inch.

Ellingboe asked about the types of treatment techniques being used, and if water quality parameters are being looked at. Bear responded that there is sediment in the stormwater used for irrigation where the water is pumped out of the pond. Filtration is needed, and the water is tested for chemicals. As far as phosphorus, the removal is in the infiltration and not so much at the location of the pumping.

Schurbon commented that he thinks this is great. Last summer there was a workshop or a tour in the metro for stormwater reuse. He thinks that group should be enlisted. The more these projects can be promoted the better success there will be of seeing more of it.

Rummel asked if Hugo has a baseline for what run off was and what reuse is. Bear said the city can predict it as best as possible through the drainage areas. They know how much is leaving. When we talk about 100% goal, we are talking about none of it leaving. At this point, it's 10-20%. We are in the early stages of development and it's ongoing as the city develops.

Bear said that storm water reuse is not unique to Hugo. There are examples of other projects where communities are reusing water either in a similar way or in some cases even a little more innovative.

## **WATER SUPPLY PLANNING UNIT TECHNICAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

### **1. Assessing the Opportunities and Barriers for Water Conservation by Private Industrial Users**

Brian Davis, Senior Environmental Scientist, explained the scope of the project. The Council partnered with the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP), whose mission is to help Minnesota businesses develop and implement industry-tailored solutions that prevent pollution at

the source, maximize efficient use of resource, and reduce energy use and costs to improve public health and the environment. They investigated opportunities and barriers for groundwater conservation by industrial users. Important information regarding industry water conservation attitudes and practices was obtained and water conservation projects were identified that can save over 42 million gallons of groundwater per year. 84 companies were surveyed in the 11-county area. 33% of the surveys were completed, with 12 of 33 companies wanting to have an assessment done, and 14 of the 33 companies requested an intern. Survey results showed:

- 44 million gallons/year water saved at three companies with summer interns: Gedney, Michaels Foods and Federal Cartridge
- 7.9 MGY identified at seven other companies in one-day assessments
- \$360,430/year cost savings
- Three interns funded; 14 requested
- Significant interest in water conservation

In response to a question from Rummel, staff said they will find out what the capital costs are to make improvements.

Fischer asked about the criteria used to determine who was a candidate company. Staff said if a company had a well and permit for water use in the 11-county area, it was a candidate.

## 2. Metropolitan Council/City of Saint Paul Water Reuse Project

The City of Saint Paul and the Metropolitan Council are working together to reduce potable water use at the new Lowertown Ballpark. A conceptual design process is underway whereby rainwater will be harvested from the adjacent Metro Transit Green Line Operations and Maintenance Facility and used to irrigate the playing surface at the ballpark.

Schneider asked about the similarity between this and Target Field. Davis explained that Target Field takes storm water from the lower field and then treats it; in this case rainwater would come from the roof.

Rummel asked what happens in the event of drought. Davis said there is limited storage for 14,000 gallons; the city will have a back up system.

## **PROGRESS ON LEGISLATIVE REPORT ON METROPOLITAN COUNCIL WATER SUPPLY PLANNING FUNDED BY MINNESOTA CLEAN WATER FUND**

Ali Elhassan, Water Supply Planning Manager, informed the committee that the report was provided to the legislature January 15, 2014. The report provides information about how funds are being allocated, data that has been and continues to be collected, up-to-date analysis findings in the northeast metro, and work that been done and remains to be done. Committee members were encouraged to review the report.

## **WATER SUPPLY DRAFT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IN WATER RESOURCES POLICY PLAN**

William Moore, Deputy General Manager, reviewed the policy plan process and explained the strategies used in developing the Water Resources Policy Plan. The Council's Water Supply Sustainability Policy states "the Council and region will work to assure adequate and high quality ground and surface water supplies to protect public health and support economic growth and development by promoting wise use of water through optimizing surface water and ground water use, conservation, reuse, aquifer recharge, and other practices." Feedback was requested from committee members on draft policies discussed during his presentation:

- Growth

- Assessing and Protecting Water Supplies
- Cost-effectiveness and Funding
- Leadership and Regional Collaboration

Furlong asked for clarification of the role of this committee and a definition of sustainable use. Staff explained that this committee is an advisory one, and the Council considers the recommendations of the advisory committee when it prepares its regional development framework. The MN State Legislature defined sustainable use as: "...water use is sustainable when the use does not harm ecosystems, degrade water quality, or compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Comments sent to Council staff will be brought back to the committee at its next meeting.

### **MAWSAC WORKPLAN FOR 2014**

William Moore, Deputy General Manager, reviewed the workplan for the Water Resources Policy Plan, THRIVE MSP 2040, and Master Water Supply Plan.

### **COMMUNICATION TOOLS FOR MAWSAC**

Staff informed the committee if it is interested, the Council will set up an external SharePoint site that the committee can use for collaboration. The site will provide members access to updated documents and allow them to directly comment on documents. Fischer remarked that one problem he has encountered is when people do not check a document back in. The consensus of the committee is that a SharePoint site could be useful.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Susan Harder  
Recording Secretary