

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Jeffrey Berg, Dean Lotter, Steve Schneider, Jamie Schurbon, Barry Stock, Patty Acomb, Todd Gerhardt, Michael Robinson, Catherine Neuschler, Jeanne Daniels

Committee Members Absent:

Sandy Rummel, Chair, Randy Ellingboe, Glen Gerads, Susan Morris, Julie Ekman, Georg Fischer, Mark Daleiden, Lisa Volbrecht

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Rummel was unable to attend today's meeting. Per Committee by-laws, Chair Rummel named Barry Stock to Chair today's meeting in her absence.

A quorum being present, Committee Member Barry Stock called the regular meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) to order at 1:04 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2016.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee member in attendance were introduced. Welcome to new committee members Catherine Neuschler and Jeanne Daniels

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Jamie Schurbon, seconded by Dean Lotter to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Steve Schneider, seconded by Jamie Schurbon to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2016 regular meeting of the MAWSAC Committee. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. Andover Mayor's Challenge Award – Jamie Schurbon, Anoka County Conservation District

Andover won a National Water Conservation Award. The Wyland Foundation's 'National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation' is a partnership with U.S. EPA, National League of Cities, Toyota, ECOS, and two national sponsors based in Minnesota: The Toro Company and Conserva Irrigation. Andover residents made 4,913 pledges over the next year to reduce their overall water consumption by 24 million gallons of water, enough to fill 36 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Comments and Discussion

No comments or questions.

2. Legislative Water Commission – Barb Huberty, Director

The Legislative Water Commission was established to review water policy reports and recommendations of the Environmental Quality Board, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture, the Metropolitan Council, and other water-related

reports as may be required by law or the legislature. They shall make recommendations to assist the legislature in formulating legislation.

The first legislative water commission was formed by Minnesota Statute in 1989. It contained 10 members (5 from the Senate and 5 from the House. Plan was to sunset this commission in 1999; however due to State budget constraints, it was sunset July 1, 1996.

The second legislative water commission was set by Minnesota Statute that was passed in 2014. It began August 1, 2014 and will expire July 1, 2019. It currently contains 6 Republicans and 6 Democrats (6 Representatives and 6 Senators). There is a geographic representation from across the State. Co-Chairs include Senator Bev Scalze, DFL, Little Canada, District 42, and Representative Paul Torkelson, R, Hanska, District 16B. There are 12 members and 1 director.

Statutory powers and duties are to:

- Review state agencies' water policy reports and recommendations
- Gather data and comments
- Make recommendations to assist the legislature in formulating legislation
- Share data and information with Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources , Clean Water Council, and legislative standing committees upon request
- Coordinate with the Clean Water Council

An overview of presentations has included:

- Former Legislative Water Commission member and staff
- Inter-agency coordination team
- Clean Water Council
- Association of MN Counties and League of MN Cities
- Freshwater Society, MN Center for Environmental Advocacy, MN Environmental Partnership
- MN AgriGrowth Council, MN Farm Bureau, MN Farmer's Union & MN Agricultural Water Resources Center
- MN Association of Watershed Districts & MN Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Topical presentations have been provided by:

- White Bear Lake Homeowners' Association, White Bear Lake Restoration Association, DNR: White Bear Lake Agreement
- DNR: Groundwater Management Areas, buffers and buffer mapping, RD Offutt CompaND O Environmental Assessment Worksheet (pines to potatoes), water supply planning, Groundwater Thresholds Project, and County Geologic Atlas with Minnesota Geological Survey
- BWSR: One Water One Plan, buffer implementation, Prioritize Target and Measure Application (PTMApp)
- MDA: Ag Water Quality Certification Program
- Water technology industries
- LCCMR: Coordination
- Golf Course Superintendents' Association water reuse

- EQB: 2015 Water Policy Update Report
- Metropolitan Council: Master Water Supply Plan
- MDH: wellhead protection plans
- DNR, Soil & Water Conservation Districts and MN Department of Agriculture: Pineland Sands area works
- University of MN: water-ag research
- State Agencies: aging water infrastructure

Field Tours have included:

- St. Cloud area
- MN River Basin (Mapleton and Blakely)
 - Look at urban and rural water issues

Ongoing staff work includes:

- Bill tracking, review, assistance
- Weekly water updates to share news, meeting highlights, report summaries and upcoming events
- Network and attend pertinent meetings
- Organize Legislative Water Commission meetings

Legislative Water Commission Goals:

- Maintain awareness of water issues
- Improve water knowledge
- Respond to proposed legislation
- Make recommendations to assist the legislature in formulating legislation

Mandatory coordination with:

- Clean Water Council who makes funding and policy recommendations. The Legislative Water Commission coordinates with them
- MAWSAC who reports to the legislature and the Legislative Water Commission according to MN Stat 473.1565, Subd 3. Reports to Legislature.

This is accomplished by:

- Legislative Water Commission staff attending meetings and sharing updates
- Organizations providing reports and presentations

Legislative Water Commission progress and updates can be found at www.lcc.leg.mn/lwc

Comments and Discussion:

No comments or questions.

BUSINESS

1. Update Regarding TAC Meeting September 6, 2016 – Dean Lotter, MAWSAC

Mark Maloney, City of Shoreview, Public Works Director, who was named by the Technical Advisory Committee as Chair, provided the update.

A presentation was provided to the TAC group regarding the U of M Turf Grass Research for reducing water demands. Irrigation system controls topics, calibration for residential needs was shared.

TAC also has been spending time talking about stormwater reuse on reducing water demand in the Twin Cities area. Members discussed how they see a disconnect between how several state agencies talk about supporting reuse but then current permitting makes implementation on the ground difficult.

The TAC felt having a DNR representative in attendance at TAC meetings would be helpful. Jason Moeckel was suggested to be invited as that DNR representative.

2017 report to the legislature at the TAC meeting and will be discussed later in this meeting.

A joint meeting with MAWSAC and TAC was discussed as a collaborative effort to bring both groups together and set a plan for addressing upcoming topics.

Productive meeting. Looking forward to having local government perspective included in conversation and provide advice to this committee.

Comments and Discussion:

Turf grass has residential applications as well as lawn irrigation, education.

If there are suggestions TAC has for potential initiatives to focus on, they are encouraged to bring them to the attention of MAWSAC.

2. 2017 Legislative Report – Lanya Ross, Environmental Services

There is a requirement by February 15, 2017, for MAWSAC to report to the Council, the Legislative Water Commission, and legislators with information required by MN Statutes 473.1565. The report and recommendations must include information provided by the TAC. The scope and schedule for this work will be discussed.

A mock-up report was provided as a status update on the work that has been done to prepare the report. Staff shared the report is in development and will provide a high-level status update. A survey was circulated to MAWSAC and TAC members. Those who have not had a chance to complete it, were encouraged to do so and will be closing soon.

The desire of the report is to have a concise document. Key areas were identified that will be included: clearly lay out the vision for sustainable water supply and key focus areas to call attention to over the next 5 years as policies, funding proposals, etc. are developed. Three areas that have been evolving in the survey results include the importance of collaboration, the need to support reliability and support for improving technical information and keeping it up to date. Would like to provide local examples of what sustainable water supply management looks like. Other good examples are encouraged and can be provided to staff. Would like to include a road map of upcoming initiatives to be addressed in the next 5 years. Would like to provide suggested actions people can implement. Will also be reporting on water supply planning activities.

The schedule:

- Before end of November the goal is to obtain approval of content from MAWSAC.
- Before end of December the goal is to obtain approval on final content and to printer to prepare for the February deadline.

Comments and Discussion:

Looking for input and feedback on whether the process is on track or go in a different direction. Comments are appreciated. Suggestions included:

- Burnsville/Savage Collaboration – protecting groundwater, natural environmental features.
- New Brighton Contamination
- Future possible collaboration that could be brought the legislature's attention in preparation for funding requests.
- Regional subcommittees - We have several throughout the Metro area. There is a newer subregional workgroup formed in Dakota County sparked by the aquifer decline due to large growth. Looking at approaches, alternatives, feasibilities, reuse stormwater and wastewater. No specific construction projects have been planned. Carver County is trying to understand the Seminary Fen. New group getting underway in the western metro.
- Highlighting relationships with the agencies and opportunities to connect together. Brings voices beyond MAWSAC and TAC.
- Could talk about collaboration and possible obstacles.
- Links are critical. Lead in with a description on what is contained within the link.
- Streamlining the approval process.

Feedback will be compiled and shared with this committee. Other feedback can be shared with staff.

3. Regional Water Sustainability Visioning – Leisa Thompson, Environmental Services

Discussion occurred to design a workshop of the MAWSAC and TAC to align roles and support each other. MAWSAC desires to have shared goals to carry out the work of the committee and the Master Water Supply Plan. We are hearing from others to work together in collaborative efforts toward water future. Staff have begun developing a joint workshop.

Qualities – high participation opportunity for attendees, shared understanding of the current situation and connection to the history, understanding the change drivers and challenges we face if we are to change the status quo, co-create vision and strategies of what the future could look like, first actionable steps to obtain the goals.

Environmental Services has had recent experience with high participation strategic planning and are on our way to transforming to a collaborative work place. The strategic visioning process was shared which was used to create a strategic plan. Created a broad understanding of where we were going and what we wanted to do.

Timing of the workshop is to hold a half-day session sometime in November or December. Further details will be communicated as they become available.

Comments and Discussion:

Desired takeaways of a combined workshop:

- Roles of each committee/Why are we here?
- Collaboration/Cooperation
- Be able to implement something tangible/actions – something now/soon
- Agreement/Wide support
- Initiatives to support
- Tell the story – what's possible/open dialogue
 - What's happening or on the cusp of happening

- Brainstorm and categorize initiatives
- Explore problems identified
- Work needs: S.W.O.T. analysis of the region, what do we do well
- Non-municipal solutions

Next Steps: Workshop Design Team

- Would involve minimal amount of time, can be done over the phone to run through development?
- Volunteers for design team: Todd Gerhart, Dean Lotter, Mark Maloney
- Planning meetings to be scheduled

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary