

DATE: August 25, 2020

TO: Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Water Supply Policy and Technical Advisory Committees (MAWSAC and TAC)

FROM: Lanya Ross (Environmental Analyst), Metropolitan Council Water Supply Planning

SUBJECT: Metropolitan Council Report to the MN Legislature on Water Supply Planning Activities

Request to MAWSAC and TAC Members

1. Share your perspective about how water supply planning changed because of Met Council and partners' activities (guided by the committees).
2. Recommend what messages to highlight – what should your legislators and Council members know so that they are more informed when you communicate with them?

Background

In 2005, the Metropolitan Council was directed by Minnesota Statute § 473.1565 to carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the metropolitan area. The Metropolitan Council fulfills this role by developing and maintaining a base of technical information; developing and periodically updating a metropolitan area master water supply plan; and making recommendations for clarifying roles and responsibilities, streamlining decision-making and approval processes, and funding.

The Metropolitan Council does this work in consultation with Metropolitan Area Water Supply Policy and Technical Advisory Committees (MAWSAC and TAC) and in collaboration with municipalities in the metro area.

The Metropolitan Council submits reports to the legislature regarding its findings, recommendations, and planning activities to be included in the Minnesota Water Plan, and five-year interim reports are provided as necessary.

Target Audiences

- MN Legislature, particularly the Legislative Water Commission and committees/divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources
- Metropolitan Council members
- Interested public

Proposed Report Outline

This report will summarize findings, recommendations, and continuing planning activities done since 2005 to address the water supply needs of the metropolitan area.

Metropolitan Council's activities have included: development and maintenance of a base of technical information; development and periodic update of a metropolitan area master water supply plan; recommendations for clarifying roles and responsibilities; streamlining and consolidating metropolitan area water supply decision-making and approval processes; and funding of metropolitan area water supply planning activities and capital investments.

The proposed report outline is as follows:

- 1) **Background information** (regional water supply context; partners)
- 2) **Master water supply plan**
- 3) **Technical information** (projects and programs)
- 4) **Recommendations** (roles & responsibilities, decision-making & approval processes, funding)
- 5) **Outcomes & case studies** (what was the water supply picture in 2005 versus 2020?)
 - a. Better understanding of shared resources and challenges
 - b. Successful sub-regional collaborative platform to advance water sustainability goals
 - c. Better management/long-term resiliency of shared resources
 - d. More resources focused on regional water supply challenges
 - e. Better equipped to pursue next steps