

Minutes of the

JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

MAWSAC and TAC Committee Members Present:

Wendy Wulff; Jeff Berg, Mark Daleiden, John Gleason, Valerie Grover, Annika Bankston, Mike Huang, Phil Klein, Brad Larson, Catherine Neuschler, Jamie Schurbon, Tonya West-Hafner, Mark Maloney, Scott Anderson, Kristin Asher, John Dustman, Robert Ellis, Dale Folen, Maat Saam, Jim Stark, Ray Wuolo

MAWSAC and TAC Committee Members Absent:

Sandeep Burman, Susan Morris, Michael Robinson, Patrick Shea, Lisa Volbrecht, Kevin Watson, Crystal Ng, Jason Moeckel, Jamie Wallerstedt, Bruce Westby, Jim Westerman

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Wulff called the joint workshop of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to order at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 with the following roll call:

MAWSAC

Aye: 12 Wendy Wulff; Jeff Berg, Mark Daleiden, John Gleason, Valerie Grover, Annika Bankston, Mike Huang, Phil Klein, Brad Larson, Catherine Neuschler, Jamie Schurbon, Tonya West-Hafner

Absent: 6 Sandeep Burman, Susan Morris, Michael Robinson, Patrick Shea, Lisa Volbrecht, Kevin Watson

TAC

Aye: 9 Mark Maloney, Scott Anderson, Kristin Asher, John Dustman, Robert Ellis, Dale Folen, Maat Saam, Jim Stark, Ray Wuolo

Absent: 5 Jason Moeckel, Crystal Ng, Jamie Wallerstedt, Bruce Westby, Jim Westerman

Governor Walz notice was read at the beginning of the meeting as follows:

NOTICE: Governor Walz has declared a peacetime emergency (Emergency Executive Order 20-01) in response to COVID-19 and the Metropolitan Council Chair has determined it is not practical or prudent to conduct an in-person Metropolitan Council meeting for reasons stated in the Governor's Emergency Executive Order. Accordingly, Metropolitan Council members will participate in this meeting via telephone or other electronic means and the Metropolitan Council meeting will be conducted under Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021 at the date and time stated above. This [meeting will be streamed live and recorded](#). We encourage you to monitor the meeting remotely. If you have comments, I encourage members of the public to email us at public.info@metc.state.mn.us. We will respond to your comments in a timely manner.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Without objection agenda was approved.

INFORMATION

1. 2021-2022 Work Plan Process and Proposal

The proposed MAWSAC and TAC 2021-2022 work plan was presented, and committee members were asked to review and provide input. This work plan,

shaped by committee member input, will guide the committees' business and meeting agendas in 2021 and into 2022. This work plan is designed to support the committees' responsibility to produce, by 2022, a set of recommendations and supporting information around high-priority water supply topics to support the update of the regional development guide and related policy plans. The timing of the topics may shift, especially given uncertainties during Covid-19 pandemic. Committee chairs may modify the work plan when approving agendas.

Comments / Questions:

Staff asked committee members to share questions, responses to the proposed work plan.

Committee member Larson shared some of the experience in Savage partnering with Burnsville to develop a surface water source of drinking water (Kraemer Quarry) in order to protect sensitive resources like Boiling Springs, Eagle Creek, and Savage Fen. He noted serious concerns with landfills adjacent to the quarry and risks of drinking water contamination, specifically PFAS contamination. Could this type of situation (landfill risks to water supply) be addressed by the committees as they draft content and recommendations in the area of contamination and water quality?

Staff indicated that this could be addressed in the first set of meetings on Contamination and Water Quality and asked Committee Members to send specifics of what they would like to address at that meeting to staff via email.

Committee member Neuschler shared in the meeting chat that the MPCA just released a PFAS Blueprint that has a lot of information about potential policy paths for PFAS (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/minnesotas-pfas-blueprint>). She added that the cited report - Evaluation of Emerging Contaminant Data at Solid Waste Facilities - is available at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/Evaluation-of-Emerging-Contaminant-Data-at-Solid-Waste-Facilities_02132020.pdf.

Committee member Burman shared in the meeting chat that information on MDH's statewide PFAS monitoring at public water supplies can be found at: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/factsheet/pfasprojects.pdf>

Committee member Daleiden shared concern around chloride and possible approaches such as education needed or the possibility of investing in new equipment for more efficient road salt application. Chair Wulff added that water softeners are also a concern related to chloride in our water cycle. Committee member Stark noted that several bills have been introduced at the Legislature related to chloride applicators and water softeners. Council staff noted that the work plan may or may not focus specifically on examples and issues raised in the meeting today. Results of the work plan meetings may also support and strengthen existing responses and recommendations to these examples and issues raised.

Committee member Anderson brought up the ongoing work in the West Metro regarding a joint wellhead protection plan and asked how that fits into the work plan. Council staff shared that this project is in its beginning stages and looking at areas where one community's wellhead protection zone is outside the community's jurisdictional zone. As an example, this issue could fall under the Land Use & Water Supply and Contamination and Water Quality work plan topics. Council staff emphasized that these water supply topics are not siloed and may fall under multiple work plan topics.

Chair Maloney highlighted that one of the most important ways that the Council adds value to water supply work in the region is by serving as a convener to bring local governments together. Creating a safe place for challenging conversations about water issues should be part of all recommendations.

Committee member Huang promoted the committees' collaboration with other groups around water supply challenges because often the root cause of contamination, for example, is in an area outside of the water supply sector. In the meeting chat, he shared examples of groups to connect with: transportation, agriculture, watershed, DNR (i.e. fish/invasive species/milfoil reduction).

2. Interactive Meeting Tool Demonstration

Council staff introduced and demonstrated Mural, an online digital workspace similar to a whiteboard for visual collaboration. This is an example of the new tools the Council is exploring to support committee work during virtual meetings. A link was shared with committee members to explore this tool and staff demonstrated the Mural website functionality.

Comments / Questions:

Some committee members expressed familiarity of this tool and supported the use.

3. Government Affairs and Legislative Update

Staff alerted committee members about the new process from Governor's Office for filling vacant committee positions. Details about the Secretary of State's Open Appointments process: (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/boards-commissions/>). Staff are working to fill six (6) positions for members whose terms have ended. Members whose terms have expired will remain active committee members until their replacement or reappointment has been finalized. An update was also provided regarding the Metropolitan Council Clean Water Fund request to support the water demand reduction/efficiency grant program and the metropolitan area water supply sustainability support program. The impact of covid-19 pandemic response was discussed.

Comments / Questions:

Staff shared that the Met Council report on 2005-2020 water supply planning activities includes a summary of the Council's Clean Water Fund appropriation history (page 18): <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Publications-And-Resources/WATER-SUPPLY-PLANNING/REPORTS-TO-THE-LEGISLATURE/Water-Supply-Planning-in-the-Twin-Cities-Metropoli.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Joint Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee Workshop of March 23, 2021.

Susan Taylor & Jinger Pulkrabek
Recording Secretaries