

Information Item

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: November 14, 2023

Topic

Three Plans Coordination Update

District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute 473.1565
Staff Prepared/Presented: Jen Kader, Senior Planner, 651-602-1114

Background

Minnesota Departments of Health (MDH) and Natural Resources (DNR) and Metropolitan Council (MC) are all responsible for supporting the region's diverse water supply stakeholders. One of the primary ways these organizations do this is by directing communities and public water suppliers to develop and implement local plans that sustainably manage water supplies. Each organization has a different focus, different planning timelines, and different staff and financial capacities, but all are closely related.

Water supply stakeholders have repeatedly requested more agency coordination and streamlined or consolidated planning processes. DNR, MC, and MDH also recognize there are opportunities to better leverage one another's roles and resources to advance the shared goal of sustainable water supplies.

Purpose: Enhanced agency coordination for water supply

This effort is intended to set a clear vision for what DNR, MC, and MDH can do together through their local planning responsibilities to secure a safe and sustainable water supply—for today and for future generations. In addition to a shared vision, this effort will also clarify roles and functions for each organization and establish a structure to ensure coordinated local planning efforts.

This work focuses on three water supply-related planning efforts, plus other relevant planning efforts:

1. Local comprehensive plans
2. Wellhead protection plans
3. Local water supply plans

High-level work plan

- What is (August-December 2023)
 - Codify current agency water supply missions, planning requirements
 - ID overlaps, gaps, key challenges, and opportunities for improvement
 - Establish list of internal and external stakeholders, solicit feedback
- What could be (January-April 2024)
 - Draft possible solutions/proposed approaches informed by stakeholder input
- What will be (April-June 2024)
 - Determine final adjustments
 - Develop shared guidance, tools to support coordination of planning efforts

Additional information was shared with TAC at their 10/10/2023 meeting ([link to presentation](#)).