

# Business Item 2024-01

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: April 9, 2024

## Topic

Proposed 2024-2025 MAWSAC-TAC Work Plan

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minnesota Statute 473.1565
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Lanya Ross, Environmental Analyst, 651-602-1803
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Environmental Services, Water Resources

## Background

The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) is responsible for assisting the Council in its water supply planning work. MAWSAC's work will be supported by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The Metropolitan Council is in the process of updating regional policies and plans, which will then shape the update of local comprehensive plans. In 2024, MAWSAC (with TAC input) has a critical role in approving the Metro Area Water Supply Plan, which is a piece of the regional Water Policy Plan. In 2025, MAWSAC and TAC will provide important guidance about local planning assistance for water supply planning – outreach, planning tools, and implementation resources needed for plan implementation.

The Council plans to hold meetings in person. Proposed committee meeting schedule and outcomes for 2024 and 2025:

- **January 9, 2024:** Joint MAWSAC-TAC meeting for year-end evaluation and 2024-2025 work plan. Input on water sustainability projects of interest for 2024-2025, with emphasis on what is needed in advance of the MWSP.
- **February 29, 2024:** Workshop to review and revise the draft MWSP based on stakeholder input. Provide feedback on WPP content.
- **Spring 2024:** Final input on MWSP before public comment period. Begin discussing information and tools needed to support local planning efforts.
- **Summer 2024:** Approve the release of the draft MWSP with the WPP for public review. Continue discussing tools that may be useful for local planning efforts.
- **Fall 2024:** Approve MWSP (revised based on public comments) and support Council adoption of WPP. Prepare launch of new tools. May include additional joint meeting.
- **Winter 2025:** Joint MAWSAC-TAC meeting for year-end evaluation and 2025-2026 work plan.
- **Spring 2025:** Support development of information and tools to support local planning efforts, such as early input on water supply content in Council system statements.
- **Summer 2025:** Continue supporting development of information and tools to support local

planning efforts.

- **Fall 2025:** Continue supporting development of information and tools to support local planning efforts, including outreach about water supply content in Council system statements and the PlanIt program.
- **Winter 2026:** Joint MAWSAC-TAC meeting for year-end evaluation and 2026-2027 work plan.

### 2024-2025 Work Plan Goals

At the end of 2024, the committees will have shaped and approved an updated Metro Area Water Supply Plan. This plan will guide state, regional, and local resources toward their shared water supply goals.

At the end of 2025, the committees will have influenced information and tools to support the implementation of regional water supply plans and support local plan updates and implementation.

The MAWSAC/TAC work plan supports the Council's long-range water supply planning function. In general, the decadal planning cycle includes these phases:

- Year 0-2: Technical analysis and engagement
- Year 2-4: Policy research and development
- Year 5: Regional plan adoption and outreach
- Year 6-8: Local assistance
- Year 9: Plan review and analysis



Committee work will be shaped by input from subregional water supply work groups and build on the recommendations and information in their February 2022 report to the Metropolitan Council and MN Legislature: (<https://metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Publications-And-Resources/WATER-SUPPLY-PLANNING/REPORTS-TO-THE-LEGISLATURE/2022-MAWSAC-Recommendations-for-Water-Supply-Plann.aspx>).

### Roles and Expectations

- **Committee chairs** support committee goals and outcomes by guiding work plan development, leading meetings to achieve outcomes, and encouraging member participation.
- **Committee members**
  - Review materials that are sent out beforehand. *Council staff will strive to send materials a week in advance.*
  - Participate in the meetings – based on experience and knowledge, they share guidance and information with fellow members and Council staff to incorporate into draft reports, support letters to legislators or agencies, and/or project scoping, as appropriate. *Council staff will try to design meetings in ways to allow contribution in multiple ways for different communication/learning styles.*
- **Council staff** draft meeting materials based on work plan and committee chair guidance, provide administrative support and facilitation during meetings, help to implement relevant committee recommendations, and share information as requested.

### 2024-2025 Meeting Schedule & Topics

The timing and topics may shift as needed. Committee chairs may modify the work plan when approving agendas. As opportunities for meetings on emerging water supply issues arise, staff may reach out and invite interested committee members to advise on issues as appropriate.

The proposed meeting schedule is based on committee member input in January 2024. Most prefer to meet on Wednesday afternoons during the first or second week of the month; meeting over the lunch hour is an option. Annual or semi-annual joint meetings of MAWSAC and TAC are preferred.

Joint meetings in the Spring and Fall of 2024 have been included to accommodate the formal public review process and adoption schedule for the Regional Development Guide and related Water Resources Policy Plan. The 2024-2025 work plan may be revised based on direction from committee chairs and from committee member input.

2024 Meeting Dates	Meeting Purpose and Objectives (Topics)
<p><b>WINTER</b></p> <p><b>Tues., Jan. 9, 2024</b></p> <p>MAWSAC &amp; TAC</p> <p>12-3 pm</p> <p><i>In person</i></p> <p><i>(no live stream)</i></p>	<p><b>Purpose: Year-end evaluation (joint meeting) to recap what has been done so far and identify next steps</b></p> <p>Joint MAWSAC-TAC meeting for year-end evaluation and 2024-2025 work plan. This meeting will include soliciting committee input on water sustainability projects of interest for 2024-2025, with emphasis on what is needed in advance of the MWSP.</p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have documentation summarizing how MAWSAC and TAC influenced RDG, WPP, MWSP, and other regional plans and projects in 2023</li> <li>2. Have documentation summarizing engagement of subregional water supply work groups in 2023</li> <li>3. Provide input to committee work plan for 2024</li> <li>4. Demand Projections input</li> <li>5. 3 plans coordination project input</li> <li>6. Water Efficiency Grant Program input</li> </ol>
2024 Meeting Dates	Meeting Purpose and Objectives (Topics)





<p><b>SPRING</b>  <b>Tues., Mar. 12, 2024</b>  <i>TAC</i>  <b>Tues., Apr. 9, 2024</b>  <i>MAWSAC</i></p> <p><i>12-3 pm</i></p>	<p><b>Purpose: Review and revise the draft MWSP, including forecast related content</b></p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be updated by MDH about the draft Minnesota Drinking Water Plan and how the committees' and subregional input to the MWSP is also informing that work. Review and comments on that plan will be invited (MAWSAC meeting only).</li> <li>2. Be updated on the regional forecasts</li> <li>3. Support the formal public comment process by engaging their own organizations and communities and by providing input on effectively engaging other water supply stakeholders. Key plan approval-related milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal public comment period (planned for 8/15 – 10/7)</li> <li>• Public hearing (planned for 9/25)</li> <li>• Public comment report (planned to post by mid-December)</li> <li>• Met Council adoption of complete plan (2/12/25)</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Review draft water supply-related policies in the 2050 WPP</li> <li>5. Review draft MWSP and input from subregional workshop, and identify any changes before release for public review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAC focus on technical content and feasibility of strategies</li> <li>• MAWSAC focus on aligning state and local priorities, clarifying roles and strengthening inter-organizational collaboration</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Be updated on the 3 Plans coordination between Met Council, MDH, and the DNR.</li> </ol> <p>Note: Information needs identified in these discussions will be shared with Council Water Resources Assessment staff to consider as they update their work plan/strategic 5-year plan.</p>
<p><b>SPRING</b>  <b>Wed., May 15, 2024</b>  <i>MAWSAC &amp; TAC</i>  <i>12-3 pm</i></p>	<p><b>Purpose: Review and revise the draft MWSP, including forecast and demand-related content</b></p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review revised draft MWSP and ensure that feedback they heard from their organizations and stakeholders is reflected. If not, identify additional changes needed before the plan is released for public review in August.</li> <li>2. Provide input on DNR-MDH-MC approach to coordinate local water supply plan review processes.</li> </ol>
<p><b>2024 Meeting Dates</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting Purpose and Objectives (Topics)</b></p>

<p><b>SUMMER</b>  <b>Tues., Jun. 18, 2024</b>  <i>TAC</i>  <b>Wed., July 10, 2024</b>  <i>MAWSAC</i></p> <p><i>12-3 pm</i></p>	<p><b>Purpose: Approve release of the MWSP for public review</b></p> <p>These meetings will focus on approving the release of the draft MWSP with the WPP for public review. As time allows, committees will also continue discussing tools that may be useful for local planning efforts.</p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recommend Council release draft MWSP with the WPP and the rest of the RDG for public review             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAC recommends that MAWSAC release the draft</li> <li>• MAWSAC recommends the Council release the draft</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Commit to support public engagement process such as informational meetings and direct updates/requests for input to their organizations/stakeholders.</li> <li>3. Continue to provide input on DNR-MDH-MC approach to coordinate local water supply plan review processes</li> </ol>
<p><b>FALL</b>  <b>Wed. Oct. 23, 2024</b>  <i>MAWSAC &amp; TAC</i></p> <p><i>12-3 pm</i></p>	<p><b>Purpose: Begin to review responses to public comment on MWSP and identify any changes needed to support adoption with WPP</b></p> <p>The focus of this meeting will be the review of public comments and proposed responses, to support a revised MWSP that MAWSAC is comfortable approving as part of the Council’s adoption of WPP. As time allows, it will also focus on preparing for the launch of new tools.</p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review and advise on the Council’s proposed responses to water supply-related review comments, to support public comment report</li> <li>2. If no substantial changes needed, MAWSAC will approve the revised MWSP (with any committee-identified changes) and recommend Council adoption</li> </ol>
<p><b>WINTER</b>  <b>Wed., Dec. 11, 2024</b>  <i>MAWSAC &amp; TAC</i></p> <p><i>12-3 pm</i></p>	<p><b>Purpose: Continue to review responses to public comment on MWSP and identify any changes needed to support adoption with WPP</b></p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to review and advise on the Council’s proposed responses to water supply-related review comments, to support public comment report.</li> </ol> <p>MAWSAC will approve the revised MWSP (with any committee-identified changes) and recommend Council adoption.</p>

<p><b>2025 Meeting Dates</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting Purpose and Objectives (Topics)</b></p>
----------------------------------	---



<p><b>WINTER</b>  <b>Wed, Jan. 15, 2025</b>          MAWSAC &amp; TAC</p> <p>12-3 pm</p>	<p><b>Purpose: Year-end evaluation (joint meeting) to recap what has been done so far and identify next steps</b></p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have documentation summarizing how MAWSAC and TAC influenced RDG, WPP, MWSP, and other regional plans and projects in 2024</li> <li>2. Have documentation summarizing engagement of subregional water supply work groups in 2024 and planned engagement for 2025-2028.</li> <li>3. Provide input to committee work plan for 2025-2026, which will shift to focus on implementation of the MWSP and support for local technical assistance.</li> </ol>
<p><b>SPRING</b>  <b>Wed., Mar. 12, 2025</b>          TAC  <b>Wed., Apr. 9, 2025</b>          MAWSAC</p> <p>12-3 pm</p>	<p><b>Purpose: Provide input on proposed scopes of work to implement the updated MWSP, including local technical assistance</b></p> <p>Meetings in 2025 will focus on preparing for the launch of new tools to support regional, subregional, and local plan implementation.</p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide input on water supply content for Council’s system statements, which guide local plan updates.</li> <li>2. Provide input on proposed scopes of work for priority projects to implement the MWSP (regional and subregional).</li> </ol>
<p><b>SUMMER</b>  <b>Wed., Jun. 11, 2025</b>          TAC  <b>Wed., Jul. 9, 2025</b>          MAWSAC</p> <p>12-3 pm</p>	<p><b>Purpose: Provide input on proposed scopes of work to implement the updated MWSP, including local technical assistance</b></p> <p>Meetings in 2025 will focus on preparing for the launch of new tools to support regional, subregional, and local plan implementation.</p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide final input on water supply content for Council’s system statements, which guide local plan updates</li> <li>2. Provide input on proposed scopes of work for priority projects to implement the MWSP (regional and subregional)</li> <li>3. Provide input on water supply guidance and information to include in the updated Local Planning Handbook and PlanIt program</li> </ol>
<p><b>2025 Meeting Dates</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting Purpose and Objectives (Topics)</b></p>

<p><b>FALL</b>  <b>Wed., Sep. 10, 2025</b>  <i>TAC</i>  <b>Wed. Oct. 15, 2025</b>  <i>MAWSAC</i></p> <p><i>12-3 pm</i></p>	<p><b>Purpose: Provide input on proposed scopes of work to implement the updated MWSP, including local technical assistance</b></p> <p>Meetings in 2025 will focus on preparing for the launch of new tools to support regional, subregional, and local plan implementation.</p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support messaging to water supply stakeholders around the Council release of system statements, which guide local plan updates</li> <li>2. Provide input on proposed scopes of work for priority projects to implement the MWSP (regional and subregional)</li> <li>3. Promote water supply guidance and information to include in the updated Local Planning Handbook and PlanIt program</li> </ol>
<p><b>WINTER</b>  <b>Wed. Dec. 10, 2025</b>  <i>MAWSAC &amp; TAC</i></p> <p><i>12-3 pm</i></p>	<p><b>Purpose: Year-end evaluation (joint meeting)</b></p> <p>Committee members will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have documentation about their influence on the implementation of the MWSP in 2025</li> <li>2. Provide input to committee work plan for 2026-2027, to support the ongoing implementation of the MWSP including update of local plans</li> </ol>

