

Business Item 2024-02

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: April 9, 2024

Topic

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Appointment Working Group

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute 473.1565

Staff Prepared/Presented: Greg Johnson, Principal Engineer, 651-602-1016

Division/Department: Environmental Services

Background

This memorandum provides a summary of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) selection process for appointing new Metro Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members. It includes a summary of TAC responsibilities and membership requirements in statute, the current membership including vacancies, the applications received for TAC to date, and staff's recommendations for MAWSAC to appoint additional members to TAC.

Minnesota Statutes 473.1565, Subdivision 2a

A Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee is established to inform the policy advisory committee's work by providing scientific and engineering expertise necessary to provide the region an adequate and sustainable water supply. The technical advisory committee consists of 15 members appointed by the policy advisory committee, with the majority of members representing single-city and multicity public water supply systems in the metropolitan area and including experts in:

- (1) water resources analysis and modeling;*
- (2) hydrology; and*
- (3) the engineering, planning, design, and construction of water systems or water systems finance.*

Current membership including vacancies

The TAC membership currently includes the following 10 technical experts:

1. Scott Anderson, Chair – City of Bloomington
2. Kristin Asher – City of Richfield
3. John Dustman – Summit Envirosolutions
4. Robert Ellis – City of Eden Prairie
5. Dale Folen – City of Minneapolis
6. Elizabeth Kaufenberg – MPCA
7. Matt Saam – City of Apple Valley
8. Jim Stark – LCC Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy

9. Jim Westerman – City of Woodbury
10. Ray Woulo – Barr Engineering

There are five vacancies.

Given the statutory requirement that the majority of TAC members must represent single-city and multicity public water supply systems in the metropolitan area, eight members must represent these systems. Currently, only six current members represent this sector. Therefore, at least two additional members should be appointed by MAWSAC who represent single-city and multicity public water systems to provide this majority.

TAC applications received as of April 9, 2024

Six applications have been received to date for TAC from the following individuals:

1. John Chikkala – Environmental Engineer with MPCA
2. Rich Hibbard – Engineering Division Manager with St. Paul Regional Water Services
3. John McDaris – Geoscience Education Associate with Carlton College
4. Karla Peterson – Chief Engineer/Technical Advisor with MDH
5. Seng Thongvanh – Utilities Director with the City of Savage
6. Tom Wesolowski – Public Works Director with the City of Shoreview

Staff recommendation

Staff recommend the MAWSAC Chair establish a TAC Appointment Working Group to review the applications received for TAC and make recommendations to MAWSAC for filling the five TAC vacancies, in accordance with the following MAWSAC Bylaws Article 4 - Committees and Working Groups:

The Chair will create a TAC Appointment Working Group consisting of 3 MAWSAC members, 1 Council staff member, and 1 Metro Cities staff member. The TAC Appointment Working Group will make recommendations to MAWSAC on TAC member selection and TAC governance.

The following selection criteria should be considered in this process:

Statutory requirements

- At least two of the five open positions should be filled by individuals who represent single-city and multicity public water supply systems, to provide a committee majority from this sector to comply with the statute.
- Members should have experience in water resources analysis and modeling; hydrology; and/or the engineering, planning, design, and construction of water systems or water systems finance.

MAWSAC selection considerations by past TAC Appointment Working Groups:

- Diversity in backgrounds, experience
- Geographic distribution

Additional applications, if received, will be forwarded to the TAC Appointment Working Group to consider for appointments.