

Minutes

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee



Meeting date: July 10, 2024

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

MAWSAC members present:

- Chair, Wendy Wulff, Met Council
- Jeff Berg, Dept of Agriculture
- Sandeep Burman, MDH
- Ellen Considine, DNR
- Valerie Nepl, Dakota County

- Mike Huang, City of Chaska
- Phil Klein, City of Hugo
- Todd Blomstrom, SPRWS
- Kevin Watson, Vadnais Heights
- Brad Larson, City of Savage

- Annika Bankston, Minneapolis
- Erik Smith, MPCA

= present

Call to order

No quorum being present, MAWSAC Acting Committee Chair Klein called the meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee to order at 12:05 p.m.

Agenda approved

Committee Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Business items

1. Committee Administration (Lanya Ross 651-602-1803)

Jen Kader reviewed the timeline of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan (MWSP) update process and summarized the progress, accomplishments so far, and next steps on the timeline. Ross gave an overview of the goals and activities for the meeting.

2. Metro Area Water Supply Plan update and MAWSAC discussion (Lanya Ross 651-602-1803, Jen Kader 651-206-1114)

Ross summarized the comments received from MAWSAC/TAC members and the associated changes that were made to the draft MWSP and draft Water Policy Plan since MAWSAC and TAC last met.

Committee members offered feedback and suggestions on the following specific areas of the plan which Ross noted in the draft document:

- Funding for regional water supply planning
- Regional Water Supply action plan
- Management Considerations
- Definition of success for water supply planning:
- Water Quality
- Land Use and Water supply connections:
- Performance Measures
- Appendices

At 1:02pm, the committee achieved quorum with the arrival of Brad Larson. Chair Wolf arrived at 1:30pm. Ross thanked the committee for their commitment to water supply planning.

It was moved by Neppl, seconded by Klein to recommend the Environment Committee and Metropolitan Council release the Draft Metropolitan Area Water Supply Plan, including the changes identified at this meeting, for public review along with the 2050 Water Policy Plan. **Motion carried.**

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Klein, seconded by Huang to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024, joint meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Information items and committee work

1. Summer Intern Update: Met Council guidance for local plan updates and review (Claudia Guillot-Wallace 612-504-7271)

Guillot-Wallace introduced herself and summarized her internship project including creation of a database of local controls to support water efficiency. The database will be categorized by land use designation and be accessible to communities as a resource.

Guillot-Wallace requested the committee share examples of model ordinances or other tools or controls that promote sustainable water use to showcase for the database. Neppl noted that soil health would be such an area to highlight. Additional feedback can be directed to Ross, Kader, or Guillot-Wallace.

2. Equity-focused Water Efficiency Grant Program (Jen Kostrzewski 651-602-1078)

Kostrzewski summarized the program's purpose and goals. For the next round of grants, \$400,000 has been allocated for an equity-focused pilot program. Kostrzewski summarized a pilot project completed in cooperation with St. Paul Regional Water Services focused on toilet efficiency and leak detection projects in disadvantaged areas.

Klein asked if disadvantaged communities have been contacted directly for their input. Kostrzewski noted staff had not yet done this but will be doing so as part of program design and that cities can apply to both the traditional and equity-focused programs.

A link to an optional survey will be sent to MAWSAC members.

3. University of Minnesota Turfgrass Program (Greg Johnson 651-602-7464)

Johnson summarized the University of Minnesota Turfgrass Program and noted that the contract will be ending this year and they have submitted a proposal for funding for the next three years.

TAC will receive a survey and MAWSAC will be included with the option to reply as well.

4. Government Affairs and Legislative Update (Judy Sventek 651-602-1156)

The Governor's office has been in contact this week regarding the MAWSAC appointment process moving forward. Committee members will need to reapply and will get an email requesting they submit new applications and provide information for the required background check from the Governor's Office appointment staff. They have indicated that they are planning to move forward quickly with these appointments.

5. Chairs' Update (Wendy Wulff 952-484-3353)

Chair Wulff thanked the committee for all its work developing the Metro Area Water Supply Plan over the past several years and noted in particular the success of the bottom-up approach for this update.



Next steps

1. Share MAWSAC recommendation with Met Council Environment Committee on July 23, 2024, to support recommendation to release the Metro Area Water Supply Plan with the rest of the 2050 Water Policy Plan for public comment
2. Next MAWSAC meeting: Joint meeting with TAC on October 23, 2024
 - Review public input on draft Metro Area Water Supply Plan
 - Discuss how Met Council staff should respond to comments

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee meeting of Month 00, 2024.

Approved this 00 day of Month 2024.

Council contact:

Shannon Skally, Recording Secretary
Shannon.Skally@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1011

