

Information Item

Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee



Meeting date: June 18, 2025

Topic

Draft water supply minimum requirements for 2028 comprehensive plan updates.

District(s), member(s): All
Policy/legal reference: Minnesota statute 473.1565
Staff prepared/presented: Steve Christopher, Environmental Analyst, 651-602-1033
Division/department: Environmental Services

Background

Every 10 years, the Met Council undergoes the development of a Regional Development Guide (RDG) which provides a vision and goals to address critical issues across policy areas such as natural systems, public health, safety, and well-being. Included within the RDG are the system plans (Transportation, Parks, and Wastewater) and the policy plans (Transportation, Parks, Water, and Housing) that shape how the region grows in the next 30 years.

Following the development of the RDG, all incorporated cities, counties, and townships within the seven-county region must prepare a comprehensive plan and update it every 10 years. The Met Council reviews these comprehensive plans for the elements required by statute and information regarding the conformance with the metropolitan system plans, consistency with adopted policy plans, and compatibility with plans of affected and adjacent jurisdictions. These elements along with policies included in the RDG determine the minimum requirements that cities, counties, and townships must include into their comprehensive plans to be determined complete.

Request for MAWSAC

Met Council staff have developed a draft list of minimum requirements for wastewater, surface water, and water supply, with the majority of changes to wastewater and surface water being made to provide additional detail and clarity. The draft water supply minimum requirements are a result of many conversations with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Department of Health recognizing the interconnectedness of the source water protection, the local water supply plan, and regional water policy.

This list of draft water supply requirements is more robust than the list from ten years ago, so we are seeking feedback to increase transparency and promote the best planning examples from the 2040 metro water supply plans. An additional goal of this effort is to more closely align land use planning and water supply planning in an accessible way.

We ask that you review the attached draft minimum requirements for wastewater, surface water, and water supply. While we welcome comments in each of these areas, **please focus your attention and be prepared to discuss those related to water supply.**

In addition to the discussion about minimum requirements, MAWSAC will have an opportunity to provide input on the best approaches to assist cities, townships, and counties with their comprehensive plan updates through engagement, tutorials, resources, and other means.