

Business Item #2025-02

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: June 18, 2025

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, 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 12 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. Karla Peterson - MDH
8. Matt Saam – City of Apple Valley
9. Jim Stark – LCC Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy

10. Seng Thongvangh – City of Savage
11. Tom Wesolowski – City of Shoreview
12. Jim Westerman – City of Woodbury

There are currently three vacancies on TAC since the recent resignation of Ray Wuolo. For two of the vacancies, MAWSAC provided previous directions to hold one of the vacancies open for a potential DNR representative and the other vacancy open for a potential Tribal community representative. To summarize the proposed approach to fill the three vacancies:

1. DNR representative: The Chair of the TAC Appointment Working Group, with support from the Chair of TAC, recommended MAWSAC to appoint Ellen Considine to TAC. This item (business item #2025-01) was tabled at the Joint Meeting of MAWSAC and TAC on February 26, 2025, due to lack of quorum and was brought forward for the June 18th MAWSAC meeting for action.
2. Tribal community representative: MAWSAC provided previous direction to hold one vacancy open for a potential Tribal community representative. A candidate for this position has submitted an application for TAC for the TAC Appointment Working Group to review.
3. Unspecified representative: Ray Wuolo resigned from his position on TAC, effective May 22, 2025. No applications have yet been submitted for this vacant position as of this date.

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. Eight current members do represent this sector, meeting that requirement.

Proposed action

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 remaining 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

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