

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Kristin Asher, Bob Cockriel, John Dustman, Klayton Eckles, Dale Folen, Jennifer Levitt, Mark Maloney, Chris Petree, Lih-in-Rezania, Lon Schemel, James Stark, Jamie Wallerstedt, Bruce Westby, Ray Wuolo

Dean Lotter, MAWSAC Liaison

Committee Members Absent:

G.H. Crystal Ng

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Ali Elhassan, Manager, Water Supply Planning, convened the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at 1:03 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20, 2016.

He thanked those who served on the Community Technical Work Group (CTWG) and to those who are new to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Suggestions are welcome, open dialogue is encouraged and collaboration is appreciated.

Committee members and staff present introduced themselves and shared reasons for serving on either the CTWG or the TAC.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda was reviewed with those present. This being the first meeting of the TAC, no minutes require approval.

BUSINESS

1. Metropolitan Council's Role in Water Supply – Dave Brown, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Presentation covering the historical and legislative background for why and how the Metropolitan Council is involved in Water Supply Planning in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, including the role of MAWSAC.

Council staff provided TAC members with two short presentations. One addressed the historical and legislative background for the Council's role in Water Supply Planning. The other presented a history of the various technical advisory committee's that have previously assisted the Council in their water supply planning.

Staff contacts include Dave Brown, Senior Engineer, Ali Elhassan, Manager, Water Supply Planning, Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager, Environmental Quality Assurance (EQA) Department.

Comments/Discussion:

A link to the website of current projects will be sent to the committee members.

2. Technical Advisory Committee Role in Water Supply

Presentation about the TAC including background about its predecessor, the Community Technical Work Group.

Comments/Discussion:

The TAC committee members discussed their vision for the Committee. The following three questions helped them in their discussion.

What does success look like to you for the TAC?

What do you want to help achieve through the TAC?

How do you see yourself, as a TAC member, helping that to happen?

Highlights from the discussion:

A successful TAC committee would;

- i. Be strategic and forward thinking
- ii. Produce best practices for drinking water in extreme conditions
- iii. Support implementation of ideas and explore/research topics
- iv. Leverage water experts in industry and commerce
- v. Have a clear understanding of MAWSAC's purpose and goals.
- vi. Provide value to state plans – such as the drought plan
- vii. Get work done proactively and would not operate in crisis mode
- viii. Provide guideposts to deal with future uncertainty
- ix. Suggest possible solutions to various issues before crises arise
- x. Consider U of M's Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework as a model
- xi. Need to understand better what the role of MAWSAC is. Would be helpful to have that reviewed

3. TAC Charter Discussion – Lanya Ross, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

The draft TAC charter will be presented for review and discussion. Council staff would like to receive TAC member's feedback on the draft charter document. Recommended changes will be brought to MAWSAC and, as appropriate, incorporated into the final document.

The current version of the TAC charter including purpose, scope, deliverables, milestones and schedules and committee roles and authorizations was reviewed.

The TAC members commented on the scope listed below:

1. Create an open and collaborative environment for exchange of water supply technical information and to fully explore the technical aspects of water supply related issues raised by MAWSAC
2. Provide ongoing advice for MAWSAC in its water supply planning activities
3. Serve as a conduit for communication between technical water supply stakeholders and MAWSAC.

Comments by TAC members on scope was that outcomes should be specifically included within the scope in order to see measurable deliverables. For example, the TAC may serve as a place for stakeholders to go to raise issues or constraints related to costs, regulatory hurdles, etc.

Lanya provided a recap of the revisions that were suggested by TAC members.

Members were asked to review the TAC charter and respond with any additional comments to Lanya Ross by Thursday, July 21, 2016 so that they could be included in the documents for the next MAWSAC meeting.

TAC Chair Selection

Group discussion to select a TAC member to serve as the chair for TAC meetings. Will serve as co-liaison to MAWSAC.

There was not enough time at the meeting to discuss selection of the chair for the TAC. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

4. MAWSAC / TAC Liaison Update – Lanya Ross, Environmental Services

Update regarding the MAWSAC member liaison between TAC and MAWSAC.

Comments/Discussion:

Dean Lotter discussed his role as a liaison between MAWSC and TAC, and offered to continue in this role if his schedule allows. Due to time constraints, it was decided to address this topic further at future meetings.

TAC MEETING SCHEDULE DISCUSSION

1. The TAC members agreed that the best time for their meetings going forward would be the first Tuesday of the month from 1 to 3 pm. Next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6 from 1 to 3 pm. The TAC agreed that meeting every other month in an alternating schedule to MAWSAC made sense. Meeting location options and preferences were discussed. It was decided to keep future meeting locations at a Council facility in Saint Paul. Staff will check Council conference room availability for TAC scheduled meetings and notify TAC members where future meetings will be held.
2. TAC members expressed interest in scheduling a future joint MAWSAC/TAC meeting where both of the committees could discuss how work plans should be developed and coordinated.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary