

**Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY TECHNICAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Committee Members Present:

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

Jason Moeckel, DNR Advisor

Committee Members Absent:

G.H. Crystal Ng, Lon Schemel and Jamie Wallerstedt.

Dean Lotter, MAWSAC Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Mark Maloney convened the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at 1:05 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda was reviewed with those present and approved unanimously.

The minutes of the September 6, 2016 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Committee were approved unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

**1. Review and Discuss 2017 Report to Council, Legislative Water Commission, Legislators –
Lanya Ross, Metropolitan Council**

The process to develop the report and proposed content was reviewed and discussion ensued to identify recommended changes to finalize the document before requesting MAWSAC approval on January 25th, as follows:

The first page needs to send a stronger message: This [water supply planning] is a big deal. Consider highlighting:

- A phrase to spark thought about local and national water issues: "Water issues have been in the news"
- Groundwater-surface water interaction
- Examples of how relatively minor changes in water level create impacts
- Need to provide safe drinking water
- Include surface water impacts

In discussion of water sources:

- Current users and ratio of groundwater vs. surface water use
- A relatively new and growing water source is reuse of treated stormwater and wastewater
- Consider the quality and treatment needs of sources
- Acknowledge all uses (include more information/focus than just mentioning ¾ of people use groundwater): residential, industry, commerce.

- There should be fair and balanced treatment of all water sources – not just groundwater

Consider as a core message throughout:

- Use of sources was more evenly split; now it is not. Sources are not distributed evenly
- There are limits on all sources; Although abundant, we need to work within limits
- The region has plans to grow, and we need water to support this
- Water supply infrastructure is vital: aging, contamination, use of multiple sources
- We need to be prepared for surprises, emergencies, future challenges (resilience, safety net)
- Need collaboration/partnerships for safe interconnections, back-up supplies

The report should also address source water protection, including interjurisdictional challenges, cost/challenge of managing contaminants.

Case studies should illustrate the risks the region faces, and successful approaches that need support. Consider replacing modeling case study with one focusing on Oakdale or New Brighton.

2. Working Collaboratively to Support Regional Water Supply Planning during the Upcoming Legislative Session – Ali Elhassan, Metropolitan Council

An update was provided about the 2017 legislative session including possible impacts to water supply planning in the metro area.

Staff indicated that MCES is requesting \$3 million in Clean Water Funds (CWF) for the biennium for projects, mostly as pass-through to contractors. MCES is also requesting non-CWF money for staffing and other such internal functions.

Staff stated they have been notified that tax revenues are down and that all agencies are being asked to reduce their funding requests. Staff asked that TAC members provide their support. TAC members indicated that such requests should be directed to their employers in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest or addressed to MAWSAC.

3. Joint MAWSAC/TAC Workshop Discussion – Dave Brown, Metropolitan Council

A short synopsis of the joint workshop was provided to set the stage for group discussion on what is next for MAWSAC and TAC. Staff proposed a concept where the two committees could, every year, consider all of the main issues that were determined at the joint workshop. The high-level main issues from the workshop fell into five main categories as follows:

1. Water Availability and Risks (Technical Needs)
2. Collaboration
3. Conservation
4. Funding
5. Relationships – Regulatory and LGUs

A schedule for 2017 TAC meetings, as well proposed main issue categories to discuss at each meeting was presented and are shown below:

- March 7, 2017: Technical Needs
- May 2, 2017: Collaboration/Relationships (combines Item 2 and 5 from above)
- June 27, 2017: Conservation
- September 5, 2017: Funding
- November 7, 2017: Recommended Priorities

Staff indicated they are seeking input on what specific topic areas under each main issue category we should focus on for 2017 and beyond. Staff stated that they need to hear from TAC members on what is needed to support work in their communities.

A TAC member suggested and the committee agreed that members will provide to staff, via email, three topics under each category. Staff will email members with examples of some potential topic areas to consider for their three topics. This email may include topic areas for past Met Council projects or ideas that staff has for future projects. Staff will compile the answers provided and the top few topics under each category will become agenda items for future meetings.

For example, the potential for a real time monitoring network has been identified as a topic of interest. Discussion could address whether or not there is a need for real time data and how the resulting information could be used. Perhaps a pilot project could be recommended to demonstrate how real time data in some sort of mapping application might benefit the region. If deemed appropriate, the TAC could recommend that MAWSAC pursue funding to build out a real time monitoring system.

Then for future meetings the TAC would discuss the opportunities and challenges around the specific topics (one to three) that staff included in the agenda for that meeting. A summary of the TAC's discussions would be provided to MAWSAC members prior to the MASWAC's next meeting. At MAWSAC's next meeting MAWSAC would consider policies or other actions needed to address the opportunities and challenges that were raised at the TAC meeting for those topic areas.

NEXT TAC MEETING

Staff indicated that according to the agreed upon schedule, the next two TAC meetings will be March 7 and May 2 and will be held at the Council's Metro 94 Office since Room LLA at the Council's Robert Street Office is unavailable for those dates. Staff asked that any suggested agenda items for those meetings be provided to Dave Brown via email. Staff asked members to consider hosting the June 27, 2017 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Jinger Pulkrabek
Recording Secretary