

Minutes of the

JOINT MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAWSAC) & TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

MAWSAC Members Present:

Sandy Rummel, Chair, Jeanne Daniels, Glen Gerads, Phil Klein, Steve Schneider, Barry Stock, Jeffrey Berg, Jamie Schurbon

TAC Members Present:

Mark Maloney, Chair, Scott Anderson, Kristin Asher, John Dustman, Robert Ellis, Dale Folen, Chris Petree, Lin-in Rezania, James Stark, Jamie Wallerstedt, Bruce Westby and Ray Wuolo. Jason Moeckel (DNR Liaison) was also present.

MAWSAC Members Absent:

Patty Acomb, Mark Daleiden, Randy Ellingboe, Georg Fischer, Todd Gerhardt, Dean Lotter, Susan Morris, Catherine Neuschler, Michael Robinson, Lisa Volbrecht

TAC Members Absent:

Klayton Eckles, Jennifer Levitt and Crystal Ng

CALL TO ORDER

There being no MAWSAC quorum, this meeting was unable to be called to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

There being no MAWSAC quorum, the agenda and MAWSAC minutes were not approved.

TAC minutes of the September 5, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

UPDATES

Chris Petree and Klayton Eckles are resigning from TAC, staff will be asking for assistance in the established replacement process.

BUSINESS

2018-2019 ROAD MAP

Lanya Ross and Ali Alhassan shared the Metropolitan Council's proposed water supply planning work areas and a proposed approach for MAWSAC and TAC to be involved in this work during 2018-2019.

LIGHTNING ROUND PRESENTATIONS: EXAMPLES OF WORK PLAN PROJECTS

Five short presentations provided a few examples of specific projects that may be expected in the propose work areas, to inform group discussion.

- Water Supply Story Map – Lanya Ross, P.G., Metropolitan Council
- Water Conservation Advisor Program – David Brown, P.E., Metropolitan Council
- Summer Irrigation – Brian Davis, Ph.D., P.E., P.G., Metropolitan Council
- Groundwater Modeling – Lanya Ross, P.G., Metropolitan Council
- 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Request – Ali Elhassan, Ph.D., P.E., Metropolitan Council

Comments/Questions:

Mark Maloney – Is there a role for MAWSAC and TAC to support modeling efforts and is there a regional consensus regarding results?

Staff – Indicated desire to delve more deeply into the matter in order to answer these questions.

James Stark – Metro Model 3 is probably not the best tool to answer derivative questions. Long term trends are missing from animated model results, it would be helpful if they were included. Staff stated that there are detailed hydrographs that more clearly depict the long-term trends.

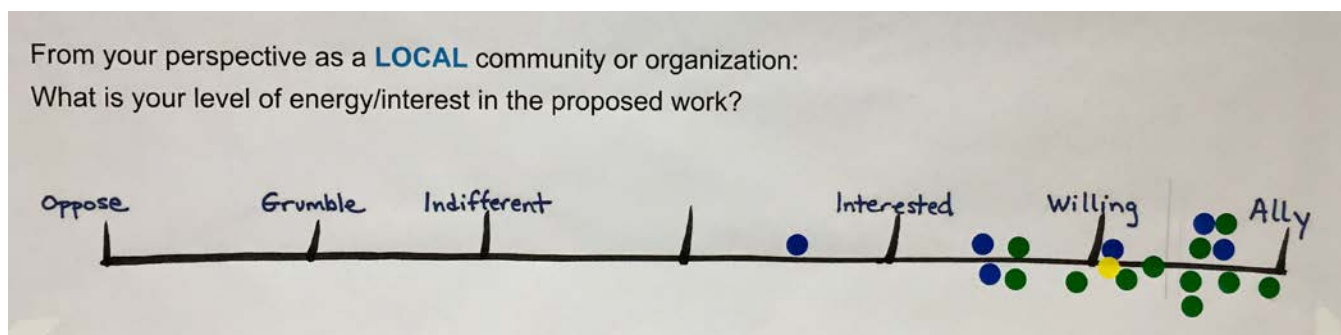
Ali – Staff is asking MAWSAC and TAC to help determine the best use of the model, how to address uncertainty and how to improve modeling capabilities to create regional buy-in.

Phil Klein – How do we get communities not directly impacted by water demand issues to participate in efficiency efforts? Staff stated that building trust, sharing information and other such collaborative efforts will help.

REFLECTION

Committee members were asked to individually reflect on their reactions to the proposed work areas and approach to MAWSAC and TAC meetings. A worksheet and prompting questions supported this activity.

Committee members then participated in a dot exercise, based on Rick Mauer’s “Energy Bar”, to gauge the general level of energy/interest in the proposed work.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

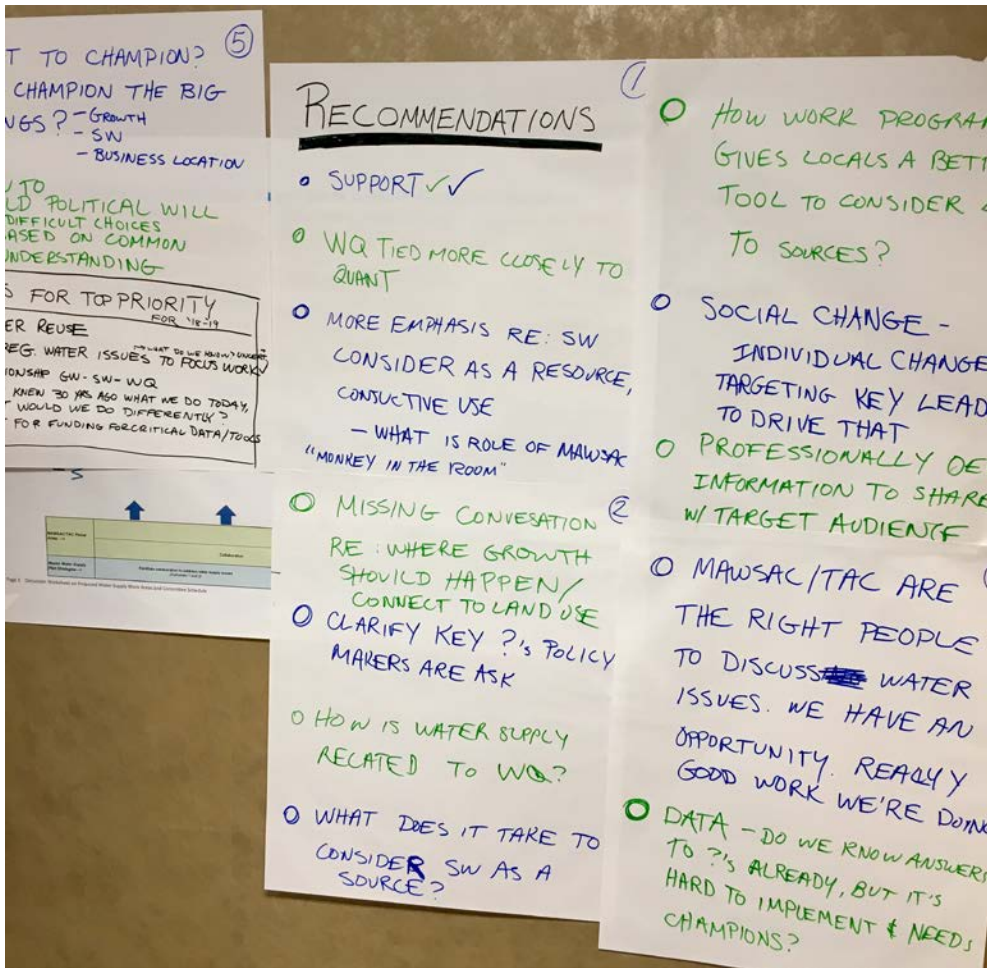
Committee members met in small groups to share perspectives about the proposed work areas and approach to MAWSAC and TAC meetings.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The small groups shared discussion results followed by a full group discussion of recommendations to Metropolitan Council, TAC, MAWSAC or others regarding how to strengthen support for the road map.

MAWSAC and TAC were supportive of the proposed work plan. It was noted that MAWSAC and TAC are THE subject matter experts and have a real opportunity to influence outcomes.

Small groups reported out to the larger group some recommendations to improve that work plan going forward.



Comments/Questions:

- Water quality should be tied more closely to quantity.
- More emphasis regarding surface water. This is the “monkey in the room”. Consider as a resource, conjunctive use. What is the role of MAWSAC?
- Address the missing conversation regarding where growth should happen. Connect to land use.
- Clarify key questions that policy makers are asking.
- Address how water supply is related to water quality.
- Address what it takes to consider surface water as a source.
- Address how the proposed water supply work program gives locals a better tool to consider changes to sources.
- Address social change, including individual change and targeting key leaders to drive efforts.
- Professionally develop information to share with target audiences.
- Focus on data. Do we already know the answers to questions, but is it hard to implement? Do we need champions?
- Address what to champion. How to champion the big things: growth, surface water, business location?
- Address how to build political will for difficult choices based on common understanding.

The following ideas were identified as top priority for 2018-2019:

- Water reuse
- Subregional water supply issues to focus work. What do we know? Where do we have uncertainty?
- Relationships between groundwater, surface water, and water quality
- Political will to tackle tough issues
- If we knew 30 years ago what we do today, what would we do differently?
- Support for funding for critical data/tools

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING AND HOMEWORK

The proposed dates and topics of the next MAWSAC and TAC meetings were shared.

TAC members preferred the next meeting to be the end of July. A location will be determined; Eden Prairie has offered a tour of their water treatment plant.

MAWSAC would prefer their next meeting to be after the July TAC meeting.

Recommendations for speakers and supporting materials will be solicited from Committee members. Look for follow-up emails about action items.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary