

DATE: August 25, 2020

TO: Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Water Supply Policy and Technical Advisory Committees (MAWSAC and TAC)

FROM: Lanya Ross (Environmental Analyst) and Emily Steinweg (Senior Engineer), Metropolitan Council Water Supply Planning

SUBJECT: MAWSAC and TAC Work Plan Update

Request to MAWSAC and TAC Members

1. Participate in interviews to shape work plan
2. Commit to future meetings to delve deeper into work plan topics and develop policy recommendations

MAWSAC and TAC Responsibilities

The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Policy Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) is responsible to assist the Council in its water supply planning work. The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) informs MAWSAC’s work by providing scientific and engineering expertise.

Goal

To set a committee work plan to produce, by 2022, a set of recommendations and supporting information around high-priority water supply topics to support the update of the regional development guide and related policy plans.

Process

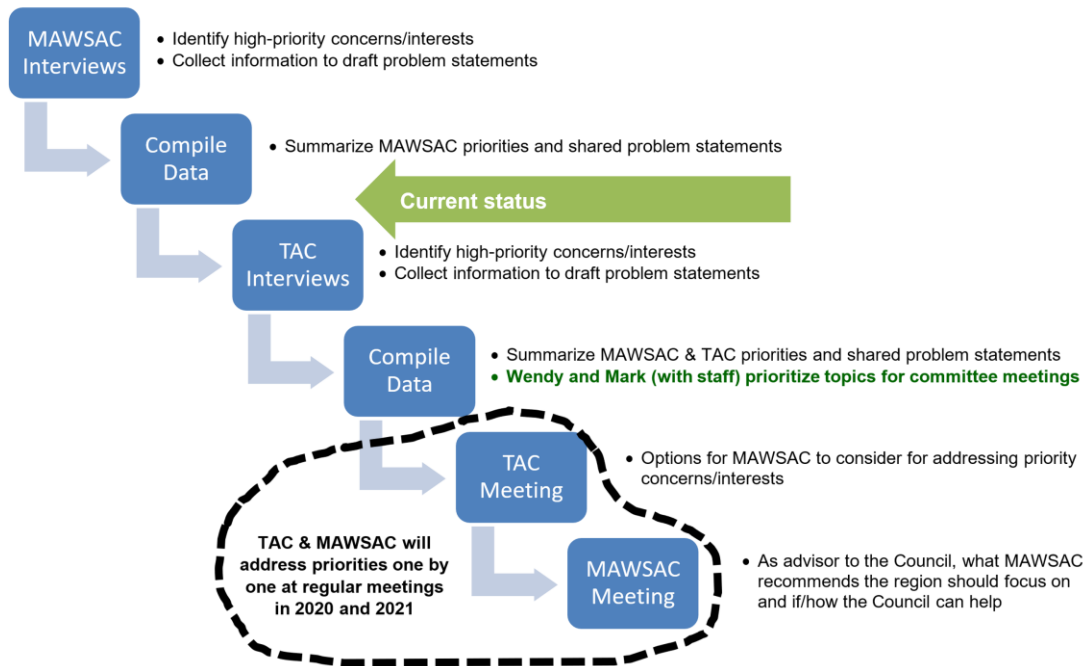


Figure 1. Process diagram to shape MAWSAC and TAC committee work in 2020-2022 including MAWSAC interviews to draft problem statements, TAC interviews to revise problem statements, and committee meetings to identify options to address priority concerns.

Status

- A. Council staff reviewed regional policy documents and discussion notes from MAWSAC, TAC, Metropolitan Council, and other meetings held by the Water Supply work unit. A high-level summary of topics of interest was compiled.
- B. Several MAWSAC members reviewed the list of topics of interest and shared their priorities along with responses to the following questions:
 - Why are you interested/concerned about this topic?
 - How would you describe the problem statement related to this topic?
 - How do you see MAWSAC and TAC helping achieve your vision for this topic?
- C. Council staff have begun drafting combined problem statements for topics of shared interest.

Priorities heard so far

After reviewing MAWSAC member interview notes, staff compiled a list of the issues raised most frequently.

Note that this list is expected to evolve and become more specific after hearing from TAC members.

1. **Ground water and surface water interactions** – *Examples: groundwater recharge (including changes from climate and land use), impacts to aquatic life like trout streams, and rising water tables.*
2. **Water reuse** – *Examples: guidance and demonstration of effective projects, regulatory questions, and financial impacts on water supply providers and reuse system owners.*
3. **Water quality and contamination** – *Examples: contaminants (like chloride, nitrate, PFAS), gaps in research and regulation, changing treatment needs, and balancing public and environmental health with economic goals.*
4. **Infrastructure** – *Examples: collaborative long-term infrastructure planning and investment, conflicting regulatory requirements and technical information about risks, and uncertainty (examples: lawsuits, climate).*
5. **Surface water use** – *Examples: limits on water source availability, long-term infrastructure planning and investment, and community partnerships.*
6. **Land use planning** – *Examples: how past practices impact current water supply conditions and treatment needs, and the current opportunity to develop plans to improve future water supplies.*

Next steps:

1. TAC interviews
2. Chairs set work plan/meeting agendas
3. Committee work at meetings