Information Item

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Meeting Date: August 16, 2022

Topic

Drafting chapters three-ten of the updated master water supply plan - developing and supporting a subregional approach.

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statute 473.1565
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Ali Elhassan, Manager, Water Supply Planning, 651-602-1066; Lanya Ross, Environmental Analyst, Water Supply Planning, 651-602-1803
Division/Department:	Environmental Services

Background

MAWSAC is responsible for guiding and approving a metropolitan area master water supply plan, with input from the Technical Advisory Committee. The plan provides guidance for local water supply systems and future regional investments; emphasizes conservation, interjurisdictional cooperation, and long-term sustainability; and addresses reliability, security, and cost-effectiveness of the metropolitan areas water supply system and its local and subregional components. It provides a framework for sustainable long-term water supply planning at the local and regional level in a way that:

- Recognizes local control and responsibility for water supply systems
- Is developed in cooperation and consultation with local regional, and state partners
- Protects critical habitat and water resources over the long term
- Meets regional needs for a reliable, secure water supply
- Highlights the benefits of integrated planning for stormwater, wastewater, and water supply
- Emphasizes and supports conservation and inter-jurisdictional cooperation
- Provides guidance by identifying key challenges and available approaches

The plan provides guidance to help communities take the most proactive, cost-effective approach to long-term planning and permitting to ensure plentiful, safe, and affordable water that supports the prosperity and livability of the region for future generations.

The updated master water supply plan will reflect 2022 MAWSAC recommendations

The Twin Cities master water supply plan was first developed in 2010 and updated in 2015 in connection with the regional development guide and water resources policy plan. It is being updated again as part of the decadal update of the regional development guide.

MAWSAC, in the 2022 report to the Council and MN Legislature, recommended updating the 2050 regional development guide and related policy and system plans (which connect to the master water supply plan) to support MAWSAC goals, customized for subregional and local conditions.

The committee also recommended taking a new subregional approach that leverages subregional water supply working groups to inform regional and local policy and plan updates.

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The updated master water supply plan is expected to include three key components:
This information item focuses on chapters three-ten: subregional planning information.

Chapter 1 ***Vision & Goals***	• Rationale and approach to regional planning • Regional vision and goals with 2050 water supplies in mind (emphasizing conservation, interjurisdictional cooperation, and long-term sustainability)
Chapter 2 ***Context***	• Region-wide informaton such as water supply sources, forecasts, landscape characteristics, and other regional trends and issues
Chapters 3-10 ***Subregional Plans***	• Subregional information about water, land use and other factors • Key subregional water supply issues, risks, opportunities • Preferred strategies to address issues and meet regional goals • Implementation needs and investment guidance (high-level work plan or road map)

Request to committee members: Guidance on approach to subregional plan chapters

TAC will be asked to help scope, endorse, and promote participation in a subregional approach to develop master water supply plan content.

A proposal, based on MAWSAC and TAC input, will be shared with subregional water supply work group participants in a workshop in Fall 2022.

Subregional work group input will be used to finalize the proposal, and TAC will be asked to recommend that MAWSAC endorse it in December 2022.

- ❑ Consider the questions on page 3
- ❑ Review the proposed content for each subregional chapter on page 4

Questions to consider:

These questions are offered to support committee conversation on August 16, 2022. They should only be considered prompts for discussion.

A) What can communities get out of the subregional planning process? Why should people participate?

- How could communities benefit from working together to describe water supply resources, challenges, and preferred actions in their subregion, as part of the metro area master water supply plan?
- What do you see as shared challenges and opportunities in each of these subregions?

A) How can subregional chapters add the most value to regional and local water supply work?

- What should be included in these chapters to ensure there is something for locals in the regional master water supply plan?
- What water supply-related information is important to know about neighboring plans and conditions as communities update and implement their own local plans (including capital investment plans)?
- How to stay connected to regional vision/goals while allowing local interpretation?
- How prescriptive should or could any recommendations be?

B) Who needs to participate for this to be successful? Why? What should their roles be?

- Who authorizes implementation actions, contributes money?
- Who is expected to take action or will be most impacted by actions?
- Who has been missing from these conversations and why?
- How to get subregional concerns rather than just the loudest speaker concerns?

C) What is your advice on bringing people together to work on this? What key steps are needed for a successful process?

- How to invite and encourage participation? Do new groups need to be formed? Will existing group membership change?
- How formal does participation need to be? What steps for leadership to authorize participation, if any?
- Any technical analyses, surveys, or facilitated work sessions needed to support the process?

D) What resources would be most useful to support subregional planning work?

- Have you led or participated in trainings or facilitated work sessions to collaborate on plans?
- What tools have you seen be effective for group collaboration?
- What funding and technical and administrative support is needed?

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Potential content in subregional chapters of the master water supply plan

This page summarizes potential content for subregional chapters of the updated master water supply plan. Final content for each chapter would be developed by subregional water supply work group participants with guidance from MAWSAC and TAC.

The proposed content reflects the water safety plan framework introduced in MAWSAC's 2022 report to the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Legislature.

Introduction: Connection to regional planning

- Rationale for regional water supply and value in to linking regional vision and goals to subregional and local needs and opportunities for implementation. Including subregional chapters in the master water supply plan provides recommendations and actions specific to each subregion while keeping the goals of the region as a whole in mind.
- How information in the subregional chapters will be used

Subregional water supply setting

- Subregionally-specific information about water sources, uses, infrastructure, forecasts, landscape characteristics and other factors and trends
- Subregionally-specific water supply hazards Subregional water supply setting (system components and hazards)

  The Water Supply Atlas (in development) provides more detailed information about the water supply conditions in different subregions.

Subregional water supply issues (risks) that are a shared priority

- May include a facilitated risk analysis process based on subregional water supply hazards
- Additional information may need to be developed to support this process.

  The Water Supply Atlas (in development) provides more detailed information about the water supply conditions in different subregions.

Subregional mitigation approaches of shared interest

- Builds on information documented in existing local plans and through past and planned discussions with subregional work group participants
- May include a facilitated discussion to ID preferred measures to mitigate the subregion's highest water supply risks.

Recommended strategies for the subregion

- Builds on information documented in existing local plans and through past and planned discussions with subregional work group participants
- This might include conceptual mapping of specific projects/programs. Examples: priority areas to target water efficiency programs or, working with landowners, potential areas to consider community interconnections/shared infrastructure, or others.

Implementation plan

- May include estimated budget/resources needs, expectations for local plans, memorandums of agreement to work on certain things together, model ordinance language to be promoted, etc.

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