



Introduction to Master Water Supply Plan Update

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee
(TAC)

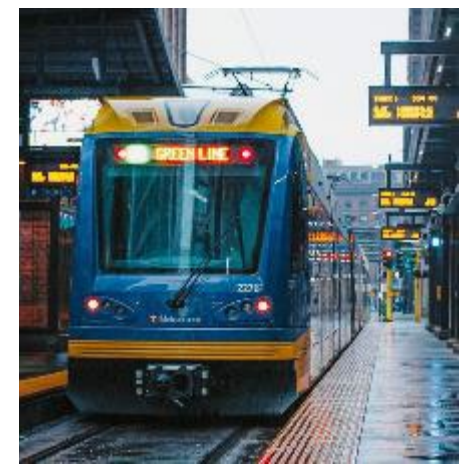
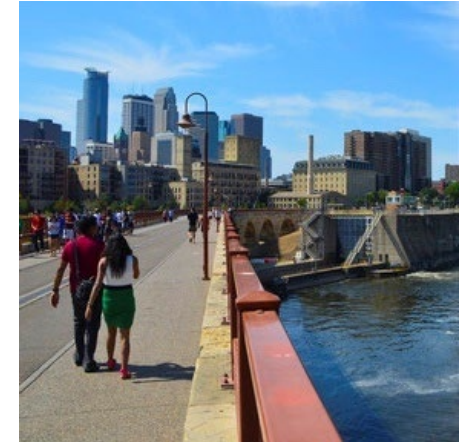


August 16, 2022

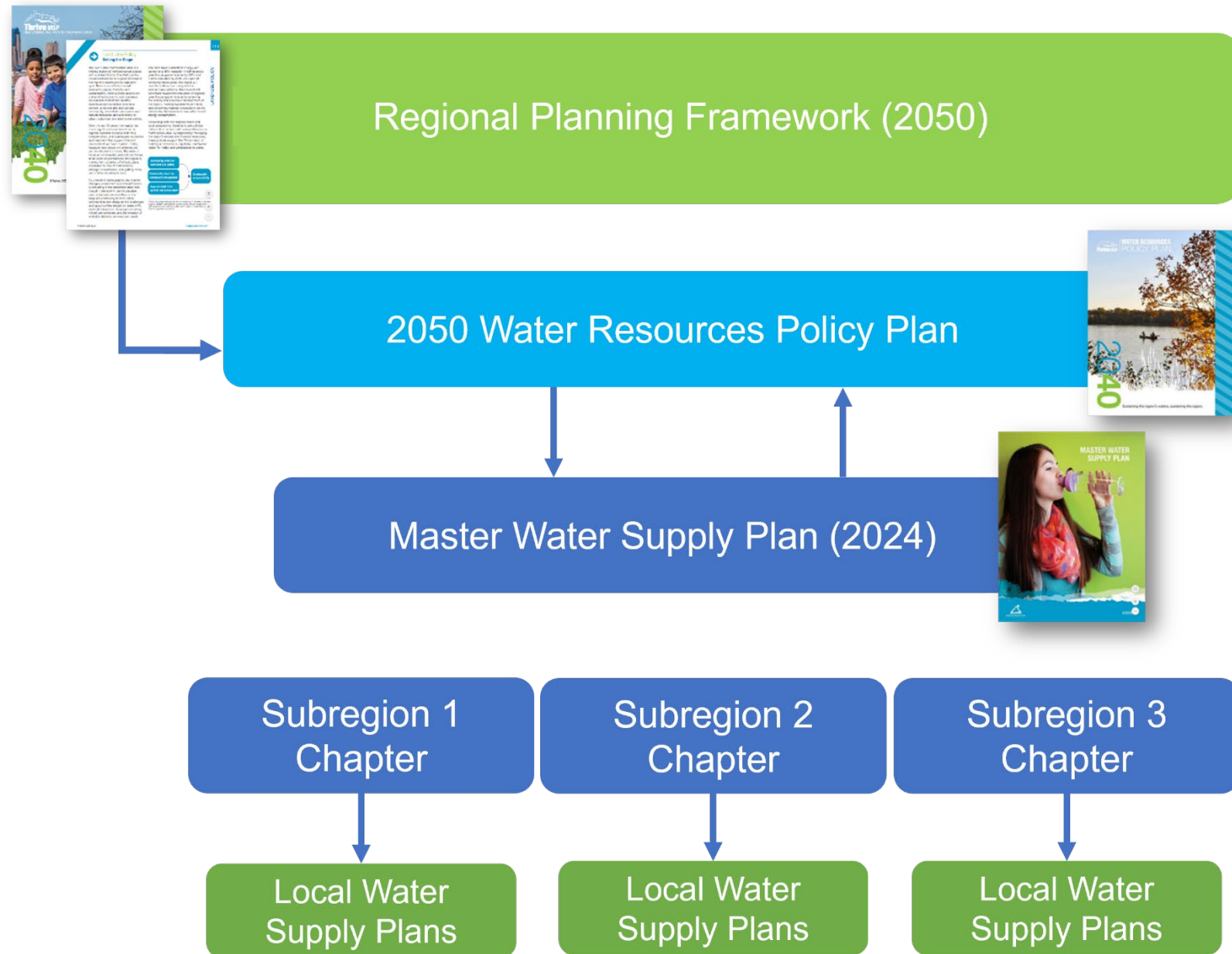
2022 MAWSAC TAC Work Plan

Objectives and schedule

1. Influence the Council's Regional Development Guide (RDG), Water Resource Policy Plan (WRPP), Master Water Supply Plan (MWSP), and plans and projects.
 2. Draft water supply vision and goal content for Chapter 1 of the MWSP
 3. Draft approach or work plan to engage subregional water supply work groups in 2023.
 4. Strong committee support for the subregional approach.
- **Spring:** Early input on regional policy and plan updates
 - **Summer:** Propose approach for building support for and achieving shared goals through a subregional approach
 - **Fall:** Collaboration with subregional water supply workgroups



Aspects of the Regional Planning Framework



Sets the framework for our region, including land use policy and other cross-divisional issues

Provides a framework for integrative water planning (wastewater, water supply, and surface water)

Provides water supply-related considerations for developing regional, subregional, and local plans and supporting programs

Provides subregional context, shared objectives and strategies, and direction for implementation and partnerships

Provides information and identifies local actions for a sustainable water supply

Why Regional (& Subregional) Planning



Vision for Water Supply

Sustainable water supply now and in the future

- All people have access to clean, safe, affordable water and wastewater services.
- All water and wastewater systems have sufficient funding to provide affordable services.
- All communities share in the economic, social, and environmental benefits of investment in water systems.



Maximize use of existing infrastructure



Offset demand with efficiency and conservation



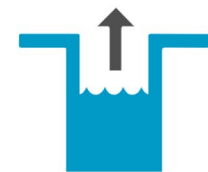
Balance multiple water sources to meet demand



Align agency directions



Recognize uncertainty and minimize risk



Maintain groundwater levels



Prevent groundwater contamination spread



Protect surface water flows

Goals for Water Supply

1. Water Quality: Communities have the resources they need to provide a safe water supply. A shared process is developed that allows communities, water utilities, and regulators to respond in a more coordinated and effective way to both contaminants of emerging concern and existing contamination.

2. Land Use and Water Supply

Connections: Public water suppliers, land use planners, and developers have tools and are empowered to work together to guide and support development in ways that balance communities' economic needs while protecting the quantity and quality of source waters that are vital to the region's communities.

3. Understand and Manage Groundwater and Surface Water Interactions: Water resource managers, community planners, and leaders understand how groundwater and surface water interact and how those interactions impact water supply sustainability.

4. Water Supply Infrastructure: Communities can act quickly, thoughtfully, and equitably to address aging infrastructure, contamination, changing groundwater conditions, changing water demand, and financial challenges.

Benefits of Regional Planning

This work recognizes that water supply is not a regional system, so implementation relies solely on communities and public water suppliers. Regional planning supports that local work.

- Water supply challenges are increasingly complex and extend beyond local political boundaries
- Venues like MAWSAC are a space for state water agencies to learn about the metro area and hear local concerns – helping them better coordinate on key issues
- Regional policies and incentive programs can be developed to target and support local implementation
- Collaboration across communities and organizations pools a range of expertise and experience

Master Water Supply Plan (MWSP)

Minnesota Statutes 473.1565

- Provides guidance for local water supply systems and future regional investments;
- Emphasizes conservation, interjurisdictional cooperation, and long-term sustainability; and
- Addresses the reliability, security, and cost-effectiveness of the metropolitan area water supply system and its local and subregional components.

Observations: Master Water Supply Plan

Current Approach

Suggestions for the Updated Plan

Process

- Focus on regional objectives and strategies; less focus on local settings; “one size fits all”
- Communities implement the regional plan locally

- Objectives and strategies consider differences in local issues
- Communities are collaboratively developing and implementing the plan

Ownership

- Top-down model: Met Council and communities collaborate to develop plan; MAWSAC approves
- Communities are engaged, but they did not identify objectives and solutions that fit them; not all stakeholders at the table

- Grassroots model of planning, regional plan developed in partnership with communities
- Communities are engaged in identifying issues, objectives, and strategies that fit them

Outcomes

- High-level regional guidance
- Not fully collaborative: not achieving local sustainability goals; not taking advantage of opportunities like economies of scale

- High-level regional goals and specific local objectives, guidance and strategies
- Better collaboration, building local resiliency, taking advantage of economies of scale

Proposed Contents: Updated Master Water Supply Plan

Chapter 1 Vision & Goals

- Rationale and approach to regional planning
- Regional vision and goals with 2050 water supplies in mind

Chapter 2 Context

- Region-wide information such as water supply sources, landscape characteristics, and other regional trends

Chapters 3-10 Subregional Plans

- Subregional information related to water, land use and other factors
- Key water supply issues, risks and opportunities identified by stakeholders
- Preferred strategies to address issues and meet regional goals
- Implementation needs (high-level workplan or road map)

Draft Schedule

