

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

2022 Report:

Water Supply Planning Recommendations

Joint meeting of MAWSAC and TAC
January 18, 2022



Overview

- Committee action requested: Approve report
 - Purpose and process to develop the report
 - Review committee member comments and changes made
 - Identify and agree on additional revisions needed, if any
 - Vote for approval
- Next steps
 - Finalize and publish report and develop summary factsheet and presentation
 - Present to Metropolitan Council
 - Submit to Minnesota Legislature
 - Inform committees' work plan for 2022-2023

MN Statutes 473.1565:

METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY PLANNING ACTIVITIES; ADVISORY COMMITTEES

By February 15, 2017, and **at least every five years thereafter**, the policy advisory committee shall report to the council, the Legislative Water Commission, and the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources with the information required under this section.

The policy advisory committee's report and recommendations must include information provided by the technical advisory committee.

Approach to 2022 MAWSAC report



MAWSAC Approval Requested

With MAWSAC's approval of the report content, the report will be finalized, published to the Council website, and shared with Metropolitan Council, the LCC Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy, and the chairs and ranking minority members of committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources.

A high-level, more visual summary document will also be developed as a companion piece to the report.

Overview of report content

- Executive summary
- Regional water supply context
- About this report, *including how to use the report to inform policies and plans*
- Regional challenges
- Goals and recommendations
- Local perspectives
- Supporting figures and tables
- Definitions and abbreviations
- References

Revisions based on committee review

- Suggestions to clarify language and highlight key ideas
- Updated language in *Executive Summary*
- Updated Table 2 (now Table 1)
- Updated language in *Using this Report to Inform Policies and Plans*
- Updated language in *Goal for Water Quality*
- Updated language in *Goal for Land Use and Water Supply Connections*
- Updated language in *System Assessment* checklist
- Updated language in *Planning and Implementing Risk Reduction Practices* checklist
- Revision of Figures

Updated *Executive Summary*

Revisions:

- Updated language for MAWSAC and TAC goals
- Highlight of key findings and recommendation - Clarity of next steps and recommended activities

Examples of committee comments:

- Include report recommendations in Executive Summary
- Explain 'next steps' and what to do with the recommendations
- Add clarity about what/how this report "should" inform
- Promote region's wealth of water resources, to draw business and improve the economy
- Be clear with what goals we want to support, key objectives within those goals, challenges to getting there and the tools and tactics at our disposal

Updated *Regional Water Supply Context*

Revisions:

- Revised language to draw more attention to the relatively abundant water resources in the region
- Shifted format to better highlight significance of source water protection areas

Examples of committee comments:

- Promote region's wealth of water resources, to draw business and improve the economy
- Highlight the phrase "Significant portions of the metro area have been designated.... decisions should be made with drinking water protection top of mind" If that is the only take away from this entire document, then we've made progress.

Updated *Using this Report to Inform Policies and Plans*

Revision

- New considerations for legislators, state agency leaders, and council members:
 - How to use with upcoming Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
 - Consider cyber security
 - Coordination across political boundaries
 - Infrastructure upgrades and expansions, and scale and variety of projects needed
- General definition of 'infrastructure' has been expanded and clarified

Examples of committee comments:

- Suggestions from multiple reviewers to reference IJJA; it is a key program/policy/plan under development
- Ensuring coordination and accountability between overlapping communities
- Funding should be top of mind
- Economic interests of private industry has been excluded in water planning
- Explicit language regarding the potential need for more stringent land use controls to protect water resources
- Water supply goals are essential to the higher-level goals for the region; it's in everyone's interests to support success

Updated *Goal for Water Quality*

Revision:

- Removed the words ‘and Contamination’ from the title and clarified the meaning and use of ‘emerging contamination’. New wording:

All the region’s communities have the resources they need to provide a safe water supply. They are prepared to both respond to contaminants of emerging concern that may impact water quality and continue supporting efforts addressing existing contamination. Communities, water utilities, and regulators collaboratively develop a shared process to respond in a more coordinated and effective way to contamination in the water supply. Such a process should be inclusive and take a long-term, integrated water management approach

Examples of committee comments:

- Clarify what we mean by “emerging contamination”
- Don’t forget about current, prevalent contaminants that may be getting worse
- Emerging contaminants almost fit a bell curve: some we are just learning about, many in the middle where there may be cause for concern, few at the end we know we need to deal with - We need a process to understand what needs addressing
- Coordinated emergency response might be a good thing, but maybe more a “new area of high levels of a contaminant that we know is an issue” instead of “emerging contaminant

Updated *Goal for Land Use and Water Supply Connections*

Revision:

- Better recognized quantity impacts of land use and added examples of land use practices that impact water supply. New wording:

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. Local and regional actions that enhance and protect water supplies are better understood, coordinated, and incentivized in the region.

Examples of review comments:

- Talks about land use in terms of how the land is used, but do we need to include something about how that land use is maintained (like chlorides for snow/ice, fertilizer/pesticide, home softening)?
- Water quantity is impacted as well (example: groundwater recharge in surficial aquifers)
- Suggest a regional priority in place to focus the region's growth in areas where infrastructure already exists as well as a sustainable water supply

Updated language in *System Assessment* checklist

Revision:

- Added detail about water supply infrastructure, recognizing security needs
- Definition of water supply system consistent with how described earlier in report
- Clarified audience for this information
- Simplified text around the 'hazard' vs 'risk' discussion

Examples of review comments:

- Add more detail in recommendations (specific ideas)
- Identify areas sensitive to ground water availability to list of gaps
- Acknowledge the need for security and how this could be a barrier in assembling and communicating this type of information
- Question and confusion on text regarding 'hazard' vs 'risk'

Updated language in *Planning and Implementing Risk Reduction Practices* checklist

Revision:

- Activities added to subregional water supply planning and support for local planning and implementation
- Updates to proposed task force for generic emergency water safety plan
- Additional detail add to clarify support for local planning and implementation

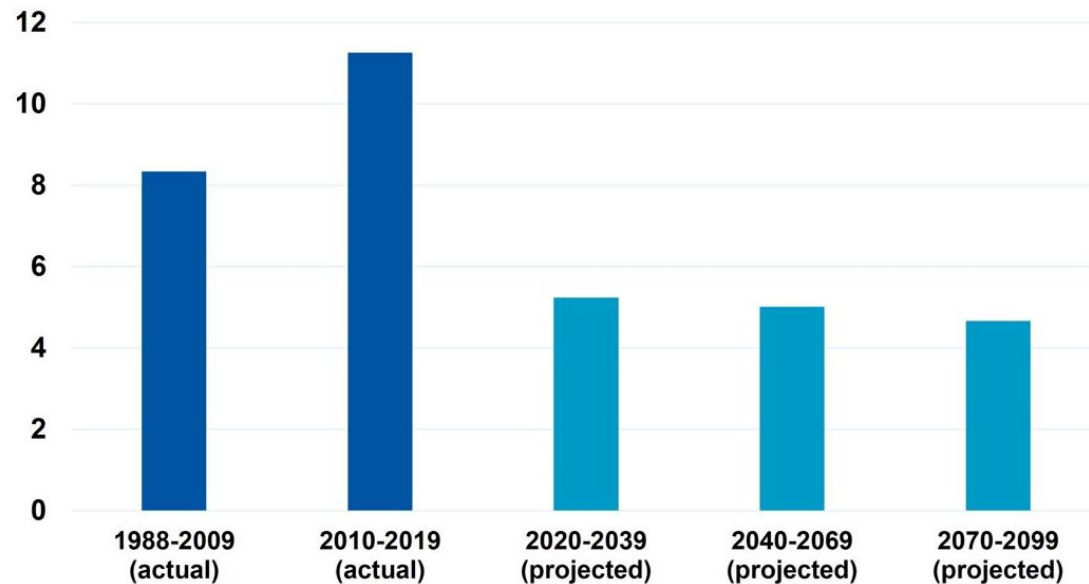
Examples of review comments:

- Shared goal setting is important here
- Need funding for these actions
- Emphasize water conservation and efficiency programs
- Clearly separate the concept of “emerging contaminants” with the need for a framework for learning about them and deciding if they are a risk or not
- Add ‘aid in identifying and marketing economic growth potential for appropriate future water use from particular sources’

Revision of Figures

Revision:

- Figures reordered to match text changes
- Changed Figure 12 from maps to a chart to make it easier to see projected changes due to climate change. New Figure 12:



Calculated Model-wide Mean Infiltration (Inches per Year)

Examples of review comments:

- Be careful with how climate change projections are presented with respect to “existing conditions” – i.e., using the DAYMET data rather than the future data

Added *Definitions and Abbreviations*

Revision:

- Added definitions for:
 - Contaminant/contamination
 - Contaminant of emerging concern
 - Integrated water management

Examples of review comments:

- Clarify what we mean by “emerging contamination”
- What is meant by integrated water approach?

Updated Table 2 (Now Table 1)

Revision:

- Emphasis on funding needs. A column to highlight funding recommendations was added to table

**Will be discussed further during
Mural activity**

Examples of committee comments:

- Suggest funding based on prioritized recommendations and promote projects that meet multiple goals
- Cut down Table 2 to a more manageable size
- Reorganize Table 2, perhaps grouped under subheadings, to reflect prioritization of the action items

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Next steps

1. Promote MAWSAC report – volunteers requested!

- Finalize and publish report and develop summary factsheet and presentation
- Present to Metropolitan Council
- Submit to Minnesota Legislature

2. 2022-2023 committee work planning

3. Subregional work group engagement

Questions

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