

**2/29/2024 WORKSHOP FOR SUBREGIONAL WATER SUPPLY GROUPS AND PARTNERS
SHARING INSIGHTS FOR COLLABORATIVE WATER SUPPLY PLANNING**



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Executive summary

On February 29th, 2024, Metropolitan Council (Council) hosted a workshop of subregional water supply planning groups and partners. This workshop served as an opportunity to bring the local participants of the water supply planning subregions together to hear from each other and add or revise the input heard at the fall and winter workshops, before final drafting of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan and its subregional chapters begins. This was also an opportunity for Council staff to solicit input on draft policies emerging for the 2050 Water Policy Plan, as well as possible changes for how Wellhead Protection Plans, Local Water Supply Plans, and Local Comprehensive Plan Updates are coordinated.

The region is expected to growth by over 860,000 more people by 2050. To help support this growth, the Council needs to update the Regional Development Guide by the end the year – including the Water Resources Policy Plan and Metro Area Water Supply Plan. During the last round of regional planning, the Council heard from several stakeholders that one size does not fit all, and regional water plans should reflect that. The Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and its Technical Advisory Committee advise the Council for regional water supply planning work, and they have stressed that planning must be grounded in local perspectives—**because water supply is not a regional system; it's a local responsibility**. The Council committed to a more subregional approach—both for developing the plan, as well as in implementation in the years to come.

Sixty-five people from across the region signed in at the February 29th event. Most had participated in one or more of the previous subregional workshops, but several people joined for the first time, bringing the perspectives from an additional five communities and two non-city organizations into the work.

Outcomes included:

- Discussion and connections among colleagues
- Updated information to include in the draft Metro Water Supply Plan and its subregional chapters, so that the plan is grounded in local perspectives and needs.
- Thoughts about regional water policies and possible local water supply plan improvements
- Clearly defined next steps and upcoming regional planning milestones

Some highlights of the group discussions include:

- Knowledge transfer across subregions at topic tables, with the overwhelming majority of participants noting they learned from their colleagues
- Local input to help refine subregional chapters of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan, policies in the Water Policy Plan, and local water supply-related plan expectations and review process.
- Appreciation from the truly ground-up way in which the chapters are being developed, with participants' words being reflected back to them
- Desire to continue to meet as subregions going forward

The Council is committed to supporting this effort. Our goal remains to support communities and partners through our existing roles by working better together.

Next steps include:

1. Revising draft subregional chapters of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan based on input shared at the workshop

2. Sharing input and draft chapters with the Metro Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) in March and April
3. Drafting Metro Area Water Supply Plan, including subregional chapters, along with the Water Policy Plan over the spring and summer
4. Public review period for draft plans (anticipated to start in August and go into the fall)

Workshop schedule/activities

The workshop began with a welcome and orientation by Wendy Wulff, the chair of the Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and Sam Paske, the Assistant General Manager of Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' Planning Department.

Attendees got to know one another through an introductory survey (figures 1-3; full results at the end of this document).

Council staff presented an overview of the Council's framework for regional planning including the Regional Development Framework, the Water Resources Policy Plan, and the Metro Area Water Supply Plan. **A summary of subregional input from the past 7 months was also shared.** Presentation slides are included at the end of this document.

In the first group activity, participants exchanged ideas on focus areas that were identified by multiple subregions including water quantity, water quality, coordination and collaboration, growth and demand, asset management, changing behaviors and norms, data and tools, workforce, funding, climate change, and affordability. They shared what success looked like in their subregions as well as the actions they had identified, creating space for others to identify what additional actions they may want to include in their draft chapters, or to problem solve with colleagues for new ideas.

The second group activity brought subregional groups back together to talk about what they learned from other subregions. Draft subregional chapters were reviewed and revised based on discussion in the first activity. The information will help revise draft content for the Metro Area Water Supply Plan and also provides examples of the range of issues that the Council's plans and projects should be prepared to address.

Over lunch, the University of Minnesota Turfgrass Science shared information about educational materials that are available for communities to support local water efficiency programming at local events. More information is available on the University's website at: <https://turf.umn.edu/>

To round out the day, **connections between subregional priorities and the Water Policy Plan and 3 Plans effort were explored.** In this session, participants were invited to share feedback on the draft policies being considered for the Council's Water Policy Plan, which the Metro Area Water Supply Plan will be a part of. Eleven draft policies were posted around the room for reaction and discussion. Finally, given the overlap of audience and interest between the subregional workshop participants and those who may be impacted by (or interested in) possible changes for how the three water supply related

plans are coordinated, a mentimeter survey was conducted for feedback about possible changes. The full results from that survey are at the end of this document.



Figure 1. Participants described the importance of water supply as sustainability, quality, safe, and life among other descriptions.

Measures of participation

Sixty-five people signed in at the workshop, and around 50 people submitted survey responses throughout the workshop (figure 2). In addition to representing every county, participants also represented a variety of community types and expanded the reach of past subregional engagement to the edges of the metro. Participants shared their notes with Met Council staff including edits for each draft subregional chapters.

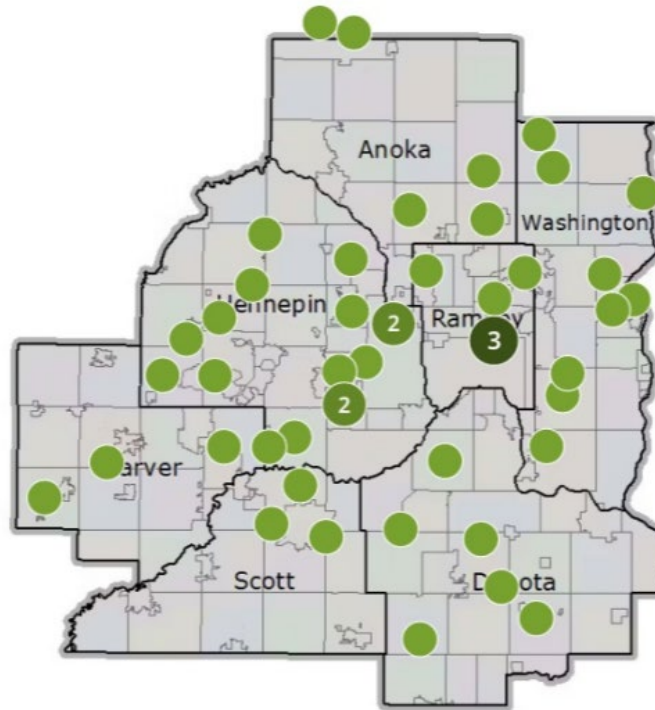


Figure 2. Attendees represented communities from across the region. More work may be needed to fill gaps in southwest Scott County, western Carver County, and northern Anoka County,

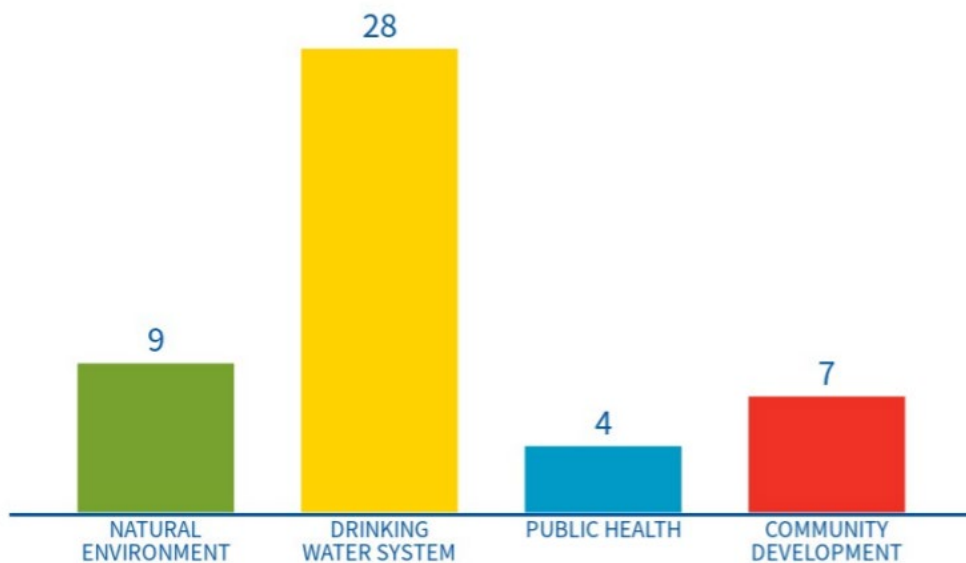


Figure 3. There were a range of water supply perspectives, though most survey responders worked with drinking water systems.

Attendees:

The following people signed in:

- Mark Anderson
- Scott Anderson
- Parish Barten
- J Berg
- Jim Berg
- Emily Berquist
- Ross Bintner
- Todd Blomstrom
- Doug Bode
- Lane Braaten
- John Bradford
- Paul Carpenter
- Jacob Casebeer
- Jessica Collin- Pilarski
- Jeff Dunn
- Jon Eaton
- Daniel Elder
- Robert Ellis
- Alyssa Fabia
- Jesse Farrell
- Dale Folen
- Kristian Gaasland
- John (Jack) Gleason
- Bob Goebel
- Mike Grochala
- Lauren Grouws
- Matt Haefner
- Kristina Handt
- Jim Hauth
- Angie Hong
- Mike Isensee
- Carrie Jennings
- Elizabeth (Liz) Kaufenberg
- Paul Kauppi
- Karen Kill
- Phil Klein
- Mike Klimers
- Mike Kuno
- Richard Luckow
- Russ Lupkes
- Richard McCoy
- Matt Morreim
- Jay Murzyn
- Valerie Neppi
- Brian Noma
- L Oakden
- Ole Olmanson
- Don Peterson
- Karla Peterson
- Heidi Quinn
- Dale Reed
- Rich Revering
- Rosie Russell
- David (Dave) Schulenberg
- Andrew Simmons
- Erin Spry
- Jim Stark
- Mark Statz
- Mark Streich
- Vanessa Strong
- Peter Tholen
- Seng Thongvanh
- Nick Tomczik
- Eric Volk
- Rick Wahlen
- Ann White Eagle
- Matt Yokiell

Highlights: Session #1 – Shared priorities for focus areas

The first group activity included small group discussions about the 11 focus areas that were identified by multiple subregions. People from different parts of the region exchanged ideas about these topics: affordability, asset management, changing behaviors and norms, climate change, collaboration and coordination, data and tools, funding, growth and demand, water quality, water quantity, and workforce.

The information shared in this activity was used to review and revise draft subregional chapters in the second activity.



Figure 4. During session one of the workshop, people from different subregions discussed different focus areas, such as collaboration and coordination.

Highlights: Session #2 – Revising subregional content and asks of Met Council

The second group activity brought the subregional groups back together with one another, to talk about what they learned in conversations with people from other parts of the region. With those conversations in mind, the draft subregional chapters were reviewed and revised.



Figure 5. Group discussion about draft subregional plan content for the West subregional work group.

Highlights of the small group discussions, including specific asks of the Council, were shared during the full-group report out:

Southeast

- The overall plan is reflective of what we are doing.
- A couple of new items under agricultural systems are aquaponics and hydroponics and more specifically for growing marijuana because that's going to be something new coming in that we really didn't anticipate. The other one is hemp production.
- Met Council could help with water education and understanding the value of water, because so many people seem to take water for granted and usually this is a low cost to implement.
- Help is also needed to provide technical and financial support for private well treatment and testing.

Southwest

- Met Council could continue support for regional modeling or support for county watershed groundwater models.
- Also continuing and reinstating quarterly meetings of the groundwater suppliers would be helpful.

Central

- Regarding the topic of funding, everyone has funding for this and funding for that and money fixes everything, but the question is: who is going to pay for it and who is going to get it? The cities and utilities that are doing all the right things and planning ahead for their infrastructure are being punished while the cities and utilities that are not doing the right things are going to be the benefactors of this money.
- Regarding collaboration, the one ask of the Council is that we don't get the same kind of involvement from MPCA and DNR as we get from MDH. MDH staff in this workshop have preached for years that they are technical advisors and not regulators and that we'll work together to solve the problem. They (MDH) are here more to help us than regulate us, and we don't get the same thing from the DNR and MPCA. We think the council would be very good to bring everyone to the table and help solve problems such as the White Bear Lake problem for example.

East

- Regarding Water Quantity, there is a challenge balancing competing interests with growth and density requirements and taking into consideration the DNR's appropriation permits, standard ordinances, etc.
- Regarding Changing Behaviors and Norms, which falls in line with Collaboration, Met Council could help with the need for or request to create a plain language like an education campaign or materials that explain groundwater science and aquifer recharge that is more directed towards the public and policy makers, so that we are all speaking a consistent language.

Northeast

- More education is needed across the region and making sure that the same messages are being spread throughout the region for more standardization.
- It would help to have Met Council stay supportive on funding and being a resource.
- Another suggested request of Met Council is to expand the water efficiency grants, which are currently focused on appliances and irrigation, to other strategies since Energy Star appliances are not hard to find these days. Met Council should consider other water efficiency strategies and also provide grants for them.

Northwest

- Much like what the Central subregional group stated, we need to get more funding for the communities that are doing the right things for planning and don't punish them.
- An ask of Met Council is to continue this type of meeting for all of us to get together from our different cities, agencies, and all involved to continue this discussion and get these ideas out so that we can hash them out together. Suggest meeting maybe semi-annually.

West

- Met Council could help with a general and mass market water confidence workforce and public best practice advertisement to help us check that regulator box for the whole metro area. A subset of this is to support existing efforts at AWWA, SUSA, and Minnesota Rural Water for water scholarships for workforce and help us make regulatory reporting easier with a centralized database.

Table 1. Summarized asks of Met Council shared during group report-out at February 29th, 2024 workshop. “CH” indicates that this ask was also included in the action plan drafted by subregional groups.

Ask type	Ask	NW	NE	E	SE	SW	W	C
Education	Help with plain language water education campaigns to help increase understanding of groundwater science, contamination, the value of water, and actions that can be taken		x	x	x	CH	CH	CH
Technical assistance	Provide technical assistance: private well treatment and testing, support for regional/county/watershed groundwater models (or the development of a dynamic groundwater model), monitoring for contamination, responding to contamination	CH	CH		x	x	CH	
Technical assistance	Develop a central tracking tool for water supply system information (GIS and otherwise, inclusive of implementation activities) that are viewable in a browser		CH			CH	x	
Financial assistance	Provide financial assistance: private well treatment and testing, expanded water efficiency grants, studies, monitoring, modeling, turf grass replacement/native plantings			CH	x	x	CH	CH
Governmental collaboration	Host regular subregional meetings, inclusive of water suppliers, land use planners, public works, agencies	x				x	CH	CH
Governmental collaboration	Bring agencies to the table to help solve problems and streamline plans and responsibilities					CH	CH	x
Governmental collaboration	Coordinate between water supply and land use planning for growth and development to ensure sustainable and safe water supply		CH	x				CH
Legislative engagement	Provide support for funding requests for all drinking water systems, including those doing well	x	x					x
Workforce	Work with other organizations to support a water workforce of the future	CH			CH		x	

Table 2. Additional summarized asks of Met Council shared in all actions plans drafted by subregional groups.

Ask type	Ask	NW	NE	E	SE	SW	W	C
Technical assistance	With MPCA, MDH and watersheds, incorporate review of groundwater impacts into stormwater management design and develop guidance for how stormwater practices impact groundwater.							CH
Technical assistance	Consider a west metro groundwater model (process, ____ Twin) of our shared aquifer and process to keep up to date. This could be a “stress test” model for drought conditions.						CH	
Technical assistance	Create data collection standards across state agencies (including urban vs. Rural data collection) that are easy to implement for local water suppliers, with funding, support, and increased lab testing capacity.						CH	
Technical assistance	Create a database of current conservation ordinances that are being implemented in the metro.						CH	
Technical assistance	Coordinate with area labs to inventory the different analyses available at each and make it easier to pickup/drop-off water samples				CH			
Technical assistance	Develop regional low-salt design guidance (less chloride, de-icing)				CH			
Technical assistance	Develop opportunities for urban agriculture and access to fresh food, such as zoning guidance for urban farms				CH			
Technical assistance	Define how current data is being used, and share for modeling purposes	CH						
Technical and financial assistance	Provide programs to incentivize private and commercial entities to lead by example		CH					
Research	Convene work groups to determine what types of re-use are feasible (small scale versus large scale, potable versus non-potable)				CH			
Research	Research the capacity/sustainability of aquifers				CH			
Research	Conduct a technical review of biosolid applications and impacts to groundwater				CH			
Research	Perform a rigorous review of existing land practices and their potential for contamination of ground or surface water, and regulations to protect against contamination from occurring.							

Ask type	Ask	NW	NE	E	SE	SW	W	C
Research	Research the connection of wastewater treatment plant discharge versus aquifer recharge					CH		
Research	Determine needed chemistry for injection of water		CH					
Research	Determine whether a change in source of water is needed		CH					
Research, demonstration	Lead on addressing water softening from a wastewater treatment perspective			CH				
Demonstration	Use Met Council owned lands as demo projects of sustainable agriculture				CH			
Legislative engagement	Establish a workgroup involving agencies and local government reps and Met Council to identify and recommend changes or removals to statutes/rules	CH						
Legislative engagement	Advocate at the legislature for policy and funding proposals that would support a sustainable, clean, and affordable water future for all (including multi-community wellhead protection planning, funding to develop a dynamic metro groundwater model, funding for increased management of drainage water, funding for drilling monitoring wells, funding for staffing, funding to upgrade telemetry/data loggers). Work with professional and lobbying organizations to amplify impact.			CH	CH	CH	CH	CH
Governmental collaboration	Provide suggestions as to where in the metro it makes strategic sense to do multi-jurisdictional planning, and then support that planning		CH					
Governmental collaboration	With Governor, DNR, review, define, and map the current drought declaration process, authority of regional restrictions, and barriers/concerns on legal process. Depending on findings, work to change laws to better implement the restrictions.						CH	
Education	Support peer to peer outreach like master gardeners for private well and septic system users	CH						

Highlights: Session #3 – Connections to regional policy and local plans

Water Policy Plan

An overview of the Water Policy Plan was presented, and participants provided input on draft policies in a gallery walk exercise.

Information generated in this activity will be combined with other stakeholder input and used to revise draft policies in the Water Policy Plan.

The following figures are the results from the gallery walk exercise.

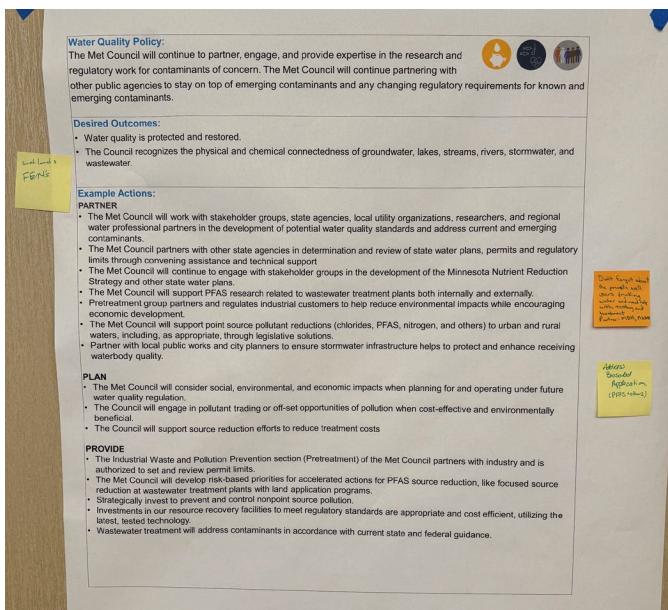


Figure 6. Comments on the water quality policy. They include incorporating fens and wetlands when discussing bodies of water, water quality impacts of spreading biosolids, and partnering with MDH and others on private well water quality.

Water Stewardship and Sustainability Policy:
 The region is a steward of the current and long-term viability of the region's waters and water infrastructure investments. By maximizing the benefits of clean and ample water through water conservation and efficient use practices for all current and future communities, residents, ecosystems, and economies.

Desired Outcomes:

- Efficient use and water conservation practices are prioritized and invested in at the local and regional level to help optimize infrastructure investments.
- The water needs of all cities, townships, residents, and ecosystems across the metro are met now and for future generations.
- The Council explores and supports community efforts to adopt technologies that increase the efficient use of water and reduce energy consumption.

Example Actions:

PARTNER

- The Met Council will work with partners to support efforts that encourage residents, businesses, and water utilities to incorporate new technology and behaviors, where feasible, as a means of achieving water sustainability and energy efficiency in the region.
- Promote customer engagement efforts to increase water conservation to extend the life expectancies for critical water infrastructure components.
- Work with water supply service providers and agency partners to identify significant water users that could be targeted for water quantity reductions, conservation, and reuse where applicable.

PLAN

- Co-create and develop funding requests for water infrastructure projects and feasibility studies that benefit multiple communities.

PROVIDE

- The Met Council will implement water conservation and efficiencies in the operation of the regional wastewater collection and treatment system.
- Where feasible, the Met Council will install drought-resilient, native landscaping on our properties to reduce the need for irrigation and turfgrass management.
- Continue to support programs targeting water and energy conservation practices and implementation of efficient water and energy use like the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MtTAP) to assist local businesses, residents, and communities.
- Support ongoing research to direct residents and developers to identify alternatives to using drinking water supplies for lawn watering, install low maintenance turf or now mow and native landscapes that reduce outdoor water use, lessen water demands, and promote climate resiliency.

Handwritten notes:
 - Orange sticky note: "Need to speed up with Review Process"
 - Yellow sticky note: "Water Efficiency Grant Program - Review Process - Need to speed up with Review Process"

Figure 7. Comments on the water stewardship and sustainability policy. They include accelerating DNR review processes and considering broadening the water efficiency grant program to include other appliances and irrigation audits.

Water Reuse Policy:
 The Council will work with our partners to reduce barriers, pursue opportunities, and support community efforts to reuse water for potable and non-potable purposes, while balancing public and ecosystem health and financial concerns.

Desired Outcomes:

- Stormwater reuse guidelines for the state and region that balance the needs of implementors, state agencies, public health, and financial cost, while furthering sustainable waters.
- Wastewater reuse is implemented where it is economically feasible and appropriate.
- Met Council pursues water reuse projects within its own operations and supports our partners in their wastewater reuse efforts through financial and technical support.

Example Actions:

PARTNER

- Metropolitan Council staff, in collaboration with partners, will determine direction on whether further guidance and/or regulation is needed for the various stormwater reuse practices being installed in the metro region. This action will include collaborating with partners and agencies to better understand the risks associated with all types of reuse before decisions are made about guidance or regulation.
- Metropolitan Council staff will work with agency partners to better define agency roles and responsibilities for reuse in Minnesota.
- The Metropolitan Council will promote and invest in stormwater and wastewater reuse, both internally and regionally, as viable alternatives to augment non-potable water uses to support regional growth when feasible.

PLAN

- Identify and evaluate the economic and technical feasibility of best practices that enhance groundwater recharge and make the best use of reclaimed wastewater and stormwater while protecting source water quality.
- The Metropolitan Council will identify and plan for long-range regional investments in wastewater and stormwater reuse that protect source water quality and quantity.
- The Metropolitan Council will identify criteria for viable wastewater reuse projects including, but not limited to, reducing effluent contaminant concentrations to match the water quality need associated with the intended reuse.
- Reuse treated wastewater to meet nonpotable water needs within Council wastewater treatment facilities where economically feasible.
- Council shall pursue sources of non-Council funding to complement Council funding of wastewater reuse projects, including Clean Water Legacy Funds, state bond funds, and reuse grants.

PROVIDE

- The Council will explore and implement the reuse of wastewater and stormwater within our facilities.
- The Metropolitan Council will continue supporting our partners in their water reuse projects through financial and implementation support.
- Council shall report on all wastewater reuse study and project activities at the Council's annual budget outreach meetings.
- For any wastewater reuse partnerships, the cost share for the Met Council shall follow the recommendations of the 2017 Task Force in Appendix XX.

Handwritten notes:
 - Yellow sticky note: "State of MN - Water Reuse - Review Process - Need to speed up with Review Process"
 - Yellow sticky note: "Water Efficiency Grant Program - Review Process - Need to speed up with Review Process"
 - Large yellow sticky note: "PARTNER ~ Lead the effort to realistically bridge the gap between Potable Water Standards & irrigation/non-potable use to make water reuse more practical & affordable"

Figure 8. Comments on the water reuse policy. They include addressing the gap in water standards to make water reuse more practical and affordable, work with the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) to make indoor water reuse systems less onerous and costly, and to clarify what funding support can be provided by the Met Council.

Inflow and Infiltration Policy:
 Inflow and infiltration is systematically addressed to reclaim capacity in the conveyance system to improve efficiency and support deferral of capital expenses. Additional capacity will not be provided in the interceptor and wastewater treatment systems to serve excessive inflow and infiltration.

Desired Outcomes:

- Capacity enhancements will not be made to accommodate inflow and infiltration.
- Municipalities are supported in both mitigation efforts on public and private infrastructure.
- Funding is consistent and reliable for inflow and infiltration mitigation efforts.

Example Actions:

PARTNER

- Work with the State to make funds available for inflow and infiltration mitigation, and promote statutes, rules, and regulations to encourage I/I mitigation.
- Continue to support, advocate, and coordinate with Metro Cities for state bond funding for municipal public system inflow and infiltration grants
- Coordinate with lead-removal municipal programs to help residents address water supply and wastewater laterals concurrently, when feasible.

PLAN

- The Met Council will continue developing inflow and infiltration goals for all communities served by the regional wastewater system.
- The Met Council will limit expansion of service within communities where excessive inflow and infiltration jeopardizes the Council's ability to convey wastewater without an overflow or backup occurring or limits the capacity in the system to the point where the Council can no longer provide additional wastewater services. The Met Council will work with those communities on a case-by-case basis, based on the applicable regulatory requirements.

PROVIDE

- Met Council facilities and interceptors will be maintained and rehabilitated to minimize inflow and infiltration.
- The Met Council will institute a wastewater rate demand charge for those communities that have not met their inflow and infiltration goals, if the community has not been implementing an effective inflow and infiltration reduction program as determined by the Council, or if regulations and/or regulatory permits require Council action to ensure regulatory compliance.
- The cost of wastewater storage facilities and/or other improvements necessary to avoid overloading Council conveyance and treatment facilities and the appropriate charges for use of capacity beyond the allowable amount of inflow and infiltration will be covered by the wastewater demand charge.
- The Met Council will continue to advocate for and seek funding for communities working to reduce inflow and infiltration from private property sources, which may include partnering with lead service line replacement efforts.

Handwritten notes:
 - "Grants for Private Services" (yellow sticky note)
 - "It is important to be able to pay for the services. It is important to be able to pay for the services. It is important to be able to pay for the services." (yellow sticky note)

Figure 9. Comments on the inflow and infiltration policy. They include offering grants for private services and expanding the funding to adequately assist participants.

Equitable Water Outcomes Policy:
 Regional water benefits and water services are accessible and shared among all residents and communities.

Desired Outcomes:

- All residents have access to safe and affordable water for drinking, recreation, cultural, and other social or commercial uses.
- The public and ecosystem health benefits of abundant and clean natural waters and water service providers are fully realized in all communities in the region.
- Water service and benefit gaps are prioritized and addressed in vulnerable populations and communities.
- Historically underrepresented and overburdened populations are involved in water planning conversations and decisions.
- Improvements to the regional wastewater conveyance and treatment systems enhance the aesthetics and amenities in the region.

Example Actions:

PARTNER

- Engage with residents and other local and regional partners to understand local perspectives and regional water values and identify services and benefit gaps.
- Partner with groups and organizations who promote water equity and connect residents with water services and benefits.
- Partner with tribal nations and communities to build trust through shared knowledge and experiences, collaborate on solutions, and work together to bring indigenous values, perspectives, and experiences forward, to ensure the sustainable and equitable water outcomes for the region.
- Work with Council Members to promote and support environmental justice in the region.
- Environmental Services will partner with other Met Council divisions on equity efforts that overlap regional systems.

Potential projects to explore:

- Regional Parks: Pilot projects involving monitoring in waters in certain parks/ Create signage about blue green algae/ Information about safe swimming.
- Transit: Pilot projects that increase access to Regional Priority Waters, create signage about waters
- Community Development & Housing: Pilot projects that promote low flow fixtures and green infrastructure in disadvantaged communities without causing housing affordability concerns and environmental gentrification.

PLAN

- Wastewater infrastructure investments are planned for by prioritizing environmental justice approaches that promote equitable public and ecosystem health outcomes and undo past harms.

PROVIDE

- Met Council staff will convene and listen to community members who have water equity and environmental justice concerns or experiences. We will work together to try to alleviate imbalances that cause injustices and strengthen our relationship and build trust in our organization and the water services we and our partner organizations provide.
- Provide resources that inform and support equitable water outcomes.
- Met Council will engage residents to plan and deliver regional wastewater related improvements with community informed design.

Handwritten notes:
 - "Support EJ: needs, equity, trust" (yellow sticky note)
 - "Inclusive language: water and wastewater services" (yellow sticky note)
 - "Wastewater infrastructure" (green sticky note)

Figure 10. Comments on the equitable water outcomes policy. They include incorporating information about informal beaches, clarifying what “support EJ” means, and using more inclusive language when considering infrastructure investments (not just wastewater) prioritizing environmental justice approaches.

Water Monitoring, Data, and Assessment Policy:

Natural waters and engineered water systems (stormwater, water treatment and distribution systems, reuse systems) in the region are proactively monitored, and high quality data is collected and shared, and conditions (past, present, and future) are collaboratively assessed to support regional water objectives.

Desired Outcomes:

- The region is a steward of water, understanding the current status of its waters, whether its quantity or quality, to be prepared for the future.
- The Council and regional partner organizations will coordinate efforts to monitor the region's surface water, groundwater, and wastewater to assess current conditions, trends, and assure regulatory compliance.
- The Council conducts studies and supports efforts to measure progress towards achieving sustainable and equitable water goals.
- The Council, in partnership with other organizations, uses its resources to support efforts to provide public health insights, as the need arises.

Example Actions:

PARTNER

- The Metropolitan Council will partner, assist, and support collaborators with the monitoring and assessment of regional priority waters and groundwaters.
- The Metropolitan Council will collaboratively research and gather data and information on the quality, quantity, flow, and connections between the regions surface and groundwaters.
- In partnership with other water professionals, Council staff will complete technical studies to understand regional and sub-regional long-term water supply availability and demand.
- The Met Council will partner with public health agencies to remain aware of when Environmental Services can assist in wastewater monitoring and data collection in the interest of public health insights, when the need arises, and funding is available.

PLAN

- Explore and identify data sources to support the understanding of water value and use, especially to increase the effectiveness of the Priority Waters List.
- Support community efforts to identify and evaluate the economic and technical feasibility of water supply approaches and best practices that increase water conservation, enhance groundwater recharge, and make the best use of groundwater, surface water, reclaimed wastewater, and stormwater.

PROVIDE

- The Met Council will continue to provide monitoring data to our partners through our regional database that contains easily accessible water quality, quantity, and other water-related information collected as a part of the Council's monitoring programs.
- The Metropolitan Council will create a data products, visualizations, and databases of narratives and water values regarding regional waters to understand how different people relate to water and are impacted by policy and planning of city and township, watershed, and regional planners and water utility providers.
- Council staff will provide long-term assessments of the quality and quantity of our regional waters

Regional groundwater model

Figure 11. Comments on the water monitoring, data, and assessment policy. They specifically include a regional groundwater model as a data product that the Met Council will provide.

Climate Resilient Water Policy:

The impacts of climate change on water and water services are proactively addressed to minimize the risks of negative public and ecosystem health outcomes so that current and future residents enjoy long term benefits of clean and abundant waters.

Desired Outcomes:

- Council and local actions mirror and are in alignment with the Minnesota Climate Action Framework.
- The region is prepared for impacts and associated risks due to climate change and has the tools and resources to adapt and thrive.
- Negative climate impacts on water sources and water infrastructure are reduced and limited, while positive climate impacts are enhanced and promoted.
- Water utilities reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions produced in the collection and treatment of water supply and treatment through energy efficiency improvements.
- Water and services can adapt to evolving climate risks and continue to support and protect public and ecosystem health.

Example Actions:

PARTNER

- The Metropolitan Council will prioritize inter-agency collaboration to understand the effectiveness of water reuse and infiltration as a stormwater management practice, particularly under a range of potential climate futures.
- The Metropolitan Council will connect, partner, and learn from other water utilities and planning organizations as we take on water and climate challenges.
- The Metropolitan Council will partner with and support academic institutions and other organizations to conduct research to generate metro area-specific climate change information, identify potential risks and benefits, and best understand future climate scenarios based on current science and models.

PLAN

- The Metropolitan Council will integrate and center state and regional climate objectives into our wastewater operations and water planning within the region.
- The Metropolitan Council will consider the climate vulnerabilities and risks within our facilities and operations and reduce the impact of climate on water resources, land management, water planning, and regional wastewater services now and in the future.
- Met Council staff will develop internal infrastructure design and placement guidelines based on the latest scientific and engineering knowledge to reduce their climate-risk on longevity.
- The Metropolitan Council will support low impact design and the integration of nature-based solutions into regional development to adapt to projected climate impacts on our land and waters.

PROVIDE

- The Metropolitan Council will manage our facilities and land holdings to reduce impervious surfaces, integrate green infrastructure and nature-based solutions within our stormwater management systems, install native plantings where possible, and be a regional leader in climate-focused land management.

Methane capture / reduction @ treatment plants

Figure 12. Comments on the climate resilient water policy. They include considering methane capture and reduction at wastewater treatment facilities.

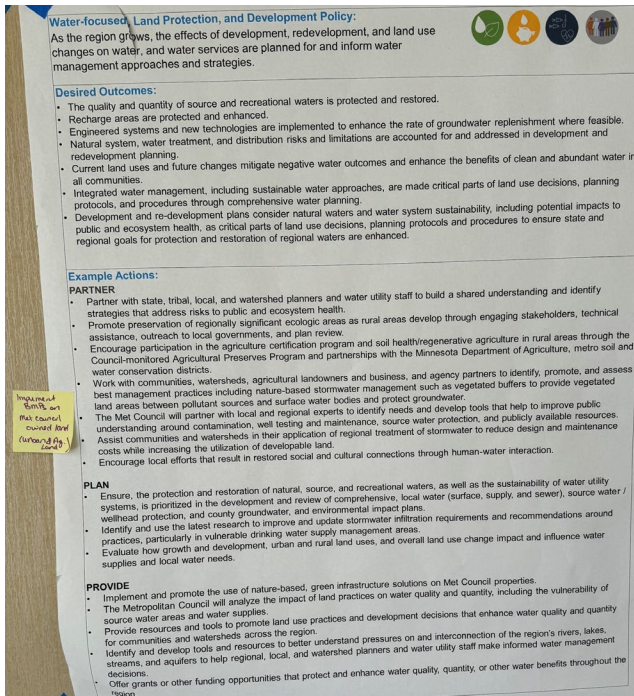


Figure 13. Comments on the water-focused, land protection and development policy. They include implementing Best Management Practices on Met Council owned properties.

3 Plans

An update about collaborative work among Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Health, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was shared, including some possible changes that have been suggested to improve the process and outcomes of those planning efforts.

Participants were invited to share their opinions about the suggested changes through a survey.

Survey results: Introductions

Survey results: '3 Plans' feedback

Presentation slides

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