



White Bear Lake Comprehensive Plan

Kickoff Meeting



January 17, 2024

metro council.org

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Meeting logistics – rules and roles
- III. Project overview
- IV. One-on-one conversations
- V. Roundtable discussion
- VI. Preliminary milestones and next steps
- VII. Previous studies
- VIII. Roundtable discussion
- IX. Next steps
- X. Questions

Introductions

- Name
- Title
- Organization
- What do you hope to achieve in this work group?

Ground Rules

- Be present and on time
- Come prepared
- Assume positive intent
- Listen actively and listen to understand
- Step forward, step back
- Good enough push on (GEPO)

Open Meeting Rule



- Public is welcome to observe meetings
- Work group members discuss and decide direction
- All agenda and high-level minutes will be shared online

Project Overview – Why are we doing this? (1 of 2)



Overview of legislation:

The Minnesota legislature provided \$2 million in funding for the Metropolitan Council to form a work group to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure communities in the White Bear Lake area have access to sufficient drinking water to allow for municipal growth while ensuring the sustainability of surface and groundwater resources to supply the needs of future generations.

Project Overview – Why are we doing this? (2 of 2)



Work Group Members:

- Commissioners or designees from the DNR, MDH, and MPCA
- Representatives from Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and St. Paul Regional Water Services.
- The communities of Stillwater, Mahtomedi, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Lino Lakes, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights, Shoreview, Woodbury, New Brighton, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, and North Oaks.

One-On-One Meetings Feedback (1 of 2)

Highlights of what have we heard in one-on-one meetings

1. Focus on sustainable solutions and not just focus on White Bear Lake elevation.
2. Results should set a framework of legitimate water supply policy for area. Hoping this workgroup can replace the lawsuit with a solution.
3. Need resolution before next round of comprehensive planning.
4. Need more water appropriations to supply our current and planned growth.
5. Need to find water for existing neighborhoods and planned development.
6. Equity needs to be considered in addition to supply future growth.

One-On-One Meetings Feedback (2 of 2)

Highlights of what have we heard in one-on-one meetings

7. Already made significant investments on a new water treatment plant.
8. Preference to stay on groundwater instead of surface water.
9. Groundwater is less expensive to treat than surface water.
10. Focus should be on communities that developed later around White Bear Lake instead of those who came first.
11. Willing to consider a surface water solution but concerned about how it will be paid for.
12. Need to know how solutions will impact water utility rates.

Round Table Discussion #1

Is there anything else you would like to share about your organization's perspective or concerns related to this effort?

Preliminary milestones and schedule

Milestone	Date
Schedule and hold one-on-one meetings with each of the group members	Completed in 2023
Work Group kickoff meeting	Jan. 2024
Work Group meetings and plan development	January 2024 – May 2027
Begin to award consultant contracts for technical and financial analysis work	July 2024
Plan development	July 2024 – June 2027
Submit final report with recommendations to the House of Representatives, Senate committees, and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources finance and policy	June 30, 2027
Follow-up discussions with House of Representatives	Ongoing after plan submittal

Previous Regional Water Supply Studies/Tools



- Feasibility Assessment of Approaches to Water Sustainability in the Northeast Metro – Metropolitan Council, December 2014
- Report to the Minnesota State Legislature: Concept Cost Report for Augmentation of White Bear Lake with Surface Water – DNR, February 2016
- Regional Groundwater Recharge and Stormwater Capture and Reuse Study – North and East Metro Study Area – Metropolitan Council, May 2016
- Minnesota’s PFAS Blueprint – MPCA, February 2021
- Conceptual Drinking Water Supply Plan for PFAS in the East Metro Area – MPCA, August 2021
- Reuse of Stormwater and Rainwater in Minnesota – MDH, January 2022
- Groundwater Modeling Analysis for White Bear Lake Court Case – DNR, June 2022

Round Table Discussion #2

Do you have any initial thoughts or direction on:

- 1. Gaps/deficiencies in previous studies**
- 2. Other information necessary to further our discussions**

Next Steps

- **Develop meeting logistics and decision-making process for future meetings**
- **Identify communication preferences**
- **Brainstorm potential solutions**
- **Continue discussion on details for any future studies**
- **Recruit sub team to assist in RFP evaluation**

Questions?

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For more project information



www.metrocouncil.org/WBLWorkGroup