



WATER RESOURCES PLANNING

Presented by Kyle Colvin, Karen Jensen, and Lanya Ross

Thursday, July 21, 2016

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Webinar Summary: This webinar will describe the three water chapters required in the comprehensive plan including: 1) wastewater, septic systems, and comprehensive sewer plan, 2) local surface water management plan, and 3) local water supply plan. The webinar will provide guidance about which communities need to complete which plan elements, the minimum requirements for each plan element, and additional efforts for a plan that goes above and beyond the minimum requirements. MCES staff contacts and other information resources will be provided.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

1. Do we have to coordinate our sewer forecasts with our neighboring communities?

No. Each community is responsible for reviewing and basing its plan on its forecasts. Through the review process, there is an adjoining community review element, but in terms of coordinating sewer forecasts, or any forecasts for that matter with neighboring communities, it's not a requirement.

2. Do we need to address best management practice maintenance in our Local Surface Water Plan?

It's actually a very pertinent topic right now because research at the University of Minnesota has shown that without maintenance, many management practices, which we also call BMPs - best management practices - lose their effectiveness at both pollutant removal and stormwater volume reduction if they're not maintained. We recommend that every community identify the management practices within its boundaries and develop a program to inspect and maintain those practices. I would say that additional support may be available from your watershed management organization for maintenance activities. As well, the Minnesota Stormwater Manual provides a great deal of information about maintenance of different activities or different practices that you may have on your landscape. So the quick answer the question is no, including maintenance of best management practices is not required in your plan, but the Met Council does recommend including a maintenance program with your plan.

3. If we serve less than 1,000 people, do we have to complete a water supply plan?

If you are in the metropolitan area, and you have a municipal public water supply, yes, you do need to complete a local water supply plan template even if your population is less than 1,000 people.

4. Is there a specific deadline for the sanitary sewer update? The only specific date I noted was October 31, 2016, for my city for water supply.

In terms of the wastewater plan, the wastewater plan is to be included with the overall plan update submittal, so officially the deadline for that is December 31, 2018, so it's consistent with the overall update deadline requirement.

5. What will happen if my comprehensive plan does not include one of these required plans?

We have had this issue before the last round of planning because of the disconnect between the water supply plan and the local comprehensive plan. So for water supply, if you do not include your local water supply plan as part of the full comprehensive plan, it will be deemed incomplete until that local water supply plan is submitted.

If the local water plan is not included in the final comprehensive plan in its entirety, as a full chapter or appendix, with the deadline of December 31, 2018, your plan will also be deemed incomplete.



Just to make this kind of a trifecta, if any required element of the wastewater plan or for that matter, really, any section of the plan isn't included, it will be determined as being incomplete, and then the community will be given an opportunity to include that information on a subsequent submittal.

6. Are you available to meet one on one with my community to guide us on developing our Local Water Plan?

When you say Local Water Plan, I'm a little unclear if you mean Local Water Supply Plan or the Surface Water Plan, but I'll answer for the water supply component of that. If you do want assistance in completing that Local Water Supply Plan, have questions about some portion of it, we would be happy to come and meet with you and coordinate with DNR as well, on any questions you might have.

I would say the same thing. I work closely with Joe Mulcahy, we share our job and both of our emails are available on the resource sheet. We would be happy to come and meet with your community. A good collaborative approach, I would put it maybe, is that we would be happy to meet with you perhaps at your watershed district headquarters so that we can all talk about the expectations for the plans and get those on the table, make sure everyone's clear on what's required, and you'd be well on your way.

7. How can I find out if the Metropolitan Council has water quality data for streams or lakes in my community?

That is a great question and really pertinent right now because the Metropolitan Council has an environmental data management system. We call it "EIMS", it stands for "Environmental Information Management System". The EIMS is located on the Council's website. We are currently in the process of revamping the EIMS and the expected product will be available probably early fall so maybe in September. We anticipate the revamped EIMS system will be much more user friendly, will have maps, it'll be more interactive, and so typically the type of information you would be able to find on the EIMS would be water quality information about lakes in your community, because the Metropolitan Council has the Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program, also known as "CAMP". So, many communities in the metropolitan area have volunteers that are collecting data on the lakes and those would be included in EIMS. For those communities that have a stream running through their community, the Council monitors over 21 different stream systems within the metro. If we do monitor the stream system in your community, the data would also be available there. I would be happy to answer any specific questions about data requests, if you just want to email me.

8. My WMO is just starting the update of its Management Plan. If the update is not completed by the end of 2018, do I wait to update the Local Water Plan?

That's a good question - one I haven't heard before. What I would say is, your plan does need to be done by the due date of December 31, 2018. I would suggest that, number one you have a conversation with your watershed district to see where they're at and what their deadline will be. Perhaps, it would be a good idea in your situation for the Metropolitan Council, you, and the watershed district to sit down at a table and just discuss the expectations for your plan. I'm just going to sort of take a flyer on this though, and say that it's the approved Watershed Plan that is most appropriately used to guide your community's plan. So if your watershed management organization is in the midst of updating its plan, you will probably want to use the already approved plan. But contact me, and we can go through your specific situation and sort of parse out the details.

9. We had a request for confirmation of the Local Water Supply Plan due dates. It appears that the DNR website presents conflicting dates with what we had.

We will definitely update that and make sure that they are consistent. My sincere apologies and we will get correct information out as soon as possible.

CORRECTION: Please note that incorrect information was presented about the due dates for local water supply plans on slides 62, 63 and 64. For communities with local water supply plans due in 2016, plans should be submitted by December 31st. For communities with plans due in 2017 or 2018, plans should be submitted by October 31st.

10. What if my community doesn't have an electronic sanitary sewer system map?

There are actually a few communities out there that fall in that category. First of all, the Council has GIS datasets that are available to provide to local communities to help build that GIS map. Some of that data includes regional facilities, which we want to be depicted on the local system maps as well. The Council also has other datasets through MetroGIS that are available. We can make that available, at least within the limits of any licensing agreements we might have. We also had, under the 2030 plan submittals, a few communities where all that was available were hard paper copy maps and the Council did go through and digitize some of those schematics into our GIS system, so we can also make that available to communities as well.

11. What if my community doesn't have an SSTS map?

Pretty much the same thing applies here. As I indicated during the presentation, for communities that have a combination of some centralized wastewater service and SSTSs, we will accept addresses for those properties that are served by SSTSs. In communities like townships that do not have any service to a centralized system whether it's regional or local, what the Council will do is either get a list of addresses from the County if they have the authority for SSTSs in that community, or the Council will also go through the process of identifying SSTSs based on County parcel data.

12. Do we need to include the city's SWPPP in the Local Water Plan?

I'll remind everyone at first that SWPPP is spelled S-W-P-P-P and it stands for the "Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan" and it is required of MS4 communities and MS4 stands for "Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Cities", which are identified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. So, inclusion of your SWPPP is not an official requirement in the Local Water Plan. But it would enhance your plan to include a summary of the SWPPP and perhaps a web link, I think I had a slide about that earlier in my presentation. I think it would be a good tie in with your SWPPP plan as one plan and your local water management plan. It's nice to have the two tied together so that your goals and your implementation strategies are aligned.

13. What if our community completed a water supply plan in the last few years?

If your community has completed a water supply plan in the past few years, it will still need to be updated. We want to make sure those local water supply plans are reflecting the most current statutory requirements for water demand reduction programs, for example. They also will need to include water demand projections out through 2040 to be consistent with the local comprehensive plan. Other portions of your local water supply plan may be very easy to update. It may be a lot of the same information just taken from your existing plan and put into the new template. If you'd like to talk about this in more detail, feel free to email me and we can meet about this if there are additional question but we are looking for those templates too be updated to, again, reflect statutory requirements that have changed, and also the new projections.

14. Is EIMS offline now?

So that's a good follow up question to the one I just answered about our EIMS, which again stands for "Environmental Information Management System". I think this question follows up on the fact that I said we're revamping the system now. But the old system is still up and operational. So if you have used our old EIMS webpage and system to download data, that's still there, still going, so feel free to use it. I think everyone will be pleased with the update, however, coming out later this fall.

15. Is sewer staging a requirement for the plan?

In some communities, no. The last round of comp plans, communities projected out or staged growth out to what was then 2030. As I explained the long-term wastewater plan in Thrive 2040 for that matter, essentially froze the 2030 service area boundary out to 2040 and that recognized the fact that the region saw very little growth in that 6-year period between the last update and now. It also recognizes and acknowledges that there are a lot of undeveloped land areas within the 2040 long-term service area. So if the communities plan for growth is contained within what is now the 2040 MUSA boundary, the Council has already gone through the last round to verify that we either have adequate system capacity to accommodate growth in those areas, or has already programmed capital improvements to provide additional capacity in those areas. So in those cases where a community is not planning to extend its growth beyond the 2040 boundary, then the community is not required to having a staging plan. However, adverse to that, if a community is proposing to extend growth beyond what we delineated as the 2040 service area, then yes, they do have to identify those areas outside of the 2040 service area, identify the timing of that expansion, and the type of development they propose using their land use plan.

16. If a community gets water from another water supplier, who needs to submit a water supply plan?

If a city or water supplier is buying water in bulk from another water supplier and then billing its customers, that city will need to complete a water supply plan. There's a couple of different variations on this question. Another option would be if residents of, say, city #1 are getting their water from city #2, and city #2 is handling all of the billing and the metering, then city #1 doesn't need to complete a local water supply plan. City #2 will need to be accounting for these customers in their water supply plan, if that makes sense. Now, if city #1 runs their own water supply system, but some portion of that city is served by city #2, some neighborhood, for example is served by a separate water supply system, then each city should only complete or only plan for the portions they serve, if that answers this question. If you are unsure and you'd like to have a couple a more questions, I'd recommend following up with me, contacting your DNR Hydro, or contacting Joe Richter who is at the DNR. He serves the metro area and his contact information is online and we'll provide that in the questions that we post with this webinar as well.

17. If my community provides sanitary sewer service to another community, do I need to include that other area of the community in our sewer forecasts?

That's a good question because actually it relates to the first question I addressed. As I stated earlier, a community is only responsible for including in its forecasts the household and employment that is contained within its boundaries. So, no. If an area outside of a community, which is in another community, is served and flow is coming in from that community, they do not need to include those forecasts in their comprehensive sewer plan. However, many of these intercommunity service areas are covered by a joint-powers agreement or an inter-community agreement. Many of those inter-community agreements do stipulate linnets or levels of service that can be accommodated or accepted by the receiving community. So it is important. I think the first question talked about coordination of sewer forecasts in regards to the inter-community service areas. Yes there should be some coordination of sewer forecasts to verify that one, it's either consistent in the inter-community agreement, or two, highlights the need to amend that agreement to accommodate any changes in that level of service between the two communities.

18. What funding sources are available for surface water implementation projects?

To make it short, there's a few ways you can fund implementation projects. One common way in the metropolitan area has been to adopt a stormwater utility fee by communities. Many communities have adopted these fees. What they are typically looking at, is the amount of runoff that a typical type of land use would produce, and then charging a fee based on that volume expected to be produced. So residential areas are typically charged one type of fee, industrial areas might be charged another type of fee because they're typically larger with much more paved surface, so they produce more runoff. A good example of a stormwater utility fee would be to look to the City of Roseville. They were one of the early adopters of the stormwater utility and have made good use of it. The stormwater utility fees have typically been used by cities for construction and maintenance of their stormwater sewer service but also to construct and maintain best management practices that reduce the volume of stormwater going into their system, or reduce the number pollutants going into their system as well. So stormwater utility is one avenue. Second, thanks to the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment and the Clean Water Fund, there are several grant programs that are available to communities, and especially to communities with approved local water plans. For that one, I suggest looking at the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources website. That agency is also known as BWSR. For more information, they operate a number of the grant programs. You may also want to check with the Pollution Control Agency for additional grant programs and your watershed district may also provide additional funding to help with implementation projects. If you have questions about any of these funding mechanisms, just shoot me an email and I will provide some web links or help you answer that question.

19. What is the process for review and approval of the water supply plan?

This is going to be a joint process to review these local water supply plans between the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. So Step 1 will be submitting your local water supply plan through the MPARS website. Again, this website is one that is also used to submit your annual water use information for the water appropriation permit to DNR - so it's the same location. Your area hydrologist, then, at the DNR, will be receiving an automatic notification of this new posting, that there is a new plan to review. They will review the plan for initial completeness, and if it's a metro area plan - so one of the ones we were talking about today - it will then get forwarded on to the Metropolitan Council for our review.

The area hydrologist, again, is going to be the main contact for the community and the public water supplier. Metropolitan Council staff will be reviewing those plans, DNR will be reviewing those plans, and if there are any questions or any concerns, the DNR hydrologist will be the one to share that with the community and address those. Or, they'll also be, if there are no concerns, the ones to share a letter of approval.

That information is then shared with the Metropolitan Council as well. If there are no changes made to the plan, and it's complete and consistent with the population forecasts, for example going out to 2040, it would be considered complete for inclusion with the local comprehensive plan.

DNR is the agency to approve the local water supply plans. So once they've approved that local water supply plan, your city is then required to adopt the plan. There's a "Certification of Plan Adoption" template on the DNR website at the same place that you have different links for the local water supply plan template. There are some instructions and a checklist, and some other frequently asked question about the local water supply plan are there as well. So, once that "Certificate of Plan Adoption" is ready, that will be posted in MPARS along with the permit information and the local water supply plan. I hope that covers most of the question with that. DNR and Council staff are happy to follow up and add more detail as needed.

20. In terms of generating flow protections for our wastewater plan, what is an appropriate assumption for flow per household or flow per capita?

It's actually a question that we get asked a lot. The Council, a few years ago, actually did a regional-based study on what we were seeing for residential equivalent connection flow generation and also per capita flow

generation rates. What we found regionally was that approximately, a little bit less than 180 gallons per household, which equated to about 85 gallons per capita. Now that does vary pretty widely between communities. Things that influence that of course are household size for one thing, but also if a community has a large industrial component to it, that'll have a tendency to kind of skew that flow per household and capita numbers. What I would suggest is that the Council has a lot of wastewater flow data that it collects through one of the 170 or so flow meters, and we can make that information available to communities. We have listed on the handout a contact person that you get that information from. We also have other datasets too that might help communities get a better handle on the flow generation rate. I might also add that, regionally speaking, we see on average about 800 gallons per acre per day. Again, that varies widely of course, from downtown Minneapolis to various suburban type communities. But on average, it's about 800 gallons per acre per day.

21. Can you discuss what's meant by a Tier 2 Sewer Plan?

It's a term that refers to the requirements in the sewer chapter that pre-dates the merger of the Council and the requirements of the overall Comprehensive Plan that was delineated in the Land Planning Act and then the specific requirements of the Sewer Act for the Wastewater Plan. Other than to us old-timers, the term "Tier 2" doesn't really mean a whole lot. You'll actually notice that in this presentation, I specifically didn't use the term "Tier 2", but what it refers to is the more detailed information requirements that were under the old Sewer Act when the Wastewater Plan was actually separate from the overall Land Use Plan. After the merger of the agencies, and the last go-around, we actually just required the level of detail in the overall comp plan update. So it's really a term that we're really hoping to retire because now the requirements are the Wastewater Plan requirements.

22. Will this presentation be available on the website? Maybe a summary of the Q&A as well?

If you would like to view today's presentation again, we will be posting the video, presentation slides with annotations, and a summary of the Q&A (including questions we didn't get to) on the [PlanIt](#) page of the [Local Planning Handbook](#). We will be posting all of the webinars throughout 2016 on the website as well.

Please send additional questions or comments to angela.torres@metc.state.mn.us.