

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY (MAWSAC) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Sandy Rummel, Chair, Patty Acomb, Jeffrey Berg, Jeanne Daniels, Randy Ellingboe, Glen Gerads, Phil Klein, Dean Lotter, Steve Schneider, Jamie Schurbon, Barry Stock

Committee Members Absent:

Mark Daleiden, Georg Fischer, Todd Gerhardt, Susan Morris, Catherine Neuschler, Michael Robinson, Lisa Volbrecht

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee to order at 1:07 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26, 2017.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Jamie Schurbon, seconded by Phil Klein to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Phil Klein, seconded by Jamie Schurbon to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2017 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

TAC UPDATE

In the absence of Chair Mark Maloney, staff Member Lanya Ross, provided an update of the Technical Advisory Committee meeting that occurred on June 27, 2017. Information shared included water efficiency and conservation. A summary of the minutes for this meeting is available at <https://metro council.org/getdoc/3eb77e1e-646d-48dd-b9f7-b43c6fca7185/Minutes.aspx>.

Chair Maloney had an opportunity to tour of the new Shoreview Water Treatment Plant prior to the meeting. New technology and investments were shown during the tour.

Comments / Questions:

No comments or questions at this time.

BUSINESS

1. Collaboration to Improve Water Supply Planning: Sub-regional Workgroups – Ali Elhassan, Metropolitan Council

Staff shared a summary of the American Water Works Association regional collaboration report and how outcomes of that report relate to sub-regional water supply workgroup collaborative efforts that support policy discussions by the committee.

Seven subregional workgroups exist in the region in the Southwest, Washington County, Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, Washington County Coalition, and the Seminary Fen.

Workgroups have been an effective platform for collaboration. One member of the Southeast Work Group, Russ Matthys, Public Works Director for the City of Eagan, was quoted as stating, "Groundwater

doesn't know community boundaries. We can have a greater impact if we work together on water supply sustainability.”

Drivers for collaboration formation include future water supply and source water sharing, operational efficiencies such as leveraging economies of scale, emergency planning and security such as arranging in advance sharing of resources for unexpected emergencies, regulatory responsiveness, workforce training, communication with the public.

Governance structures for collaborative efforts include informal cooperation, memorandum of understanding (MOU), contractual assistance through the Minnesota Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (MNWarn), joint powers agency through the joint water commission (Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope), intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and 501(c)(3) non-profit entities.

There are different types of collaboration throughout the region. Informal or voluntary collaboration is being used in Washington County, Calcareous Fen, Northwest and Northeast. Structured more formal collaboration is being used in the Southeast, Washington County Water Coalition, and the Southwest.

The role of the Metropolitan Council in these efforts is to convene, facilitate, and provide technical and financial support. Steve Albrecht, Public Works Director, City of Burnsville stated, “The Metropolitan Council plays a valuable facilitating role in the discussions and provides a regional perspective for the group. Council funding of the study was important because it isn't always easy to get local city councils to commit funds to something that reaches beyond their borders.” He also highlighted a point that the Metropolitan Council also provides funds for initiatives that extend beyond Community boundaries.

Met Council support for strategic planning towards the long-term sustainability of water resources within the region and the subregions includes financial (grants), technical (staff and consultant expertise), planning, partnership among MAWSAC and TAC, agencies, academia, and the private sector.

Members had an opportunity to evaluate their experience in the subregional water supply work group. Most rated their expertise as good or excellent. The most important benefit expressed as of participation in the work groups ranked in the following order:

1. Information sharing and communication (networking/face to face)
2. Better management of water resources across jurisdictions
3. Bigger “voice” for advocating
4. Water/Resource sharing arrangements and resulting reliability
5. Saving money
6. Motivating each other and creativity

Challenges of participation:

1. Shared goal and vision
2. Political dynamics
3. Presence/quality of existing relationships
4. Funding
5. Constructive communication
6. Quality of leadership
7. External issues unrelated to water
8. Time

9. Support local control
10. Struggle to move in to action
11. Slow process
12. Hard to show and measure progress

Respondents were asked where they see the value of Metropolitan Council support:

1. Provide technical support for research/projects
2. Facilitate meetings and/or workshops
3. Promote region-wide messages of water stewardship that support local initiatives
4. Support subregional water supply work plan development
5. Provide training opportunities

Next Steps for Consideration:

- How can MAWSAC and TAC improve the collaboration framework through opportunities and actions?
- How can MAWSAC and TAC overcome challenges highlighted by TAC and work group members through results-oriented collaboration, healthy inclusive process, and state and regional support?

Comments / Questions:

Committee Member Stock commented that when showing the subregional groups, the Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul should be included even though they typically meet individually due to size of their area. A suggestion was also made that the list of collaborators should include agencies such as the Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, etc.

A Committee Member indicated it would be helpful to attend a subregional work group to better understand what they are discussing.

2. Policy Discussion: Collaboration for Successful Water Supply Planning – Lanya Ross, Metropolitan Council

Considering the presentations during this meeting as well as input from the Technical Advisory Committee, staff member Lanya Ross led the Committee in a collaborative discussion of policy considerations for successful water supply planning efforts.

Comments / Questions:

See Attachment A for a summary of this discussion.

Staff asked the committee if it would be valuable to map out relationships among the agencies, stakeholders, etc. in the Metro area? A survey monkey survey will be sent it out to the committee members.

UPCOMING MAWSAC MEETINGS

1. Next meeting date, future meetings and topics
 - a. Next MAWSAC meeting: September 27, 2017 – discussion on funding
 - b. Meeting of subregional work groups: Consider fall 2017 – Suggested 11/26/17
 - c. Upcoming joint meeting of MAWSAC and TAC: Consider winter 2017/2018 – Suggested January 2018
 - d. Upcoming agenda items

Location is typically at the Metropolitan Council. Alternate meeting locations may be considered to allow tours of facilities. If there are conflicts with these dates, please notify Lanya Ross, lanya.ross@metc.state.mn.us .

Committee members wishing to have items added to future MAWSAC agendas should forward them to Lanya Ross, lanya.ross@metc.state.mn.us .

Comments / Questions:

Details of the Fall and Winter meetings will be provided as they become available.

2. Updates from Members

Committee Member Ellingboe stated the Minnesota Department of Health released their Drinking Water Protection Annual Report for 2016 on July 25, 2017 and is available on their website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/com/dwar/report2016.pdf> . Look for the section called, “Could it Happen Here” related to public drinking water supplies.

Committee Member Berg stated the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has a draft nitrogen fertilizer rule out for public review and comment. Listening sessions are taking place. This rule will determine how the Department of Agriculture will deal with issues on prevention and mitigation of nitrate and groundwater. To review visit the Department of Agriculture website at: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/fertilizers/nutrient-mgmt/nitrogenplan/mitigation/wrpr.aspx> .

Staff Member Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager, Environmental Quality Assurance provided an update on the One Water Summit that is coming up. The Metropolitan Council is a member of the US Water Alliance. One of the purposes of the Alliance is to promote the value of water on the wastewater side. Other agencies are part of the conversation. They are collaborating to make progress together. He encouraged committee members to get involved. The annual summit for 2018 will be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Metropolitan Council will be serving as a local host. We will be seeking input from local stakeholders and partner agencies on developing the content.

Sam also shared content of a slide from a presentation given at the US Water Alliance conference called “Big Ideas for Sustainable Water Collaboration.” The presentation shared the following ideas:

1. Advance regional collaboration.
2. Sustain adequate funding for responsible water management.
3. Encourage private investment in water infrastructure.
4. Implement full-cost pricing, and redefine affordability for the 21st century.
5. Incentive agriculture-utility partnerships for improved water quality.
6. Reduce the risk of lead exposure in our drinking water systems.
7. Accelerate technology adoption to build efficiency and improve service.

Chair Rummel attended the most recent summit. It is a unique cross section of stakeholders in water and is not a waste of time. She stated, “I became aware of how important it is to create a narrative about One Water. It is worth plugging in to it whether short-term or long-term thinking. The Metropolitan Council has a task force on water reuse which is separate from the State.”

In addition to the Water Summit comments above, Committee Member Ellingboe reminded the Committee the Governor’s town hall forums begin in Rochester during the week of July 31, 2017. A series of 10 meetings, including 3 in the Twin Cities area, have been scheduled for citizens to get engaged in providing ideas on water resource management concerns, etc.

He also complemented Committee Member Dean Lotter on his presentation “Water Supply Now and For the Future” to the Clean Water Council. It was a good opportunity for the Clean Water Council to hear about MAWSAC’s work.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary

Opportunities/Examples of Good Collaboration

- Surface water use as a more sustainable option for some cities. E.g. Ramsey working with other cities to achieve an economically viable approach. Also, identity, politics, ownership
- MnWARN is a good example of what good collaboration looks like
- Sharing backup sources or resilience strategies
- Source water protection (cross-jurisdictional) – surface, wells
- Quantity and quality
- Adequate technical/managerial resources/skills/capacity – sharing together. Rural but also metro?
- GMWA issue identification and solutions model

Challenges

- Politics
- Identity/ownership
- Economics
- Scientific uncertainty (gw conservation/sw impacts) – Crooked Lake
- Relationships at leadership level
- Lack of shared vision
- Timeframe – sustainable?

Opportunities/Challenges

- Overarching water supply planning goal
- “rallying cry”
- Working with WMOs – leveraging local expertise (public engagement/ service water)
- Collect and integrate data
- Community advocates for data collaboration
- Sharing resources – education, communication, sharing agency resources
- Data communication/redundancy (legislative funding)
- Engaging constituents in water planning and advocacy
- Turf wars
- Communication of core messages – elected officials, awareness of audience

Improving Current Framework

- Identifying issues/ways the subregions hope to get support to address issues
- Intentional communication – timely and audience appropriate
- Are the needs of subregional work groups being met – providing space for criticism

Opportunities for Collaboration

- Develop policies for interconnections
- Establish guidelines for water quality standards
- Pressure zone interconnection guidelines
- Water demand comparisons between communities
- Water quality standard differences – drinking water versus surface water, beneficial uses

- Best practices – Mayor’s letters to large volume water users

Barriers to Collaboration

- Water reuse: multiple agencies, different standards
- Different treatment methods, different qualities
- Turning regulators into collaborators
- Not enough knowledge about water in general, need to bring city councils along
- Outdated statutes(?) need to be changed
- Staffing: time spent on collaboration – what is the return?
- Silo mentality in state agencies, afraid to make decisions

Improvements... Networks

- Comparing water use amongst cities
- Compare yourself with your neighbors
- Invite non-subregional group members to meetings (e.g. Plymouth)
- Need more reporting from MAWSAC to the Legislature
- More engagement in groundwater quality issues

Discussion Report Out

Big Opportunities

- Leverage local expertise
- Administrative capacity building
- Case studies: Ramsey w/sw → collaborate
- Policies for interconnections – pressure zone differences
- Sharing best practices – data integration ★
- Front line collaboration (MnWARN)

Challenges/Barriers

- Politics, identify (silos, fear)
- Local control, “can do” attitude
- Long-range planning
- Staffing, time – what is ROI?
- Lack of knowledge regarding water and management
- Communication of core message(s)

Active Engagement

- Documenting useful effectiveness of sharing resources across boundaries
- Theory of groundwater management areas – sharing resources to tackle issues
- Relationships at leadership levels between communities, state, region – shared vision for the long term
- NARRATIVE that leaders can defend, promote and own and that works for elected, appointed and staff – supported by subregional work groups and by toolboxes

Opportunities for collaboration

- develop policies for interconnections
- establish guidelines for water quality ^{stds.}
- pressure zone interconnection guidelines
- water demand comparisons between communities
- water quality standard differences
 - ↳ drinking water vs. surface water
 - ↳ beneficial uses
- best practices - Mayor's letters to large volume water users...

barriers to collaboration

- water reuse: multiple agencies, different standards ^{methods}
- different treatment ~~stds.~~ ^{methods}, different qualities
- turning regulators into collaborators
- not enough knowledge about water in general, need to bring city councils along
- outdated statutes need to be changed
- staffing: time spent on collaboration, what is the return?
- 'silo mentality' in state agencies, afraid to make decisions...

~~MAWSAC~~ improvements... networks

- comparing water use amongst communities
- compare yourself with your neighbors
- invite ^{non} subregional group members to meetings (e.g., Plymouth)
- need more reporting from MAWSAC to the Legislature
- more engagement in groundwater quality issues...

MAWSAC COLLABORATION DISCUSSION ^{7/11/11}

- Surface water use as a more sustainable option for some cities, e.g. Ramsey working w/ other cities to achieve an economically viable approach also identity, politics, ownership
- MN WAPRN is a good example of what good collaboration looks like
- Sharing backup sources or resilience strategies
- Source water protection - surface ^{quantity} ^{quality} ^{feasibility} - wells ^{cross-jurisdictional}
- Adequate technical/managerial resources/skills/capacity ^{how} ^{within} ^{metro?} sharing together
- GWMA issue identification & solutions model

Challenges

- Politics ^{local}
- Identity/Overship ^{local}
- Economics ^{local}
- Scientific uncertainty ^{local} (GW consumption/str inputs)
- Creating a narrative for working together
- Relationships to leadership level
- Lack of shared vision
- Time frame - sustainable?

Opportunities / Challenge

- Overarching Water Supply Planning Goal "rallying cry"
 - Working with WMOs ^{Service-based}
 - leveraging local expertise (public engagement service water)
 - Collect + Integrate Data
 - Community advocates for data collaboration
 - Sharing resources
 - education, communication
 - sharing agency resources

Challenges

- Documenting how managing resources across ml boundaries is useful
- Data communication / redundancy (Legislative Funding)
- Engaging constituents in water planning + advocacy
- Turf wars
- Communication of core messages
 - elected officials
 - awareness of audience

Improving current framework

- Identifying issues / ways the subregions hope to get support to address issues.
- Intentional Communication
 - Timely + Audience Appropriate
- Are the needs of subregional groups being met.
 - providing space for criticism

DISCUSSION

Big Opportunities

- Leverage Local expertise
- Administrative capacity building
- Case Studies:
 - Ramsey w/ S.W. → collaborate
- Policies for interconnections
 - pressure zone differences
- Sharing best practices data integration
- Front line collaboration (Milk Barn)

Challenges/Barriers

- Politics, identity ^{Silos} - Fear
- Local control "can do" attitude
- Long-range planning ↔
- Staffing, time - what is ROI?
- Lack of knowledge re: water + management
- Communication of core messages

Active Engagement

- Documenting usefulness of sharing resources across boundaries
- Theory of GW Management areas
 - sharing resources to tackle issues
- Relationships @ Leadership levels btwn Communities, state, region
 - shared vision for long term
- NARRATIVE Leaders can defend, promote, or
 - supported by S. Reg. Work Groups / coalitions
 - works for elected, appointed, staff