

Minutes

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee &
Technical Advisory Committee - Joint Meeting



Meeting Date: December 20, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

MAWSAC Members Present:

- Chair, Wendy Wulff
- Jeff Berg, Dept of Agriculture
- E** Sandeep Burman, MDH
- John Gleason, DNR
- E** Catherine Neuschler, MPCA
- Valerie Neppl, Dakota County

- Mark Daleiden, Wright County
- Susan Morris, Isanti County
- Mike Huang, City of Chaska
- E** Tonja West-Hafner, Bklyn Park
- Lisa Vollbrecht, St. Cloud PU
- Phil Klein, City of Hugo

- E** Patrick Shea, SPRWS
- Jamie Schurbon, Anoka County
- Kevin Watson, Vadnais Heights
- E** Brad Larson, City of Savage
- Annika Bankston, Minneapolis
- = present, **E** = excused

TAC Members Present:

- Chair, Mark Maloney
- Scott Anderson, Bloomington
- E** John Dustman, Summit Envsltns
- Robert Ellis, Eden Prairie
- Dale Folen, Minneapolis

- E** Elizabeth Kaufenberg, MPCA
- E** Gary Krueger, MPCA
- Kim Larsen, MDH
- Jason Moeckel, DNR
- Crystal Ng, Univ. of MN
- Matt Saam, Apple Valley

- Jim Stark, USGS & LWC
- E** Bruce Westby, Ramsey
- Jim Westerman, Woodbury
- E** Ray Wuolo, Barr Engineering
- = present, **E** = excused

Call to Order

Committee Chair Wulff called the joint meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to order at 1:02 p.m.; there was not a quorum for the meeting for either committee.

Agenda Approved

The agenda was approved by consensus with no changes.

Approval of Minutes

The approval of the minutes was moved to the next meeting as there was not a quorum.

Business Items

1. Endorse Chapter 1 of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan (Lanya Ross, 651-602-1803)

Lanya Ross noted that the committees are being asked to endorse this chapter as a measure of their support for the content. The endorsement would be used as a planning draft of regional water supply vision and goals for further refinement and stakeholder engagement in the upcoming regional 2050 planning and policy development process, but would not be a formal approval or adoption of this chapter.

Through her presentation, Lanya shared:

- The planning framework in the Metro Water Supply Plan Chapter One – better illustrates the planning process and how components relate to each other in the process
- Proposed content for Chapters 1, 2, and 3 – changes based on comments received about Chapter 1 and the subregional approach. Noted as a potential focus for committee work connected to the subregional work in 2023 were the changes in Chapter 2 reflecting a call for more specific and measurable targets and outcomes.
- Key revisions since July/August 2022 including:
 - Name change from ‘Master Water Supply Plan’ to ‘Metro Area Water Supply Plan’
 - Proposed table of contents for full plan
 - Proposed new goal of sustainable water quantity – added to Goals 1-4 from the 2022 MAWSAC report
 - Revised goal for land use and water supply connections – more explicitly ties to the vision of agency alignment and priority of protection of the water supply and economic sustainability
 - Additional information about high-level roles – acknowledging additional roles for private water supply owners, communities/public water suppliers, counties, and watershed organizations
 - Additional explanation about framework for vision, goals, objectives, and actions – reorganized for better clarity based on committee member advice. Noted as a potential focus for committee work in 2023 would be defining more specific regional targets and performance measures.
 - Addition of a glossary
 - Additional information to be included in the appendix

DISCUSSION:

Proposed new goal - sustainable water quantity:

MAWSAC members (Neuschler, Neppl, Schurbon) noted reservations with the wording of the new sustainable water quantity goal related to exceeding sustainability. TAC member Stark asked if this definition of sustainable is parallel to the state definition of sustainability. TAC member Stark said that agencies rely on the “do no harm” definition. MAWSAC Chair Wulff asked what happens when it’s infrastructure causing harm.

- This definition was developed with the state definition, but it goes somewhat beyond.
- The stewardship of existing infrastructure investments is missing. It’s about the resources and the infrastructure investments as well.
- In Ch. 1 an explicit goal regarding water quantity is desired to be included. There is separate space to define sustainability.

MAWSAC members (Klein, Huang) noted the need to ensure that the minimum water supply required to maintain essential-use water service to the community is provided and the goal to provide anything above that is prioritized. That helps to determine where efforts and funding should be directed to have sustainability. TAC Chair Maloney noted that value-added would be showing that agencies are aligned so that local plans will do that.

TAC member Schurbon noted that meeting demand is a consumer-based line of thinking and sustainability is a resourced-based line of thinking and there needs to be a balance of both. MAWSAC member (Bankston, Wulff) noted that there is a responsibility to manage and reduce demand, prioritize the demand, and match that with the different supply sources.



- This is a goal statement so doesn't need definitions
- Need to do work to define objectives and what sustainability measures will be in Chapter 2, including identifying the information we are referring to and the data we will use.

MAWSAC member Huang noted that there are supply side and demand side needs, but the goal statement has them too tightly interwoven. He suggested clarifying what we are trying to do from the supply side and also clarify what we are trying to do from the demand side.

- Didn't include all of work we did in 2015 plan to bring back into conversation

Proposed Change to land use and water supply connections goal:

TAC member Anderson asked what specific authority is referenced and how it relates to aligned agency direction. MAWSAC member Neppi noted that instead of economics, it's water quality as a driver. MAWSAC member Huang suggested instead of authority, use tools and instead of funding, use incentives. Use the willingness to get the silos to work together and then you only need authority to back it up. A document like this conveys some legal authority, but not sure that's the intent.

TAC member Saam noted that this change loses the development that is important to cities vitalities and requested that 'balancing communities' economic needs' is not entirely removed from the goal. He offered Elko-New Market as an example. Their water is very expensive because they had to clean up radium. The link to the Elko-New Market city council meeting where the proposed bottling plant is discussed is now online. TAC member Schurbon noted that the last line of the revised goal conveys that protecting those things is the economic reason for cities.

Revisions to high-level roles:

MAWSAC member Neppi noted that some counties delegate landuse authority to the cities/townships and others retain that authority.

- Will research further and clarify

TAC member Stark noted that Watershed Management Organizations are something specific and not a generic term for watershed organizations.

- Will research further and clarify

Additional explanation about framework for vision, goals, objectives, and actions:

TAC chair Maloney appreciated the simplicity of high level vision and the importance in stating it in that way.

- The 2023 work plan anticipates that the committees will develop metrics for collaborations and how to measure, etc.

REQUESTED ACTION: No action could be taken as no quorum existed for MAWSAC or TAC.

Staff requested an informal endorsement of the content, with the changes discussed including water supply quantity goal, land use goal rewording, and adjustments to the infographic and related description to better illustrate reuse.

MAWSAC and TAC committee members gave provisional endorsement of the content. The suggested revisions will be distributed and committee members invited to further comment. The committees were congratulated for their work.

Information Item and Committee Work



1. Recap of accomplishments in 2022 (Lanya Ross, 651-602-1803)

Ross recapped the 2022 work plan objectives and the activities taken by the committees in the past year.

Through her presentation, Ross shared:

- Kudos for the 2022 MAWSAC report from Charles Zelle, Metropolitan Council Chair and Richard Brainerd, Clean Water Council/ Mahtomedi City Council
- Input on legislative issues
- Input to regional planning and visioning for 2050 guide, noting that the workshop with subregional groups was rescheduled to March 15, 2023.
- Input to Met Council Projects including grant programs, the Water Supply Planning Atlas, the Multi-Community Wellhead Protection Planning Pilot, and an introduction to the Water Resources Policy Plan White Papers

ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATIONS:

Committee members spent time in paired conversations sharing what they got out of MAWSAC or TAC meetings in 2022 and what they would like to see the impact of the committees being in 2023.

Committee members who shared their conversations highlighted the value of in-person meetings, having a better understanding of regional and other communities' perspectives, and the benefit of being able to bring regional ideas to a local level (like the WHPP pilot in the west metro).

Going forward, some committee members expressed a desire to strengthen subregional work and step into regional planning as a next step. This may include identifying goals/objectives that are supportive of communities and provide direction and guidance (perhaps specific actions that communities can take, communicated to decision makers).

DISCUSSION:

As a full group, committee members then discussed highlights from 2022. MAWSAC member Neppl noted that it was interesting to see regional perspectives and how they can be shared both to and from local perspectives and the breaking away from a one size fits all and moving towards a broader understanding that the problems faced are different throughout the region.

The committees discussed their desired impact in 2023. MAWSAC member Huang wondered if that would be enough time to see positive outcomes and noted that he would like to have policy that leads to positive outcomes beyond a year through specific actions and objectives that can be measured. This would include subregions making plans more concrete and useable to water suppliers and moving forward with the subregional agenda.

2. Proposed work plan for 2023 (Lanya Ross, 651-602-1803)

Ross presented a rough outline for the proposed 2023 work plan, noting that the Met Council is kicking off several projects related to the 10-year update of the regional development guide and policy plans.

Through her presentation, Ross shared:

- The proposed work plan, noting that it will continue to be developed.
- Opportunities for the committee to influence regional policy, plans, and projects including the Regional Development Guide, Water Resources Policy Plan, Metro Area Water Supply Plan and technical & outreach projects.



- A review of the reorganized planning framework and how they interrelate.
- A proposed schedule of meetings and topics and a request for the committee members to communicate any meeting date/time preferences or conflicts.

DISCUSSION:

TAC member Schurbon asked for a timeline and milestones that the committees need to hit in 2023 in order to complete the Metro Area Water Supply Plan on time in 2024

In 2023, milestones include:

- engaging the subregions in an efficient manner in order to include draft input for the subregions
- developing information and drafting actions and outcomes for Chapter 2
- determining the role MAWSAC/TAC plays in subregional workgroups, perhaps fulfilling the need for local champions
- deciding where to focus opportunities for committee influence

TAC chair Maloney noted the importance of the continuation of the water efficiency grant program due to its great reach for water conservation. He noted that type of program at the city level gives great exposure and incorporates this type of thinking into water conservation programs. MAWSAC chair Wulff suggested that the amount of water being saved should be quantified for policy makers who can in turn push consumers in this direction. MAWSAC member Huang noted that a lot of water can be saved if everyone improves water conservation across their jurisdiction. He encouraged sharing success stories including the real fiscal and environmental impacts. MAWSAC member Klein noted the need for a comprehensive manual to give guidance to communities on how to implement water efficiency programs and reuse programs with some examples and lessons learned.

MAWSAC member Watson noted the need for a professional approach to communications for sharing this plan, its efforts, and its successes in order to implement the regionwide planning work and programming, and to get buy-in from cities and the public.

MAWSAC member Neppi promoted exploring other opportunities for climate resiliency in addition to the turf grass and MnTAP work already being done.

Committee members (Huang, Schurbon, Wulff) shared ideas for structuring meetings in 2023, noting that it is good for the TAC to meet before MAWSAC and asking the committees to consider: whether the month break between meetings should be eliminated to maintain momentum, if additional joint meetings should be scheduled, or whether the committees could meet on the same day with an overlap over the lunch hour. It was noted that the drawback to longer meetings is that if one is missed, a lot of content was missed.

There was discussion about the possibility of remote sharing of information including the ability to access the presentations beforehand, interact to ask questions of each other, and digest information before coming to the meetings. MAWSAC chair Wulff noted that general counsel would need to be consulted regarding what is allowable under the open meeting rules and penalties for violating those rules are great for both the organization and individual members. MAWSAC member Huang suggested that there may be ways to collaborate through staff to sustain and keep moving between meetings.

Committee members noted the following preferences for the 2023 meetings: Thursday meetings, avoid 1st and 3rd Mondays and Tuesdays, schedule a regular meeting day/time and put calendar holds on well in advance, and a strong preference for afternoon meetings.

- Meetings will be in person for the foreseeable future and reconvene in March after the workshop for subregional work groups on March 15th.



- The work will be done as transparently as possible
 - Committee members are asked to submit any other preferences for meetings as soon as possible.
3. Governmental Affairs Update (Sam Paske, 651-602-1015)

Assistant General Manager Paske gave an update on the governmental affairs related to the committees. Through his presentation he shared:

- that there was confusion on the overall funding for the program and spending had to be scaled back. The Clean Water Council agreed to the same plans on December 19th and will send a unified budget to the governor, which helps with the legislature. Met Council scaled back the water sustainability program from \$2.5 million to \$2.25 million in order to keep the water efficiency grant program whole at \$1.25 million. This program is oversubscribed and leverages local dollars, so next biennium \$1.5 million was requested and that stayed intact. Assistant General Manager Paske thanked those who sent local letters of support as they are the most effective way to communicate to the Clean Water Council and public. Ways to improve administration are being explored.
- several MAWSAC members' terms are expiring and they will need to go through the Secretary of State's appointment process this year. He requested referrals for others that would be a good fit. Staff will provide support as they move through that process.
- thanks to the committee for their energy, ideas, and commitment to the trust being built through these relationships.

DISCUSSION

Committee members participated in a modified SWOT analysis discussion regarding what information would be needed to communicate the committee's high-level goals in the region.

Committee members noted that:

- Water stewardship thinking should be incorporated into comprehensive planning and regional planning with an outcome that cities would be able to develop according to their comprehensive plans.
- Metro Model 3 has been heavily used but there are no recent results incorporating what has been learned about sustainable values in various parts of the metro. Update to Mod 6 to do some wellhead protection in the west and use it for scenarios again.
- The relative abundance of water gives options but promotes a discomfort with reuse for esthetic and economic reasons. Overlapping agencies have conflicting rules for reuse.
- Water quality state and federal standards test to security to make sure we stay on the right side of the standards.

Several committee members who focused on the goal for water quality shared their notes:

- What success (on water quality goal) looks like for the region:
 - Safe water for everyone
 - Meet federal and state drinking water standards
 - Define testable standards that are meaningful
 - Understand the issues – old and new
 - Sampling to identify concerns



- Communicate science, impacts, solutions, funding timelines
- Recognize that more than one problem can be solved with a solution
- Statute, regulations, policies, and funding to address
- How success (on water quality goal) could be measured at a regional scale:
 - Confidence in widespread communication of what success looks like
 - Ongoing water testing – municipal and private well owners (groundwater versus drinking water; what are standards and what are they applicable to; PFOS vs. next thing; how often to test; how much to test -\$\$\$)
 - Standards, trends
 - No increasing trends
 - Reduction in contamination, either in source or (?)
 - Resolution of contamination issues – supported by plans to fund and delivery of funds
 - Treatment
- What should be done across the region to be successful (on water quality goal):
 - Have a response plan
 - Security for water supplies to reduce accident and terrorism possibility
 - Acknowledge shared issues
 - Meet and collaborate
 - Shared goals
- What strengths should be supported and tracked related to the goal for water quality:
 - Partnerships between state and local public water suppliers
 - Up-to-date and available scientific and technical information
 - Identify concerns (sampling) and potential negative changes (nitrate, Mn, PFAS)
 - Treatment by water utilities
 - Regulations like Groundwater Rule
 - Available funding – Drinking Water Revolving Fund is helpful
 - Relative abundance of water gives us options (surface, groundwater – multiple aquifers)
 - Private well testing programs
 - Emergency response programs
- What weaknesses should be monitored and addressed related to the goal for water quality:
 - Missing/inadequate information about health effects prevents or slows effective actions
 - Discomfort with reuse
 - Because water is relatively cheap/clean – significant treatment processes are not cost effective
 - Lack of money at the local level for monitoring
 - Lack of sufficient regulations, statues



- Discoordination of agencies regarding pollutants of emerging concern
- What opportunities should be monitored, reported, and acted on related to the goal for water quality:
 - Opportunities to increase funding, because more money makes people open to ideas
 - Collaboration between partners, including public-private partnerships
 - Conservation
 - Land use planning to ensure water quality
 - Grants (BWSR, MDH) Collective treatment subregionally
 - Extending surface water lines to areas with groundwater problems
 - Programs to replace old water softeners
 - Technology to remove PFOS, other new technology
- What threats should be monitored, reported, and acted on related to the goal for water quality:
 - Floods and droughts
 - Cyber attacks
 - Terrorism
 - Security of water supply from accidents or terrorism
 - PFOS and other contaminants, chloride
 - Costs of testing water
 - Water use increase that can increase the need for more treatment and chemicals
 - Lack of suppliers
 - Unpredictable water use rates
 - Constantly emerging chemicals of concern – don't know the risk (risks)
 - Land use

Next Steps

- A Doodle poll will be distributed to gather information to schedule 2023 meetings.
- The Workshop for Subregional Workgroups has been rescheduled to March 15th
- Vacancies on the MAWSAC and TAC committees will be filled and support provided to work through the Secretary of State's appointment process.
- MAWSAC will need to replace the TAC chair after the March 15th workshop.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee joint meeting of December 20, 2022.



Council Contact:

Shannon Skally, Recording Secretary

Shannon.Skally@metc.state.mn.us

651-602-1011

