

Minutes

White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group



Meeting Date: November 7, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Lake Elmo City Hall

Members Present:

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| ✓ Bryan Bear, City of Hugo | ✓ Chris Volkers, City of Oakdale | ✓ Greg Johnson, Metropolitan Council |
| ✓ Clark Schroeder, City of Lake Elmo | ✓ Jim Hauth, City of Vadnais Heights | ✓ Judy Sventek, Metropolitan Council |
| ✓ Michael Grochala, City of Lino Lakes | ✓ Jason Moeckel, Department of Natural Resources | ✓ Sam Paske, Metropolitan Council |
| ✓ Bob Goebel, City of Mahtomedi | ✓ Liz Kaufenberg, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency | |
| ✓ Kevin Kress, City of North Oaks | ✓ Phil Klein, Metropolitan Area Water Supply | |

Alternate Members Present:

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| ✓ Jesse Farrell, City of Stillwater | ✓ Randy Miller, City of North St. Paul | ✓ Erin Spry, City of Vadnais Heights |
| ✓ Nate Christensen, City of White Bear Lake | ✓ John Oswald, Minnesota Department of Health | |

Call to Order

Judy Sventek called the meeting of the White Bear Lake Comprehensive Plan Work Group to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Approved

Work Group members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Information Items and Committee Work

1. Welcome and introductions
Judy Sventek from Metropolitan Council welcomed the group. General introductions were skipped in the interest of time.
2. Consultant Master Contract Awards
Judy Sventek from Metropolitan Council provided an update to the work group on which consulting firms were selected for the technical and financial analyses master contracts. The firms Kimley-Horn, Barr, and SEH were selected for technical contracts and Hazen Sawyer was selected for the financial contract.
3. Proposed rules and engineering standards for technical studies
Greg Johnson from Metropolitan Council presented the proposed engineering rules and standards for the consultants to use during the technical analyses. The work group had a discussion and determined there were no additional rules to add. David Weum from MDH, who

was not present, sent the following additions via email:

- The Minnesota Well Code, MN Rules Chapter 4725
- US EPA Rules regarding injection wells

4. Ranked solutions for individual studies

Greg Johnson from Metropolitan Council provided an overview of the individual studies and their ranking from the previous work group meetings. The work group discussed whether there were any other issues or potential solutions that should be included in the studies.

The work group agreed that they should evaluate the future impacts from PFAS contamination and evaluate methods to increase water storage in White Bear Lake by raising the lake outlet elevation. A third proposal to evaluate maintaining existing municipal wells as backup wells that would only be used for summer peak day demands was not approved by the work group due to concerns with variations in water quality such as softened water versus non-softened water and differences in pH.

Although it was not ranked in the top 3 to study for other methods for reducing groundwater use, the work group agreed to evaluate the potential benefits and water savings from implementing low-input turf grass. Greg Johnson presented a current Met Council project in which the University of Minnesota will be completing a turfgrass species mixture trial at four possible Twin Cities metro area locations. The cities of Lake Elmo, Lino Lakes, and Woodbury volunteered to host a trial site. Met Council will follow-up with the University of Minnesota to determine if the four current proposed trial sites can be changed or increased in number to accommodate these requests.

There was a question raised about having a future discussion regarding how the recommendations would be implemented, in particular how the work would be paid and who would pay for it.

5. Draft scopes of service for two technical studies

Emily Schon from Metropolitan Council presented to the work group on the draft scopes of work for two studies. The first study will look at reuse of treated water from local Met Council Interceptors for industrial and agricultural users. The second study will investigate treating wastewater from local Met Council Interceptors and injected treated wastewater into the aquifer to raise groundwater elevations. The work group did not have any objections or changes to either scope of work.

6. Preliminary water demand projections

Greg Johnson from Metropolitan Council presented on how future water demand projections were calculated for Hugo, Lake Elmo, Lino Lakes, North Oaks, and Vadnais Heights for year 2050 and ultimate development.

Next Steps

1. Discuss scope of work for additional studies
2. DNR groundwater modeling update for future conditions in White Bear Lake Area
3. MPCA Project 1007 feasibility study presentation
4. Next meeting date: February 4, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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