

**Minutes of the  
MEETING OF THE  
METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, January 24, 2013

**Committee Members Present:** Sandy Rummel, Sandy Colvin Roy, Randy Ellingboe, Dale Homuth, Susan Morris, Steve Schneider, Jaime Schurbon, Glenn Skuta, Barry Stock, Dan Stoddard

**Staff Present:** William Moore, Keith Buttleman, Ali Elhassan, Brian Davis, Lanya Ross, Sue Harder

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Rummel called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee to order at 10:03 a.m. on Thursday, January 24, 2013.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

It was moved by Stock, seconded by Morris to approve the January 24, 2013 agenda, and the minutes of October 25, 2012 meeting. **Motion carried.**

**WATER SUPPLY ROLES AND WORK PLAN FOR 2013-2016**

**a. Water Supply Roles**

An overview was provided as to the roles of the Metropolitan Council, state agencies, and MAWSAC in water supply planning.

**Metropolitan Council** - Ali Elhassan. The Council is a key player in protecting and managing water resources in the metropolitan area. It is responsible for collecting and treating wastewater from approximately 90% of the population in the metro area; water quality monitoring and analysis; surface water protection and coordination; and planning activities addressing water supply needs of the metro area. The Council is a planning agency, not a regulatory agency. The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee was established to advise the Council in addressing water supply needs. The Council collects, shares, and analyzes regional technical information and develops tools; provides assistance in water supply plan development; analyzes regional and local water supply emerging issues and provides solutions; facilitates cooperation between communities and supports local efforts.

**Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** - Dale Homuth explained the DNR's water use permit program. A permit is needed for any appropriation from waters of the state, including groundwater and surface water. Economic growth and natural resource protection is considered when making permit decisions. Public water suppliers that serve over 1,000 people are required to have a water supply plan, which address conservation measures, future water supply sources and infrastructures, emergency procedures and interconnections, and impact on natural resources and monitoring.

**Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)** - Randy Ellingboe informed the committee that public water supplies provide water to 4,000,000 Minnesotans. He reviewed the

MDH Safe Drinking Water Act and related activities, including management of public and private wells.

**Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC).** The purpose of the committee is to assist the Council in its water supply planning activities. This is done through providing input to policy recommendations and guidance, acting as a channel of communication for agencies, counties and communities, and providing input on the Council's approach to assessing and addressing potential water supply limitations.

#### **b. Work Plan 2013-2016**

Discussion took place regarding the two main regional planning activities: 1) the Council's regional development framework (Thrive MSP 2040 Plan), and 2) the regional Water Resources Management Policy Plan).

### **WATER SUPPLY UPDATE – FOLLOW-UP**

#### **a. Emerging Issues**

Staff updated the committee on some of the emerging water supply issues in the metro area, particularly the increased reliance on groundwater supplies to meet water demands, and the adverse impacts on aquifers. Reviewed different scenarios of what the impact would be if course is changed from business as usual.

#### **b. Opportunities**

Business as usual is not consistent with the definition of sustainable water as described by the 2009 Minnesota State Legislature ("...water use is sustainable when the use does not harm ecosystems, degrade water quality, or compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."). Committee discussed more resilient water supply systems and how that can be achieved, e.g. reuse of wastewater and stormwater, conservation, conjunctive use (use surface water when available and groundwater when necessary). Operational and cost issues were discussed.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2013**

It is anticipated that the committee will meet every other month. The 2013 meeting schedule was reviewed, and some committee members suggested changing the day of the meeting from the fourth Thursday of the month to the second or fourth Wednesday of the month. Staff was directed to survey members to determine their preference.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Susan M. Harder  
Recording Secretary