

**Minutes of the  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY TECHNICAL  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

**Committee Members Present:**

Kristin Asher, Bob Cockriel, John Dustman, Klayton Eckles, Dale Folen, Jennifer Levitt, Mark Maloney, G.H. Crystal Ng, Chris Petree, Lon Schemel, James Stark, Jamie Wallerstedt, Bruce Westby, Ray Wuolo

**Committee Members Absent:**

Lih-in-Rezania

Dean Lotter, MAWSAC Liaison

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager, Environmental Quality Assurance, convened the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2016.

**APPROVAL OF CHAIR**

Mark Maloney was unanimously approved as Chair and indicated that this group will loosely adhere to Robert's Rules of Order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

The agenda was reviewed with those present. A request was made to add "DNR Water Reuse Update" under item 6. The agenda was approved unanimously with the addition noted.

The minutes of the July 20, 2016 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Committee were approved unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 1. Presentation on "Reducing Water Use on Twin Cities Lawns through Assessment, Research, and Demonstration"** – Brian Davis, Environmental Services and Sam Bauer, University of Minnesota

In the Twin Cities metropolitan area approximately 29% of all treated drinking water is used outdoors, with a majority being used on lawns and landscapes. The Metropolitan Council and University of Minnesota Extension are working to quantify the performance of existing Twin Cities landscape irrigation systems, compare these existing irrigation systems with water-efficient systems, and demonstrate to the public and to municipalities the benefits of switching to smart irrigation technologies including soil moisture and evapotranspiration sensors and water efficient sprinkler heads. Another aspect of the project addresses the use of more resilient grass species such as fine fescues in lieu of Kentucky bluegrass (the predominant species currently used) to reduce the need for irrigation.

**Comments and Discussion**

The TAC committee members expressed interest in this topic and look forward to hearing more on the subject as the project progresses. Topics of further discussion include:

- The high potential for drip irrigation systems
- The high potential for utilization of more resilient grass species
- The need for public education and awareness around this topic

## 2. DNR Water Reuse Update

Several State Agencies, including MDH, DNR and MPCA have been meeting to create some consensus around water reuse. Concerns include the quality of water being reused and defining meaningful metrics and requirements that protect environmental health and safety without creating an impractical regulatory burden that ultimately discourages reuse. The goal is a more streamlined process, but progress to date has not been encouraging.

## BUSINESS ITEMS

### 1. 2017 Report to Council, Legislative Water Commission, Legislators

This official report is statutorily required every five years. MAWSAC indicated that the first report, due in February of 2017, shall be a high level summary document. It will highlight a strategic vision, build on the Master Plan, identify key actions needed in the next five years to support the vision and support recommendations with local project and planning examples.

The MAWSAC/TAC subcommittee that was convened to develop the report has determined that the report needs to be simple, direct, concise and impactful with a focus on the future. The report is an opportunity to educate the Council, Legislative Water Commission and Legislators. The desire to support key ongoing efforts both locally and across other agencies should be reflected in the final report. Staff will be sending out an email requesting input, please respond with suggestions.

### 2. Road Map/Process Discussion

How MAWSAC and TAC will work together and develop a road map and/or process for success has yet to be defined. It has become apparent that a joint meeting of MAWSAC and the TAC is necessary to address how the TAC's work and responsibilities will be developed in conjunction with MAWSAC's work and responsibilities. A joint meeting will also help inform the report to the Legislature and should be scheduled as soon as possible to allow for input from that meeting to be incorporated into the report, which needs to be largely finalized before the holidays.

In preparation for the joint meeting, staff asked the TAC members to review and rank the key water supply issues identified in the Master Water Supply Plan (MWSP). Members should begin thinking about what is needed for the next planning cycle and what areas need additional support and focus, which will help identify where to begin. It is important to frame this exercise in terms of the mission and vision from the MWSP in order to develop an effective strategy to move us toward those goals.

It may be helpful to focus on no more than three key areas and to keep in mind what can reasonably be accomplished over the next five years. Areas that will need more than five years to yield tangible results should be identified for long range planning purposes. Members indicated that the reliability of the region's water supply is the primary concern and that funding is the key to making real progress, which should be reflected not only in the report to the Legislature, but in all of our efforts.

Staff then provided several handouts containing the statutes that direct the water supply planning efforts of the Met Council, MAWSAC and the TAC. Staff then gave a brief process primer and

indicated that MAWSAC is policy driven (top down) while the TAC is community driven (bottom up). A process to promote clarity and two-way communication between MAWSAC and the TAC needs to be established. MAWSAC is looking for input from the TAC on challenges and hurdles that MAWSAC can help address.

The joint meeting will serve as a facilitated dialogue between MAWSAC and the TAC to draft the framework to inform future work. How to collaborate for the greatest overall impact and to support the best use of available funding should be a key takeaway. The joint meeting may be up to four hours long and will likely feature breakout sessions focusing on funding, regulatory issues, reliability, surface water, groundwater and possibly a session focused on data (what do we have, how is it used and how it can be used more effectively).

### **NEXT TAC MEETING**

Staff indicated that according to the previously agreed upon schedule, the next TAC meeting will be November 1<sup>st</sup> and asked that any suggested agenda items for that meeting be provided to Dave Brown via email.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Jinger Pulkrabek  
Recording Secretary