

Minutes

Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: April 11, 2023,

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

- ✓ Chair, Mark Maloney
- ✓ Scott Anderson
- ✓ John Dustman
- ✓ Robert Ellis
- ✓ Dale Folen

- Elizabeth Kaufenberg
- ✓ Kim Larsen
- E Crystal Ng
- ✓ Matt Saam
- ✓ Jim Stark

- E Jim Westerman
- E Ray Wuolo

✓ = present, E = excused

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Maloney called the regular meeting of the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee to order at 12:03 p.m.

Agenda Approved

Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Approved by consensus.**

Approval of Minutes

Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the minutes of the joint meeting of the Metro Water Supply Advisory Committee and Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee of December 20, 2022, or the minutes of the regular meeting of the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee of September 8, 2022. **Approved by consensus.**

Information Items and Committee Work

1. Committee administration (Greg Johnson 651-602-7464 and Lanya Ross 651-602-1803)

Judy Sventek, Water Resources group manager, introduced herself and gave an update on the reorganized structure of the Water Resources group, which now includes water supply. Greg Johnson, Water Resources principal engineer, introduced himself and summarized his background and new role as staff TAC coordinator. Councilmember Gail Cederberg (District 12) introduced herself and summarized her background, role, and interests.

Bruce Westby submitted his resignation from the committee, effective April 11, 2023. This is Chair Mark Maloney's last meeting. Scott Anderson has agreed to serve as interim chair until a new chair can be elected. The committee indicated its support for him serving in a permanent capacity if he is willing and once vacancies have been filled on MAWSAC and they have appointed members to fill the three TAC vacancies.

Chair Maloney provided background information regarding the 2016 TAC charter and the changes that have occurred since then. He asked TAC members to review the charter and determine if it still reflects the purpose and aim of TAC. MAWSAC will also be reviewing their by-laws in 2023. Greg Johnson reviewed the updated MAWSAC/TAC Work Plan covering both 2023 and 2024.

Committee members were asked to contact staff if there are questions or suggestions for changes to the charter or work plan and to share suggestions for potential new TAC members. Chair Maloney noted that DNR has never had an official seat on TAC and suggested TAC consider adding a committee member from DNR.

2. **Forecasts (Todd Graham 651-602-1322)**

Goals of Met Council's forecast process are to predict where and how much new development will occur in the metro area; and to ensure that planning and systems investments by regional and local agencies share the same expectations.

Population and employment are projected to grow at slower rates than in the past. Graham discussed that local forecasts involve a detailed modeling of real estate market dynamics and location choice behavior. Some development prohibitions or limits are introduced in the modeling to represent regional and local policies. Local forecast work is now underway. Local forecast results will be completed in 2023-2024. This will be publicly available as a shapefile and a table for 10-year increments (2030, 2040, 2050).

Council staff are interested in advice on policies that should be considered in regional planning; policies that could be considered in the local forecast work; and how to represent climate change impacts. The group discussed whether water supply limitations should restrict growth at subregional levels. Chair Maloney noted that local governments prefer that decisions on community growth should be bottom up and not top down.

3. **Government Affairs and Legislative Update (Judy Sventek 651-602-1156)**

Three bills related to water supply and the Met Council are actively working their way through the legislature:

- \$3.75 million was requested for water sustainability and water efficiency grants. This has moved through both houses intact, so far. We are happy to be able to continue work in this area.
- A proposal to develop a mapping infrastructure and climate risk resiliency tool for communities is moving through both houses, but with different budget numbers.
- A third proposal is moving through both houses regarding determining next steps in the northeast area affected by the White Bear Lake water level issue by 2027. This was not proposed by Met Council but, if passed, outlines a role for Met Council in its implementation. One house proposes \$3 million for Met Council to lead work with MDH, DNR, and affected communities. The other house proposes DNR lead this work with no additional funding.

4. **Metro Area Water Supply Plan update and subregional input and TAC discussion (Lanya Ross 651-602-1803)**

Lanya summarized the proposed schedule for drafting the update to the Metro Area Water Supply Plan. Currently Chapter 2 is being drafted. The March 15th subregional workshop kicked off work to begin drafting the subregional chapters. She noted the main points of feedback received at the workshop and explained how this input will be used by Met Council. Potential roles for TAC members in the subregional groups were also summarized.

TAC members participated in a small group discussion activity and then reported main points of their discussion out to the group in the following areas:

- Emphasize: money – fixing vs. affordability (significant expenditures = PFAS, aging infrastructure, future liability of treatment by-products), water efficiency grants
- Measure impact: \$/gallon, gallons/person (only at regional level), number of news items about the utility, overall gross increase in demand
- Red flag: gallons/person – how to apply this appropriately as it means different things depending on location, only at regional level



- Missing: clarification of how to summarize uniqueness of subregions – resources and risks, coordination of wellhead protection plans – still feels siloed, plan for sharing best management practices, successes, and lessons learned, website for stakeholders and communities to share and learn
- Advice for engagement with rural communities: one-hour meeting in their communities, reach out to SWCDs or county groundwater group, partner with MDH to do training and get continuing education credits

5. **Water policies proposed in Water Quality and Protecting Source Water Areas policy research papers (Jen Kostrzewski 651-602-1078)**

The Water Resource Policy Plan purpose and content was summarized. For the 2050 update, a series of seven papers exploring water resources issues is being developed. They will be posted on the website and feedback on their content is welcomed from TAC members and others.

John Dustman noted that a section on abandoned wells is missing. Abandoned wells are a large contamination threat to the Prairie du Chien aquifer and others in many areas. Many multi-aquifer wells were never registered with MDH many years ago, so their locations are unknown and there may be a way to identify the locations of unknown wells using sound penetration technology.

The definition of wastewater sustainability was discussed. It was noted that the Met Council lacks control of areas outside the metro area regarding the Mississippi River as a water supply for Minneapolis and St. Paul. John Dustman suggested exploring working with MDH to implement a sliding scale of regulations depending on where water is sourced or recharged. Chair Maloney noted that this was evaluated 40 years ago and it may be time to revisit the idea. The link to the webpage where the policy research papers are being posted for feedback is: <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/2050-Water-Resources-Policy-Plan.aspx>

Next Steps

- Review the TAC charter and 2023/2024 work plan and share any questions or suggestions with staff
- Forward names of good candidates for potential new TAC members to staff
- Next TAC meeting is July 11, 2023, from 12:00-3:00pm at Metropolitan Council

Adjournment

Mark Maloney was thanked for his seven years of service with the TAC. He stressed that the biggest takeaway from his time is that there is a large amount of expertise at the local level that is valuable in setting regional policy.

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee meeting of April 11, 2023.

Approved this 11th day of July, 2023.

Council contact:

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