

Minutes

White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group



Meeting Date: April 29, 2025 **Time:** 12:30 PM **Location:** Lino Lakes Rookery Activity Center - Cattail Room
7690 Village Dr, Lino Lakes, Minnesota, 55014

Members Present:

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| ✓ Bryan Bear, City of Hugo | ✓ Paul Kauppi, City of White Bear Lake | ✓ Liz Kaufenberg, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency |
| ✓ Clark Schroeder, City of Lake Elmo | ✓ Mary Van Milligen, City of Woodbury | |
| ✓ Craig Schlichting, City of New Brighton | ✓ David Weum, Department of Health | ✓ Greg Johnson, Metropolitan Council |
| ✓ Kevin Kress, City of North Oaks | ✓ Jason Moeckel, Department of Natural Resources | ✓ Judy Sventek, Metropolitan Council |
| ✓ Jim Hauth, City of Vadnais Heights | | ✓ Sam Paske, Metropolitan Council |

Alternate Members Present:

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| ✓ Dale Reed, White Bear Township | ✓ Brian Bachmeier, City of Oakdale |
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Call to Order

Judy Sventek called the meeting of the White Bear Lake Comprehensive Plan Work Group to order at 12:30 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
Brigitte Bjorklund from Zan Associates welcomed the group. New attendees introduced themselves.
2. Water Quality Study as it Relates to Lake Augmentation Study
Jen Koehler from Barr Engineering presented on water quality impacts if White Bear Lake was augmented using water from the chain of lakes. Work group members and Jen discussed how water quality or volume could impact lakes downstream, the impact on other waterbodies that the water is taken from, and additional upcoming studies.
3. Reuse of Treated Wastewater from Local Met Council Interceptors for Industrial and Agricultural Users
Chris Larson from SEH presented to the work group about reusing treated wastewater from nearby Met Council interceptors for industrial and agricultural users in the White Bear Lake

area. Chris and work group members discussed potential costs of this method, impacts on the rest of the system, and the overall impact to White Bear Lake levels.

4. Reuse of Wastewater from Local Met Council Interceptors for Aquifer

Chris Larson from SEH presented on reusing treated wastewater from nearby Met Council interceptors and injecting it into the Aquifer. Chris and the work group discussed the capacity of injection wells, where water would be injected and how that would impact lake levels, and water quality impacts.

5. Redirect Stormwater to Augment White Bear Lake – Preliminary Evaluation

Ron Leaf from Kimley-Horn presented on redirecting water that is collected in nearby stormwater ponds to augment White Bear Lake. Ron and work group members discussed why water needed to be collected from stormwater ponds versus other areas of concentration and the limitations around this method. After discussion, work group members collectively agreed they do not want to move forward with studying this method further due to its lack of effectiveness.

6. Stormwater Collection and Infiltration to Raise Groundwater Elevations – Preliminary Evaluation

Ron Leaf from Kimley-Horn presented on collecting stormwater and raising groundwater elevations through infiltration. Ron and the work group discussed that this method would need to bring in significant amounts of water and from outside the watershed to be impactful. The work group collectively agreed not to move forward with studying this method further due to its lack of effectiveness.

7. Current and upcoming studies

Greg Johnson from Met Council provided an update on current studies looking at redirecting stormwater to augment White Bear Lake, reuse of water discharged from contaminated wells, reuse of treated wastewater through injection, water quality impacts for lake augmentation, and stormwater collection and infiltration to raise groundwater elevations. He also went over upcoming studies that will be looking at conveying treated surface water to local communities, flood impacts of raising outlet elevation of White Bear Lake, implementing less potable water reuse, future impacts from PFAS contamination to communities, and initial data gathering on financial analyses.

8. Project Expenditures

Judy Sventek from Met Council provided an update on how much of the budget has been allocated for current studies so far.

Next Steps

1. Next meeting: July 24, 2025, at St. Paul Regional Water Services in St. Paul
2. Following meeting dates: October 21, 2025, at Stillwater Public Library in Stillwater

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Met Council contacts:

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