

Minutes

White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group



Meeting Date: July 24, 2025 **Time:** 12:30 PM **Location:** St. Paul Regional Water Services, Lunchroom
1900 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55113

Members Present:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| ✓ Bryan Bear, City of Hugo | ✓ Paul Kauppi, City of White Bear Lake | ✓ Greg Johnson, Met Council |
| ✓ Mike Grochala, City of Lino Lakes | ✓ Jason Moeckel, Department of Natural Resources | ✓ Judy Sventek, Met Council |
| ✓ Bob Goebel, City of Mahtomedi | ✓ Racquel Vaske, Saint Paul Regional Water Services | ✓ Sam Paske, Met Council |
| ✓ Shawn Sanders, City of Stillwater | | ✓ John Chelbeck, Met Council |

Alternate Members Present:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ✓ Dale Reed, White Bear Township | ✓ Peter Tholen, White Bear Township | ✓ John Oswald, Department of Health |
| ✓ Ron Ritchie, City of North St. Paul | ✓ John Hostetter, City of Woodbury | |
| ✓ Brian Bachmeier, City of Oakdale | ✓ Nicole Miller, City of Lake Elmo | |

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. Study 7A – Surface water quality scope of work discussion

Greg Johnson from Met Council presented on the scope of work for the third and final phase of Study 7A that will focus on modelling the lakes and watersheds by Barr Engineering. Work group members asked questions about some of the augmentation models being used for the study and overall budget. Greg asked the work group if they would like to proceed with this study and they collectively agreed that it could move forward.

3. Study 3 - Wastewater reuse for industrial and agricultural users

Chris Larson from SEH presented to the work group about reusing wastewater for industrial and agricultural purposes. Work group members discussed the cost and feasibility of this method. After discussion, work group members collectively agreed they do not want to move forward with studying this method and would rather funds go towards other studies for now but can come back to it later if they want.

4. Study 6 – Wastewater reuse for aquifer injection or direct lake augmentation

Chris Larson from SEH presented on a method of reusing wastewater by injecting it into the Aquifer or direct lake augmentation. Chris and the work group discussed how the results of this method could differ between the ultimate demand scenario and current wastewater usage today. After discussion, there was consensus that Greg would work with the DNR to complete additional groundwater modeling analysis and send those results to the work group for their review.

5. Study 9A – Raise outlet elevation of White Bear Lake – initial evaluation of potential flood impacts

Ron Leaf from Kimley-Horn presented on raising the outlet elevation of White Bear Lake and how that would impact flooding potential. Work group members asked questions about how the outlets are adjusted, impacts to properties around the lake, and which outlets would be impacted. After discussion, work group members collectively agreed to continue studying this method.

6. Proposal to amend Study 1 to evaluate additional surface water sources for augmentation discussion

Greg Johnson from Met Council presented a proposal to amend Study 1 to evaluate additional surface water sources for augmentation. These sources include Bald Eagle Lake, Ramsey/Washington County Ditch 1, and areas of Grant. John Waller asked from the audience section if the work group would also consider evaluating surface water from the Rice Creek Watershed District and specifically Peltier Lake (and Centerville Lake) as another surface water source to augment White Bear Lake. The work group agreed to also include this surface water source to evaluate. The amended Study 1 will include a preliminary investigation on the available surface water volumes and the historical lake water elevations and stream flows in comparison to similar historical data for White Bear Lake. Water quality analysis for these surface water sources will not be included as part of this initial evaluation. Greg concluded that he would put together a scope of work and send it out to the work group before requesting estimated task hours and fees from the consultant to complete the analyses.

7. Current and upcoming studies

Greg Johnson from Met Council provided an update on current studies which include studies 1, 3, and 6 which were presented during this meeting. Study 5 is the Project 1007 study being done by the MPCA who are planning to have a report available by end of the year. Study 7A will continue and lead into 7B. Study 9A to evaluate raising the outlet elevation of White Bear Lake is going to continue as agreed upon with the work group. Study 14A will look at PFAS migration by the Department of Health who will be presenting in October. The first phase of the Financial Analyses study has also begun by Hazen and Sawyer. Greg explained to the work group that Hazen and Sawyer will be reaching out to each of the community work group members to request financial information as it relates to studying potential water utility rate impacts for each of the potential solutions that are being further analyzed.

He also went over upcoming studies that will include Study 2 which will look at connecting certain communities to treated surface water based on DNR modeling and Study 11 that will evaluate water reuse from East Vadnais Lake to supply businesses and larger irrigators in Vadnais Heights and White Bear Lake with treated surface water. Greg also explained that the additional funds received from the Minnesota Legislature will now allow the work group to begin Study 15 that



includes drilling two additional municipal wells in Shoreview with expanded water treatment to serve the projected ultimate water demands in the City of North Oaks as an alternative to serving the city with treated surface water from St. Paul Regional Water Surfaces.

8. Project Expenditures, questions, and next steps

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

*There were several questions after the meeting. To clarify, as of July 25, 2025, \$292,382.15 has been paid out and \$1,062.963.45 has been authorized for this project. It is approximately halfway through the study period and updates for this project will continue to be provided at upcoming meetings.

9. Modernizing McCarrons Treatment Plant

Racquel Vaske from Saint Paul Regional Water Services provided a background on the recent updates to the McCarrons Treatment Plant.

10. Tour of McCarrons Treatment Plant Facilities

Work group members toured the treatment plant facilities guided by Saint Paul Regional Water Services staff.

Next Steps

1. Next meeting: October 21, 2025, at Stillwater Public Library in Stillwater

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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