

Minutes

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee



Meeting date: April 9, 2024

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

Chair, Wendy Wulff

Annika Bankston, Minneapolis

Jeff Berg, MDA

Todd Blomstrom, SPRWS

Sandeep Burman, MDH

Ellen Considine, DNR

Mike Huang, City of Chaska

Phil Klein, City of Hugo

Brad Larson, City of Savage

Valerie Nepl, Dakota Co.

Erik Smith, MPCA

Kevin Watson, City of Vadnais Heights

= present

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Wulff called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee to order at 12:00 p.m.

Agenda approved

Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Klein, seconded by Huang to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2024, joint meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Business items

1. Business Item #2024-01: Approval of 2024-2025 Work Plan (Lanya Ross 651-602-1803)

Ross summarized the proposed 2024-2025 Work Plan and shared the survey results regarding scheduling preferences for MAWSAC members.

It was moved by Klein, seconded by Nepl to approve and adopt the 2024-2025 Work Plan.

Motion carried.

2. TAC Member Appointment Process (Greg Johnson 651-602-7464)

Johnson summarized the appointment process as outlined in the by-laws and answered questions about the time commitment. Volunteers to serve on the committee were solicited.

Motion to create a TAC selection committee comprised of Mike Huang, Phil Klein, Annika Bankston, and Wendy Wulff was moved by Huang, seconded by Klein. **Motion carried.**

Information items and committee work

3. Committee Updates (Lanya Ross 651-602-1803, Greg Johnson 651-602-7464, Jen Kader 651-602-1114)

Johnson summarized the TAC feedback from the March 12, 2024 meeting. He summarized the forecast process and noted that it will be available on the Met Council website in the

future.

Kader updated the group on the 3 Plans process. She summarized the goals and timeline of this work.

Ross noted that TAC had good conversations regarding the actions proposed in the subregional work groups and highlighted some of their recommendations in response to the proposed actions and roles.

4. Minnesota State Drinking Water Plan (Tannie Eshenaur 651-201-4074 and Frieda vonQualen 651-201-4547)

Eshenaur summarized the history of the State Drinking Water Plan as well as its goals and timeline.

vonQualen summarized the background work noting the goal is to build off existing plans. She explained the feedback efforts, summarized the key governance assessment findings and recommendations and the work being done to develop the 2nd version of the plan.

Klein asked if there was a statewide regulation to require well-testing upon the transfer of property. This is not required statewide, but there are counties and lenders that do have those regulations. MDH is trying to address this opportunity via county ordinances and real estate professional trainings.

Huang asked for additional information on the large number of private wells in Hennepin County. Eshenaur noted that there are great densities of private wells in Anoka, Washington, and western Hennepin counties.

Wulff asked about drinking water trust communication to recent immigrant communities. Bankston noted that Minneapolis has a drinking water ambassadors program and that groups work is complementary.

Wulff noted that this work will not be done before the Met Council plan and asked what MDH is working with regarding Met Council plans. Eshenaur noted that there is staff communications across agencies to ensure that they are complementary efforts to build strong water plans for the region and the state.

Ross outlined the updates to the local plans and some tools, resources, and research that could be done to support it and request Clean Water Funds to support this work.

Huang asked that key things be identified that were most aligned and most unaligned between the MWSP and the State Drinking Water Plan. Eshenaur noted the alignment between drinking water protection efforts. She noted that roles for agencies will be important. Kader noted that drinking water vs. water supply regarding quantity has a higher focus in the MWSP than in the state plan. Drinking water, water supply, and groundwater are all distinct things. Wulff noted that DNR is focused on quantity.

Neppi shared her surprise on the focus on private wells. Eshenaur noted that there has been increased attention to private water wells and the MPCA petition for nitrate is part of that. The waterscape setting is different now than in 1974 regarding contaminants like arsenic, nitrate, and manganese.

5. Subregional Input and TAC Discussion (Jen Kader 651-602-1114 and Lanya Ross 651-602-1803)

Kader summarized the feedback received from the subregional engagement process. Review and input on the subregional chapters were requested, directed to Ross. These comments will be summarized and presented at the MAWSAC/TAC joint meeting in May.

Wulff noted that small cities are sometimes overlooked especially as it relates to funding for those small cities in the metro area.

MAWSAC members participated in a small group exercise.

6. Water Policies and Metro Water Supply Plan (Jen Kostrzewski 651-602-1078 and Lanya Ross



651-602-1803)

Kostrzewski summarized the status of the Water Policy Plan update process.

Committee members participated in a small group activity to fit the regional water supply actions under the Water Policy Plan policies.

Blomstrom noted that there are struggles with the definition of “affordability” throughout the region.

Considine noted that through DNR’s lens of water quantity and availability she noticed that people brought up native plantings like it’s a silver bullet. There was a lot of demand for studies but she noted that we can look to other places and learn from them.

Neppl noted that changing perceptions and needing education and training materials would be important. Additionally looking at technology approaches and balancing risks and identifying targeted populations are important.

7. Government Affairs and Legislative update (Judy Sventek 651-602-1156)

Sventek provided an update on the White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan work group. They had the kick-off meeting which covered introductory materials. The second meeting focused on the problem statement and a presentation on the DNR’s groundwater model. The next meeting is April 25th where the problem statement will be finalized and methods and actions will be evaluated.

The bill to add water supply and housing as regional systems does not have a Senate companion and does not appear to be progressing in this session. This was not a Met Council initiated bill.

Next year we will be requesting further input for Clean Water funding requests.

8. MAWSAC Chair Updates (Wendy Wulff 952-484-3353)

Wulff noted that people are happy with the subregional approach for water policy and thanked everyone for their work.

Next steps

1. Next meeting: Joint meeting of MAWSAC and TAC on May 15th, 2024

- Review draft MWSP content and connections to regional water supply policy
- Discuss how stakeholder input has shaped the draft
- Provide advice and support for public review process

2. TAC selection committee next steps

Chair Wulff will select a municipal city staff representative and serve as the Council member representative for the TAC appointment working group. Once the working group has been fully established by the Chair, the TAC applications received by Met Council will be sent to the working group to review. The group will then make a recommendation to MAWSAC for appointments to TAC.

3. Water Policy Plan workshops – Steve Christopher to provide follow up invitations to MAWSAC and TAC members via email:

- Tuesday, April 30th from 1-3pm at Cottage Grove City Hall Training Room
- Tuesday, May 7th from 9-11am at Chanhassen Recreation Center
- Thursday, May 16th from 1-3pm at Shoreview Community Center
- Virtual information session – date and time TBD



Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee meeting of April 9, 2024.

Approved this 15th day of May 2024.

Council contact:

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