

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Committee Members Present:

Sandy Rummel (Metropolitan Council); Julie Ekman (DNR); Katrina Kessler (PCA); Jamie Schurbon (Anoka County Conservation District); Barry Stock (Savage); Jeff Berg (Department of Agriculture); Glen Gerads (City of Minneapolis); Chuck Haas (Hugo); Randy Ellingboe (Dept of Health); Michael Robinson (Chisago County); Jill Trescott (Dakota County);

Committee Members Absent:

Steve Schneider (St. Paul Regional Water Services); Georg Fischer (Dakota County); Lisa Volbrecht (Sherburne County); Greg Anderson (Isanti County); Mark Daleiden (Wright County); Susan Morris (Isanti County); Dan Stoddard (Department of Agriculture)

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Sandy Rummel called the regular meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee to order at 10:03 a.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2015.

Introductions of committee members present were conducted.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Julie Ekman seconded by Jeff Berg to approve the agenda of the July 22, 2015 meeting. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Jamie Schurbon, seconded by Randy Ellingboe to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2015 meeting. **Motion carried.**

STATUTORY CHANGES – Judd Schetnan, MCES

“The Council staff will share information about changes Minnesota Statutes 473.1565 including changes in the membership of MAWSAC, new authority for MAWSAC to approve the master water supply plan, and establishment of a new technical advisory committee to inform MAWSAC’s work.”

Master Plan Approval responsibility

Old Statute: MN Statute Section 473.1565, Subdivision 1.

(a) The Metropolitan Council must carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2. The planning activities must include, at a minimum:

(2) Development and periodic update of a metropolitan area master water supply plan, prepared in cooperation with and subject to the approval of the commissioner of natural resources,

New Statute MN Statute Section 473.1565, Subdivision 1 Amended

(a) The Metropolitan Council must carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2. The planning activities must include, at a minimum:

(2) Development and periodic update of a metropolitan area master water supply plan, prepared in cooperation with and subject to the approval of the policy advisory committee established in this section,

Additional members

Two new members representing non-county government were added to the current membership of MAWSAC (16 members). The appointment of these members should be done in consultation with **Association of Metropolitan Municipalities (Metro Cities)**

Creation of a Technical Advisory Committee

A Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee is established to inform the policy advisory committee's work by providing scientific and engineering expertise necessary to provide the region an adequate and sustainable water supply. The technical advisory committee consists of up to 15 members appointed by the policy advisory committee.

New state funding for Water Supply Planning activities are appropriated from the general fund - \$400,000 for 2016 and 2017 to support of Water Supply Planning activities of the Metropolitan Council.

Committee feedback and discussion included:

- Was the vote somewhat close on funding? It is difficult to provide an answer. How it was funded and passed is not divided in to segments. The funding was agreed to by the House. There was significant support. Representative Runbeck supported.
- We appreciate the work staff did along with Metro Cities. You need to be commended.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Leisa Thompson, MCES

"Changes to Minnesota Statutes 473.1565 establishes a technical advisory committee to inform MAWSAC's work by providing scientific and engineering expertise necessary to provide the region an adequate and sustainable water supply. The technical advisory committee consists of up to 15 members appointed by MAWSAC. A Community Technical Work Group with the membership required in statute has been established to review the master water supply plan and supporting technical information; this group may be considered for appointment by MAWSAC."

To avoid delays to the Master Water Supply Plan approval process, staff recommends that MAWSAC agrees to retain the current Community Technical Work Group (CTWG), which was formed in January 2015 to provide technical oversight during the update of the plan, through the approval process of the current update of the master plan. MAWSAC members agree that MAWSAC will select new TAC members in future meetings after the approval of the plan.

Committee feedback and discussion included:

- Does the current committee meet the statute in terms of membership? The statute allows for up to 15 members for the Technical Work Group. There are currently 12 members which include:
 - Michael Thompson, Maplewood
 - Steve Lillehaug, Brooklyn Center
 - Bob Cockriel, Bloomington
 - Dale Folen, Minneapolis
 - Jim Graupmann, St. Paul
 - Brian Olson, Edina
 - Bert Tracy, Golden Valley
 - Steve Albrecht, Burnsville
 - Russ Matthys, Eagan
 - Mark Maloney, Shoreview
 - Jennifer Levitt, Cottage Grove
 - Klay Eckles, Woodbury
 - Jason Moeckel, DNR
- Would like to hear credentials to assure regional representation. Metro Cities is satisfied with the group. The membership does meet statute. We worked with Metro Cities, as well as City

Engineering Association of Minnesota (CEAM) and American Public Works Association (APWA).

- I think we need to assure technical diversity as well as diversity overall.
- Should we continue with the current Technical Advisory Group since they are familiar with what is being worked on?
- Have there been any comments about the Committee or suggestions on anyone who should be on the committee that isn't? There have been no comments or suggestions. Feedback has been positive. DNR has been participating in the Technical Work Group.
- Wondering if anyone has talked about the additional members and what would be beneficial to add to the Technical Work Group. The statute states the experts should cover the areas of water resource analysis and modeling, hydrology, engineering planning, design and construction of water systems or system finance. The statute also states it consists of 15 members appointed by the policy advisory committee with the majority of members representing single city and multi-city public water systems in the metropolitan area.
- When the list is put together, it would be helpful to identify which city the engineering firms represent.
- No objections to anyone on the committee. Seems to be heavy on public works directors. May appear to be short on technical knowledge. Need to evaluate group and the skill sets.
- Need science represented.
- Unsure about putting cart before the horse. We have a plan in the process of reviewing. The process did not anticipate the statutory change in responsibilities. Need to be mindful of responsibilities and the timeline.
- The question is how to get this set of system plans completed by deadlines. Can this be done if new members are brought on board?
- I do not think new members should be brought on board. We should continue with existing Technical Work Group members.
- Should consider current members may not be looking at their current appointment as a permanent assignment. Will evaluate this and take in to consideration. Details will need to be clarified. Staff indicated the Technical Work Group participants were notified at the onset of the committee their appointment was on a short term basis. If it would go longer, would need to be evaluated.
- Need to determine how to add 2 additional members if needed.

MASTER WATER SUPPLY PLAN UPDATE – Lanya Ross, MCES

“Council staff will share information about the draft Master Water Supply Plan public comment period and input heard at two informational meetings. Details about the schedule will be provided.”

Schedule for Public Review:

- June 25 – Master water supply plan was approved for public comment
- July 21 – Informational meeting held at Maplewood Community Center
- July 28 – 10 a.m. – Information meeting scheduled at Minnetonka Community Center
- August 11 – 5 p.m. – Public hearing at 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN
- August 21 – 5 p.m. – Last day to submit comments

Ways to Comment:

- Attend the public hearing
- Write the Council at 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN (Attn: Lanya Ross)
- Email the Council at public.info@metc.state.mn.us
- Record a comment on the Public Comment Line at 651-602-1500 (TTY 651-291-0904)

First information meeting held July 21. Sixty people signed in – 31 city attendees, 7 consultants, 3 county attendees, organization including the Bald Eagle Association, North Oaks Natural Resources

Commission, Vadnais Lake Area Management Association, White Bear Lake Homeowners Association, private citizens, and agency staff from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health and the Metropolitan Council. Additional participants were there that did not sign in. Level of engagement was high. Those present were encouraged to attend the next session scheduled for July 28 and spread the word to others who may be interested in learning more about the plan.

Key points –

- Questions on the review process were raised.
- Questions about what format comments can be provided in.
- What is the process to review and incorporate the comments?

Staff stated comments will be taken through August 21. If there are additional comments from this committee, they should be sent to Lanya Ross' attention. Staff stated comments that are received will be categorized and summarized and could be presented at the next MAWSAC meeting on August 26.

Schedule is on track for a September 21 presentation to Environment Committee and Council on September 22.

Additional interest expressed during information session included water use. Good questions about the information presented in the plan. How it compares from community to community, residential use, etc. Suggested improvements were provided during the meeting.

Recurring theme was the need for the Master Water Supply Plan to address all potential water supply sources in the Metro. Integrated water planning, water management, are we reusing wastewater and stormwater were a few of the areas discussed.

Committee feedback and discussion included:

- Have the changes in legislation forced you to go back and do wordsmithing? Definitely some. I was following the legislation as it was occurred and hoped to have caught necessary changes as they came up. If revisions are needed, notify Lanya Ross.
- The crowd was energetic. I was pleased at the number of private citizens were showed interest in the subject matter. Good opinions on what should be done in the future.
- Thank you to everyone who helped put the meeting together.

MASTER WATER SUPPLY PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS – Leisa Thompson, MCES

“Potential process to approve the master water supply plan update will be discussed. Examples of Clean Water Council and Metropolitan Council bylaws and approval processes will be provided to inform this discussion.”

Staff shared the procedure in place for the Clean Water Council which states:

- Council decisions - All formal actions of the Council shall be made at open public meetings. A simple majority vote of the voting Council members present at the meeting, at which a quorum has been established, is needed to take formal action.
- Quorum - A simple majority of seated voting Council members constitutes a quorum

Staff also shared the current Metropolitan Council Committee Procedure related to quorum requirements:

- Quorum – A majority of committee members shall constitute a quorum on committees which have an odd number of members and a number equal to one-half of the members shall constitute a quorum on committees which have an even number of members.

Staff recommends that MAWSAC follows the Clean Water Council decision making process to approve the master plan, which is also consistent with Met Council procedures.

For future discussion of governing structure for MAWSAC, the Clean Water Council's and/or the Metropolitan Council's bylaws could be good references.

Committee feedback and discussion included:

- Time to make the decision is when we have the full membership of MAWSAC.
- How will the logistics of the new membership be determined as well as timing? In the previous structure of MAWSAC, St. Paul and Minneapolis represented the two county seats for Ramsey and Hennepin County. The new format will have 2 additional representatives, one each from Hennepin and Ramsey County and can come from any city within those two counties. The appointment process will occur through the Governor's office. The understanding is that current members do not need to seek reappointment.
- Are the seven counties represented? Yes.
- When will the appointments made? Staff have been working with Metro Cities to determine who is interested and can commit. Names will be provided to the Governor's office for approval.
- With the new role MAWSAC will have, this is a good time to think about the governing structure for the future. Quorum will need to be considered.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Susan Taylor
Recording Secretary