

Minutes of the MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL 2050 WATER RESOURCE POLICY PLAN UPDATE ADVISORY GROUP Monday, October 4, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Scott Anderson, Bryan Bear, Phil Belfiori, Bryan Dodds, Bruce Elder, Charles Howley, Laura Jester, Tim Kelly, Jennifer Levitt, Steve Lillehaug, Mark Maloney, Richard McCoy, Paul Moline, Vanessa Strong, Nick Tomczik, Bruce Westby, James Wisker

Staff

Anna Bessel, Jeannine Clancy (co-sponsor), Kyle Colvin (co-lead), Ali Elhassan, Jen Kostrzewski (facilitator), Sam Paske (co-sponsor), Judy Sventek (co-lead), Tessa Wegenke (recorder)

Guests

Mike Lund, Lanya Ross, Emily Steinweg

Absent Members (and alternate)

Joe Kohlmann, Russ Matthys, Pat Shea, James Wisker (alternate Anna Brown)

INTRODUCTIONS

The group received a welcome from Sam Paske and Jeannine Clancy, co-sponsors. They thanked attendees for their time in advance over the next few years. They noted that it has been close to seven (7) years since the adoption of the 2040 Plan; since that adoption new topics have become areas of concern such as polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), climate change, and our water supply that supports our communities.

Judy Sventek gave an overview of the agenda and spoke toward general information regarding best practices during virtual meetings. There was a group introduction (round-robin style), during which the attendees noted their local perspectives and top-of-mind concerns:

- Surface water, surface water – ground water interaction, watershed, storage and conveyance of surface water on the landscape
- Planning (for change):
 - balancing needs for growth along w/water availability and exploring alts for places from where we get our water from and efficiencies in how we use our water
 - interceptor capacity and planning
 - more extreme storms and impact on water quality
 - interagency coordination
 - overlapping issues in jurisdictions as we work on a planning doc
 - long-range capital improvement planning and coordination
 - expansion service area to S/SW and how that interacts
- Regulations and guidance:
 - control over water resource protections and regulations
 - how Metropolitan Council (MCES) policy integrates with state requirements (and clarity thereof)
 - regional water policy
 - climate change policy (at the state level rather than local level),
- Water/stormwater reuse
- Volume control strategies, flooding and too much water in the system
- Contamination:
 - PFAS
 - chloride reduction, chlorides in wastewater
- Infiltration & Inflow (I&I)

WATER RESOURCES POLICY PLAN BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Judy Sventek gave historical context to the work that has been done in the past by this group and its predecessors. She noted MCES is using a different approach for this

iteration, where the advisory group is starting very early in comparison to the last three cycles. She gave context to the planning process and cycle, Thrive MSP 2040 (regional development guide) and the regional outcomes, and how we are looking at this as a “One Water” approach instead of separate recommendations for various types of water.

Kyle Colvin took a deeper dive into the layout for the 2040 Policy Plan and showed the members the long-term service area map. He noted that the map does not include any assumptions for future local wastewater treatment facility acquisitions. He spoke toward the next 10-year planning cycle process.

INTRODUCE DRAFT WORK PLAN

Jen Kostrzewski noted that as much as MCES is a planning agency, it is hard to plan out a work plan for the next five years. That is why there is an intentional vagueness to the “living document” work plan. We won’t exactly know how topics and plan components will be developed between now and 2024 and there’s always other unforeseen circumstances. MCES commits to sending out refined, more detailed annual updates on the work plan for each coming year. These details will be incorporated in the living document.

The unique perspectives from all members will help to create the best plan. As this will be the work schedule and plan for the group for several years, she wanted to ensure that we capture perspectives and update the document.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND EXPECTATIONS

Jen gave an overview of the team members and roles. There will be a one-week before meeting dissemination of materials for review, or more; we’ll be using a variety of digital tools while in hybrid environment and others if in person. Review the materials, participate in the meeting by sharing ideas, experience, etc., and share guidance to be incorporated into white papers.

Next meetings tentative schedule:

2021 - 2022	2023	2024
November	January	February
January (Data & Outreach supporting planning efforts)	September	
May (Water resources policy plan issues outreach results)	October	
August		
October		

Decided best practices moving forward:

- Meeting scheduling:
 - Doodle: best format to acquire the dates for future meetings
 - 2-3 are planned, but the team is open to having more scheduled as needed (ad hoc for small work groups)
 - Hybrid environment (The Council is committed to having meetings virtually through this month; when this changes the team will be notified)
- Attendance: alternates are allowed for meetings of which members cannot attend
- Tracking and sharing of information and action items:
 - Recording meetings: yes
 - Minutes: high-level summary with actions items (no specifics)
 - Send minutes via email as well as in Team environment

INTRODUCTION TO CONCEPT OF ISSUES AND FOCUS FOR NEXT MEETING

Kyle Colvin gave an overview of the proposed topic for the next meeting: Potential new policy areas. The main points he touched on were:

- Rural concerns
- Wastewater system issues
- Contaminants of concern

- Source water protection and vulnerable areas
- Water quality
- Water availability, use, and access

QUESTIONS

Q: Are we going to break it down into smaller groups or task forces? They are all intertwined; and there are some areas of expertise and subject matter that would be best suited for specific groups.

A: Initially we are having the whole group; if it looks that we need to based upon the feedback and if there is energy to do so, we certainly can.

Q: Who are we missing in these conversations? (Open to group, send to our team)

Q: How familiar is this group with online collaboration tools (such as Mural)?

ACTION ITEMS

ASSIGNED TO	ACTION	DEADLINE	PROGRESS
Jen	Update Workplan to incorporate voted-upon meeting frequency, guidelines	Before next meeting	Completed
Tessa	Finalize notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate for review • Post to team • Send via email 	ASAP	Completed
Tessa	November meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doodle • Select date • Send notification • Send materials 1 week before mtg (1-page docs w/issues) 	ASAP	Completed

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Tessa Wegenke
Recording Secretary