

# Minutes

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee



**Meeting Date:** May 17, 2022

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members Present:

- Chair, Wendy Wulff
- Jeff Berg, Dept of Agriculture
- A Sandeep Burman, MDH
- A John Gleason, DNR
- Catherine Neuschler, MPCA
- Valerie Neppl, Dakota County

- A Mark Daleiden, Wright County
- A Susan Morris, Isanti County
- Mike Huang, City of Chaska
- Tonja West-Hafner, Bklyn Park
- A Lisa Vollbrecht, St. Cloud PU
- Phil Klein, City of Hugo

- A Patrick Shea, SPRWS
- A Jamie Schurbon, Anoka County
- Kevin Watson, Vadnais Heights
- Brad Larson, City of Savage
- Annika Bankston, Minneapolis
- = present, E = excused, A = Absent

## Guest Presenters

### 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 1:17 p.m.

Chair Wulff asked each member to say who they are and where which organization they represent.

### Agenda Approved

It was moved by Phil Klein, seconded by Tonja to approve the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

### Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Neuschler, seconded by Klein to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

### Information Items and Committee Work

#### ***Guiding regional plan updates – regional values, vision and goals; community designations; scenario planning; and water issues white papers***

Lanya Ross introduced the presentations with a high-level overview of how we intend to stay grounded in the 2022 MAWSAC workplan, highlighting the focus area goals which were shared with the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole (COW) and legislative bodies. She also lifted up the regional planning framework, highlighting a proposal to add a level of sub-regional chapters to assist with the grassroots, collaborative style we are implementing for the newest version of the Master Water Supply Plan.

Related handout: Updated MAWSAC TAC work plan

Lanya then introduced guest presenters for the following areas, and asked committee members to capture their questions for presenters on the paper provided:

#### **1. Presentation: Regional values, vision and goals**

**Michael Larson:** He is leading a process to define regional values, vision and goals. This work will set the tone and direction for what we want to achieve in the region, what success might look like, and showed a high-level vision process flowchart. A consistent use of language across policy plans is a big part of their work, as well as objectives, policies, and strategies to create accountability within the process. He put a call to the members to help his team articulate the issues they are encountering. The 2022 MAWSAC report was reviewed as part of this process, and he noted he is really impressed by the quality of work. The team also reviewed materials from several past MAWSAC meetings to identify priorities that inform this project.

## 2. Presentation: Community designations

**Raya Esmaeili:** This is part of the big-picture, regional guidance. The community designation helps to furthering local planning policies and implementation by grouping communities by similarities and differences. The criteria for defining community designation(s) is changing over time. The main body with whom they are working is the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC). The variables considered in the last round:

- Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA)
- Percentage of developable land committed to urban uses
- Age of the housing stock
- Intersection density
- Long-term Wastewater Service Area

They are working with many stakeholders such as local planners, Council Committees, and internal technical staff. She noted the timeline:

- LUAC: January - November 2022
- Stakeholder Engagement: January – July 2022
- Analysis: April – November 2022
- Adoption: November – December 2022

## 3. Presentation: Scenario planning; and water issues white papers

**Dan Marckel:** Scenario plan is leading to 2050 plan, which will be adopted in 2024. Purpose of plan is to consider more uncertainties. In the past they have looked at economic planning; they also look at where they anticipate the growth. We do not know what telework will do to where people will live, and this is a large part of that uncertainty. More nimble policies will be built into the plans to allow for the necessary flexibility to fit the “Four Futures.” We are moving into the Identifying Impacts on Regional Issues and Responsibilities phase (2). His team has worked with Tech staff, advisory committees, volunteers, and will be moving to in 2023 moving to a wider engagement with and exploring the Four Futures.

## 4. Presentation: Water issues white papers

**Jen Kostrzewski:** purpose is to allow us to evaluate proactively the issues of the region before we start drafting the policies. We can continue to identify and investigate these issues. She gave a definition of White Papers and their use. She noted the progress and milestones along the way. They are incorporating all the feedback they have received along the way, and will write the papers for the next year and then use them as an engagement tool with stakeholders. She went over the seven (7) topics:

Related handout: Water issues - white papers: Draft framing papers for water



resource policy plan topics

Her team is finishing the first round of white papers; these are being written in phases.

## QUESTIONS

Committee Member Hafner ask Raya Esmaeili about density expectations:

The requirement for minimum density is created by the Metropolitan Council. The information is provided by the local communities through local comprehensive plans and comprehensive plan amendments to ensure they meet the requirement(s).

Chair Wulff noted that with denser development there are economic pressures; this information assists in planning to ensure we have the necessary support for land use.

## BREAK

### ***Small group discussion among committee and presenters (Lanya & Emily)***

Lanya gave an overview of the topics and the plan for the next segment. She expressed that the Project Managers will not be taking detailed notes to include in the meeting minutes; rather, they are capturing what they need to directly inform their work. Committee members will be asked to share highlights with the full group at the end of the small group discussions.

### ***Large group report out: Highlights and MAWSAC questions and requests for TAC***

Lanya asked the small groups to think about and call-out the highlights to the day's conversations:

1. Offer a challenge to the scenario definitions – they are too residential focused versus industrial
2. Challenge to scenario assumptions: More growth and more dispersed can't happen
3. Cost of land increase may not mean that folks condense in space
4. Rent lock, feelings of crime rates, etc. are also factors that feed into density
5. How does crime, insecurity affect density predictions?
6. Regarding community designations, consider the relationship between density versus water use/ Is there enough water for high density?
7. Keep the whole package in mind: there is development incented by Met Council to grow, and there are also needs for sewer, stormwater, and transportation services to that new development and redevelopment.
8. Considering water supply earlier in the process should help
9. In our planning, we should consider the correlation between property values and density (is it possible to project density and use with property values?)
10. How do community designations and scenarios connect? Also forecasts?
11. Water softeners are not currently included in the water efficiency grant program – we should encourage users to switch to a more efficient softener. There are opportunities with grants for water efficient water softeners to benefit more efficient chloride use, too
12. Is there a source available to incentivize cities to upgrade water supply systems to share water use data with customers helps expand understanding and better manage water use? Leveraging local research can support cultural shift as individuals know their use and appliances better.
  - Incentive program ideas:
    - Water softeners are not included in the water efficiency grants – we should encourage users to switch to a more efficient softener. (water cents/sense program)



- BWSR(?) program
- Waiting for EPA
- Is there a resource available for cities to incentivize tech upgrades
- Building consumer use awareness and education

## 2. Questions

### ***Government affairs and legislative update (Ali Elhassan, 651-602-1066; Sam Paske, 651-1015)***

Ali asked for support from the members in order to get approval for the Clean Water Fund. A template will be provided for anyone interested in sending a letter of support to the Clean Water Council and legislators. In the past, Met Council has received stable funding for our Metropolitan Area Water Supply Sustainability Program, which supports work such as a pilot project for regional well-head protection in the western Metro; and, the Water Demand Reduction/Efficiency Grant Program. There is high local interest in the very successful efficiency grant program. Given that the requests and need exceeded the amount of funding in our current appropriation, our team rationed the amount to each community so that everyone who applied could all receive funding. With funds that were not used (due to Covid) by communities, they are sending it back to Met Council and it is being redistributed. Met Council is the smallest agency receiving the Clean Water Fund monies.

### **Next Steps**

1. Exchange TAC and MAWSAC perspectives
2. Committee member input for July 19, 2022 meeting
3. Opportunities for further input on today's topics
4. Volunteers to support CWC request – staff will provide examples of past letters of support Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3:35 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 May 17, 2022.

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#### **Council Contact:**

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