

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### Committee Members Present:

Sandy Rummel, Chair, Barry Stock, Jamie Schurbon, Jeffrey Berg, Michael Robinson, Randy Ellingboe, Todd Gerhardt, Dean Lotter, Georg Fischer

#### Committee Members Absent:

Glen Gerads, Katrina Kessler, Steve Schneider, Julie Ekman, Mark Daleiden, Lisa Volbrecht Patty Acomb, Susan Morris

#### CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

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 10:04 a.m. on Wednesday, February 23, 2016.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Jamie Schurbon seconded by Dean Lotter to approve the agenda of the February 23, 2016 meeting. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Jamie Schurbon, seconded by Dean Lotter to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2016 meeting. **Motion carried.**

#### TAC Selection – MCES Staff and MAWSAC Member \*

*The selection committee members would provide summary of TAC selection process and recommendation to MAWSAC members for review and decision.*

Committee Member Lotter provided a summary of the recommendation by the TAC Selection Committee which met March 7, 2016. Thank you to staff who helped with this process.

Minnesota Statutes, Section 473.1565, Subdivision 2A states:

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 15 members appointed by the policy advisory committee, with the majority of members representing single-city and multicity public water supply systems in the metropolitan area and including experts in:

- (1) water resources analysis and modeling;
- (2) hydrology; and
- (3) the engineering, planning, design, and construction of water systems or water systems finance.

Members of the technical advisory committee serve at the pleasure of the policy advisory committee, without compensation, but may be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses as determined by the council.

The selection committee included:

1. Glen Gerads, MAWSAC (City of Minneapolis)
2. Katrina Kessler, MAWSAC (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)
3. Dean Lotter, MAWSAC (City of New Brighton)
4. Steven Huser, MetroCities

There were 29 applicants for the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee.

- 13 applicants represent cities (4 applicants served on the Community Technical Work Group)
- 1 applicant represents a county

- 7 applicants represent consultants/businesses (1 applicant served on the Community Technical Work Group)
- 2 applicants represent the University of Minnesota
- 3 applicants represent state agencies
- 1 applicant represents a federal agency
- 1 at large applicant

Selection criteria included:

Areas of expertise required by statute:

- Water resources analysis and modeling
- Hydrology
- Engineering, planning, design, and construction of water systems
- Water system finance

Additional criteria identified by MAWSAC:

- Diversity in backgrounds, experience
- Geographic distribution

Recommendation is for MAWSAC to appoint the following to the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee:

Single-city and multicity public water supply systems:

1. Kristin Asher, City of Richfield
2. Robert Cockriel, City of Bloomington
3. Klayton Eckles, City of Woodbury
4. Dale Folen, City of Minneapolis
5. Jennifer Levitt, City of Cottage Grove
6. Mark Maloney, City of Shoreview
7. Chris Petree, City of Lakeville
8. Lon Schemel, City of Shakopee
9. Bruce Westby, City of Ramsey

Other

10. John Dustman, Summit Envirosolutions
11. G. H. Crystal Ng, University of Minnesota
12. Lih-in Reznia, Minnesota Department of Health
13. James Stark, U.S. Geological Survey
14. Jamie Wallerstedt, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
15. Ray Wuolo, Barr Engineering Company

A summary of applicant qualifications was provided to the Committee.

Committee feedback and discussion included:

- Verbiage correction to include the term “Technical” to clarify the appointment is to the Technical Advisory Committee and not to MAWSAC.
- Staff stated a MAWSAC member is recommended to be part of the TAC. How should this be determined? Ideas are welcome. Agreed it would be nice to have a liaison from MAWSAC to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee. It was suggested to ask Steve Schneider to serve. Those present agreed. Dean Lotter will inquire and provide background.
- Would like input in to duties the liaison will handle. Suggestion to meet with staff outside of this meeting to develop. Committee can review after it is put together.

- A definition and clarification on the role of the Technical Advisory Committee is needed as well. Staff to present information at the next meeting.
- Letters will be prepared for non-selected applicants to thank them for their interest as well as a letter to those who were selected. It will be forwarded to Chair Rummel for review prior to circulation.
- It is important for committees to have directed actions and activities. A clear charter and work plan is important as well. Will help guide expectations for the members.

Motion for MAWSAC to approve the recommended appoints to the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee was made by Barry Stock, second by Dean Lotter. **Motion carried.**

### **Legislative Update – MCES Staff**

*The Council staff would provide update on relevant bills introduced and their status to committee members.*

Staff stated the legislature had been in session since March 8. Bills of interest currently:

BILL: [SF3676](#) submitted by Wiger, Stumpf, Tomassoni, Saxhaug - White Bear Lake water sustainability study and augmentation design project appropriation; Vadnais Heights projects protections establishment. Funds in this legislation are appropriated from the state's general fund to the DNR for:

1. a study to evaluate long-term water supply sustainability (use and reuse options) in the north and east metro,
2. water quality monitoring and modeling and other ecological impacts from potential White Bear Lake augmentation (from Vadnais Lake),
3. planning and preliminary engineering to obtain information about expected effectiveness of lake augmentation on water levels and refine project cost construction estimates, and
4. development of 3 design/build proposals.

No hearings have been called as of this meeting date.

#### Committee feedback and discussion included:

- The bill directs the beginning of site work, acquisition of land, design, engineering, construct, install, and equip the system. The cost is unknown presently. The Governor's position was not provided in the bonding bill.
- Updates will be provided to this committee.

### **Governor's Water Summit Update - MCES Staff**

*The Council staff would provide update on the Governor's Water Summit that took place on February 27<sup>th</sup>.*

Sam Paske, Assistant General Manager, Environmental Quality Assurance provided a summary of the Governor's Water Summit which occurred on Saturday, February 27, 2016.

The purpose of the Governor's Water Summit was to create an event for the people of the State of Minnesota so the Governor, agencies and stakeholders can truly listen to those who care and know the most about water challenges and solutions.

- Shine a bright light on water and what is working
- Get input that can be put into immediate action
- Take responsibility at all levels and areas
- Engage those who have the best knowledge

Success:

- Governor would know where to focus
- People would see new ways
- Not a rehashing of the problems

Preparation: Representatives from the Governor's office and state agencies have been planning since January

- MN DNR
- MPCA
- EQB
- MN Department of Health
- MN Department of Agriculture
- MN Department of Management & Budget
- Met Council
- Investment by non-profits and help from E/I, Jeremy Lenz

#### Topics Included:

- Investing in clean water (future/technology)
- Living cover to protect water quality & quantity
- Sustainable water supply
- Severe climate/resiliency
- Managing water in the rural environment
- Managing water in the built environment
- Water and wastewater infrastructure funding (fiscal sustainability)
- Aquatic Invasive Species

#### Event Day Summary:

- Over 900 attendees including members of the public, private industry and government representatives
- The Governor attended (almost) the entire summit
- High energy
- Groups were small enough for honest, engaged discussion
- Facilitated for fair participation
- All comments were captured

#### Key Takeaways:

- Emphasize and leverage our state water ethic including state coordination & leadership, education & awareness and local action/benefits
- Greatly increase outreach/education on the value of water and things people can do every day
- Communicate the true cost/value of water – more information at hand for the public
- Recognize that broad interests in water sustainability must align with a focus on action and leadership at the local level (collaboration)
- Broad desire for local summits
- Research investment into uses for better cover crops, conservation and protection
- Make multiple benefit investments whenever possible
- Remove barriers to water reuse such as lack of understanding and prohibitive regulations
- Improve messaging from water leaders and champions including modeling actions
- One watershed/one plan – better integration of players and desired outcomes

#### What it means for the Council:

- Validation
- Continue increasing our outreach to customers and stakeholders
- Focus on the potential for future investments that keep more clean water in the region
- Work locally, avoid a one size fits all approach
- Support research into drought resistant landscaping and science
- Focus on water efficiency and getting the most from our resources
- Partner/collaborate as a primary way to make progress

## Next Steps:

- The notes are being compiled and will be condensed into a public report
- Identify how we can improve our approach based on the input from the report
- Identify how we can create more regional conversations that lead to real action

The Met Council received valuable confirmation to continue working with communities and stakeholders as a valued leader and partner in water sustainability.

## Committee feedback and discussion included:

- This was a good summary of the day. It was exciting to be there. I took part in the Living Cover section as a note taker. The ideas put forth were innovative and broad-reaching. A number of ideas were provided and engagement was good. As state agencies we hear bits and pieces, but to capture for future use was valuable.
- Through the day I noted the idea of stormwater and wastewater reuse. I left feeling this would receive a great deal of focus in the coming years and will play in to the landscape for all of us.
- There were a couple hundred people in the Rural Water forum and we broke in to smaller groups. I was impressed with the well-rounded stakeholders. People participated and felt they were heard.
- Discussion occurred regarding the Governor's buffer zone in the Rural Water's section as some farmers feel they have lost their buffer zone.
- There was a bit of discussion in the Living Cover section about buffers. Discussions varied among the groups. Some groups tended to be those interested in seeing more perennial cover in the landscape, so their comments were brief, but they were looking for ways to increase the perennial cover. They seemed over all sensitive to the issue of the economics related to buffer strips as well as to changes in cropping practices and the need for research. Farmers expressed concerns of impact to income.
- Was great to have the Governor attend the entire day.

## **Update on Clean Water Fund in Past 5 Years and Request for 2018 – MCES Staff**

*The Council staff would provide summary and outcome of Council's project funded by Clean Water Fund over the past 5 years. Staff would also present Council's request for the coming biennium for MAWSAC review and discussion.*

Ali Elhassan, Manager, of Water Supply Planning provided an overview of how the Metropolitan Council has been utilizing funds provided by the Clean Water Fund. These have been the main source of funding for projects, studies, and development of tools over the past 6 years.

Minnesota Water Management Framework was developed five years ago and revised in 2015. State agencies developed this framework for water management. Work is not being duplicated or stepping on each other's toes.

Clean Water Legacy Act was implemented in 2006 that focuses on restoration and created the Clean Water Council. The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment was created in 2008 with an expanded charge to protect and enhance waters as well as drinking water.

The Clean Water fund budget process is a two-year process and begins with a revenue projection. Agencies then submit budget requests to the Clean Water Council and the Interagency Coordination Team for evaluation, which then proceed to the Governor's office for review and submittal as a budget request to the Legislature. In the past 6 years, we have received approximately 95% of what has been requested.

Since 2010, the Metropolitan Council has received \$7,000,000 + that has been utilized for research, tools, and projects. For 2016-2017, the Metropolitan Council will focus on water supply sustainability support and efficiency grants.

Studies have included hydrology, groundwater & surface water, hydrogeology, engineering, and feasibility. For 2016-2017 efficiency of irrigation use in residential areas is being looked in to as well as groundwater modeling, uncertainty analysis, evaluation of efficient water use on utilities operations and revenue.

Projects have included the Industrial Water Conservation Program through the University of Minnesota in 2013 and stormwater reuse support projects at CHS Stadium in 2015. For 2016-2017 stormwater reuse support projects will take place in Western Metro communities and the Industrial Water Conservation Program will focus on commercial properties. Sustainability support outcomes have realized 75 million gallons per year of water saved through efforts implemented.

Through water efficiency grants, the Metropolitan Council granted 19 communities with grants to replace washing machines, retrofit irrigation systems, and replace toilets. Grants provide 75% of the program cost (\$570,000) with the remaining 25% provided by the municipality (\$190,000). Through these programs, an estimated 85 million gallons of water have been saved. This is enough water for 2,500 people annually.

Through the regional water supply planning process, there have been many impacts, progress made, as well as value added to the initiatives implemented. In addition to water and cost savings, better planning is available for communities when they format their Community Master Plans. Better information is available for rate and feasibility analysis. Funding partners have been identified through community contributions, and watershed districts. Better services and tools have been implemented such as Metro Model 3, a conservation toolbox and water efficiency grants. Knowledge has been leveraged through engineers, hydrogeologists, the University, consultants, and the US Geological Survey. Streamlining of DNR local plans and regional groundwater modeling have helped in the decision-making process. A collaborative framework was created through the Community Technical Workgroup and Technical Advisory Committee as well as new work groups that are being implemented.

Local input is valuable through the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC), Community Technical Work Group, and six workgroups encompassing 54 communities. Public education and outreach is occurring through community forums, publications, media, workshops and community events. The City of White Bear Lake has invited us to work with them at the Market Fest in June as well as a conservation event. Invitations come in periodically from communities to collaborate.

Stakeholders are saying:

- “The Metropolitan Council’s water conservation toolbox provides information and an extensive list of resources for residents who want to use their water efficiently.” (City of St. Louis Park).
- “Being able to start from Metro Model to construct the groundwater model used for the New Brighton WHPA delineation made the work more efficient and cost lower.” (Grant Wyffels, former Director of Public Works, New Brighton)
- “The public awareness that the program efficiency grant program creates is a benefit as we work to educate the public on the importance of conserving water, even in Minnesota.” (Mark Burch, Director of Public Works, White Bear Lake)

The region’s water supply is sustainable now and in the future. Through the strategies of the Master Water Supply Plan, the following goals have been set:

- Facilitate collaboration with partners to address water supply issues and update the Master Plan
- Review and comment on local plans and permits
- Conduct water supply water conservation
- Conduct water supply technical studies
- Investigate reusing stormwater and treated wastewater
- Support regional and local investments in water supply

To achieve sustainability by 2040 and beyond, the region can reduce water use. Currently, the regional average total (water used for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes) per capita water use is about 125 gallons per day, and average residential per capita water use is at 95 gallons per day. By 2040, we are looking to decrease average total per capita water use to 90 gallons per day and average residential per capita water use to 75 gallons per day. Summer water use is currently about 2.3 times more than in the winter, and we would like to reduce this to 1.6 times. These reductions will lead to a financial savings of approximately \$92 million. Total cost of the program is \$125 million.

Clean Water Fund money funds studies, tools, grants, and projects that supplement the basic planning functions of the Metropolitan Council. For 2018-2019, we are seeking the same level of water supply sustainability support and an increase in water efficiency grants with a new initiative of surface water quality.

Committee feedback and discussion included:

- In 2012-2013 the stormwater reuse guide was produced and is nationally recognized, as well as the ground water model, the conservation toolbox as well as other tools available to help communities make better decisions in the water supply planning process.
- There have been 10 industries around the Twin Cities area who have applied. Commercial properties have expressed interested.
- There has been water savings as well as financial savings seen as a result of the efforts.
- Met Council receives less than 2% of the Clean Water funds. There is significant return on investment.
- Looking for support from this committee to request the same level of commitment as we've had in the past.
- Chair Rummel was listening to the comments on the Governor's water summit. There is importance of the local work to encourage the local level to invest a small amount.
- I support tripling it. Timing is right, there is emphasis on water supply management. I can't speak for every city, but we will think of ways to conserve water easily. There are measureable results. Should ask for more funding, but could backfire.
- It would help to have letters of support from stakeholders. Do you have a database of those who have used the funds as well?
- Thank you Ali for attending Urban Land Institute and for speaking on MAWSAC behalf. It has resonated with communities. We should do more of that.
- How else can we support the effort for increased funding requests? Staff stated MAWSAC is now an official policy entity for the metropolitan area. Letters of support will help with the Clean Water Council and the Legislature. Phone calls to your legislator could help as well.
- Linking to the effectiveness of working locally is important and helps raise awareness.

Discussion occurred regarding scheduling of future meetings. There is a conflict with meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month. Options, including a suggestion to meet later in the day Wednesday were discussed. It was suggested to send a poll. Some indicated preference to meeting in the morning due to traffic levels. Those present felt the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday may work. Summer time may be tough to get a quorum which will be validated prior to each meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, motion to adjourn made by Dean Lotter and seconded by Todd Gerhardt, meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary