

Minutes of the REGULAR/JOINT MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 18, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee members and staff

Wendy Wulff (Chair), Annika Bankston, Jeff Berg, Mark Daleiden, Mike Huang, Phil Klein, Susan Morris, Valerie Neppel, Catherine Neuschler, Patrick Shea, Jamie Schurbon, Tonja West-Hafner, Ali Elhassan (staff), Lanya Ross (lead staff), Emily Steinweg (lead staff), Tessa Wegenke (recorder)

Technical Advisory Committee

Mark Maloney (Chair), Scott Anderson, John Dustman, Robert Ellis, Dale Folen, Lih-in Rezanian, Tim Stark

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Wendy Wulff called the regular joint meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to order at 1:03 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

READING OF NOTICE

NOTICE: The Metropolitan Council Chair has determined it is not practical or prudent to conduct in-person meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, committee members will participate in this meeting via telephone or other electronic means and the meeting will be conducted under Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021 at the date and time stated above. We encourage you to monitor the meeting remotely. If you have comments, we encourage members of the public to email us at public.info@metc.state.mn.us. We will respond to your comments in a timely manner.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Without objection the agenda was approved. Without objection the minutes for the following meetings were approved:

1. November 16, 2021 of the regular meeting of MAWSAC
2. October 19, 2021 of the regular meeting of TAC

2022 MAWSAC REPORT

Committee Input and Revisions

Lanya Ross thanked the committee members for their support and engagement throughout the pandemic and remote meeting environment. She reminded the committee members of the large topic areas and work that has taken place thus far toward developing the 2022 MAWSAC Report, where we are in the process of developing, drafting, approving, and sharing of the report with the Council and the Minnesota Legislature, and of the statutory language which guides our work. Any additional changes, or comments, need to be brought forward at this time.

Emily Steinweg provided a summary of revisions made to the report, based on committee member review. Comments included suggestions to clarify language and help highlight key ideas. Members also provided good guidance to clarify the definition of the word 'Framework', feedback for how to address equity, and clarify the definition of groundwater sustainability. She talked in more detail about changes made to specific areas:

- Updated executive summary
- Updated regional water supply context

- Updated guidance for using the report to inform policies and plans
- Updated goal for water quality
- Updated goal for land use and water supply connections
- Update language in system assessment checklist
- Update language in planning and implementing risk reduction practices checklist
- Revision to Figure 12
- Updated Table 2 (now Table 1)
- Additional definitions

Group Exercise – Mural

Lanya gave an overview of what to expect in the Mural exercise. The activity began with a check-in about the committee level of support for the report, generally. Technical difficulties complicated voting, but there was general support with a few concerns expressed. Those who would like changes before the report is finalized were encouraged to contact Lanya.

Proposed Change: Table 1

Lanya presented the old format and a view of the proposed format. Proposed changes include flagging funding-related recommendations and re-organizing to be clearer about how actions fit into the framework for action and serve the committees’ goals. These changes are proposed in order to better represent the committees’ water supply mindset.

The proposed table also combines similar recommended actions to reduce the list from about 65 items to 55. The result is a shorter list of actions that is better organized by the type of activity and categorized by the goals each activity supports. This change helps highlight how certain activities advance more than one of the committee’s goals, such as developing subregional support for multi-community planning of infrastructure and source water protection projects. It also helps illustrate how the activities recommended by the committees in 2021 would be phased and support the goals.

Below are comments from committee members regarding the updated Table 1:

Committee Member Phil Klein	Agreed with changes, noting less is more. This makes it easier to understand and identify which areas they can support. Include this table within a summary/companion document.
Committee Member Mike Huang	The new table clarifies what we are trying to say and removes the potential for ambiguity.
Committee Member Catherine Neuschler	Agreed with other committee members on the simpler, consistent terminology and clear labels (such as actions to support each goal by these activities, and have this language in the summary as well. Actions, activities, etc.) which provided the additional context and information as to how the goals fit into the framework of managing risk.

Support for updating existing Table 1

Lanya asked committee members to add comments, corrective wording, and other input on sticky notes in the Mural board.

Request for volunteers

Committee member volunteers were requested to help present the report to legislative and other audiences. To set expectations, Lanya asked those present for information on their recent experience in presenting to the legislature for similar committees, such as tips on what technology and other platforms to use in this new hybrid environment. Committee members provided the following comments regarding presentation(s) to the legislature:

Committee Member Jim Stark	Presentations to legislators have changed, as they are now shorter and with an expectation of brevity. There are fewer opportunities to testify at hearings.
Committee Member Tonja West-Hafner	Interested in volunteering and would need to know the timeframe/when volunteers would be needed. It was noted that presentations would likely come up earlier in the spring, but specific dates are not available yet.

2022-2023 workplan considerations

Committee members entered workplan considerations into the Mural exercise as something to tackle as a committee. The question “How can we make our meetings more valuable to you?” was posed for consideration by the committee members.

Ali lifted up a couple issues for the committees to be aware of this year:

- 1) Efforts in west metro for regional planning for wellhead protection (Drinking Water Supply Management Area overlaps) and how this could be effective
- 2) North and east metro and how Department of Natural Resources (DNR) working with communities to make sure core decisions for White Bear Lake is implemented

It was asked that Lanya Ross find good tutorials for Mural (for MACs, touchscreen vs laptop, etc.) if we intend to continue using the tool.

BUSINESS ITEM: APPROVAL OF MAWSAC REPORT

A motion to approve the following action was made by Mike Huang; seconded by Phil Klein. Tessa Wegenke conducted a roll call for the votes of approval:

Approval of the 2022 MAWSAC Report on Water Supply Planning in the Metro Area, with the proposed revised language and format of Table 1.

With no objections, and with support from the TAC, the motion was approved.

NEXT STEPS

1. Promote MAWSAC report at Minnesota Legislature and Metropolitan Council and with other groups as appropriate. We appreciate volunteers to help promote the committees’ work and priorities. In the past, this has included helping to present at the Clean Water Council, legislative committees, and the Council. Water supply planning staff will support this.

Neither committee will be meeting in February to allow time for staff to develop necessary materials for our March MAWSAC meeting. For now, all committees are continuing online per instruction from Chair Zelle.

2. To update our committees’ work plan and schedule for TAC and MAWSAC meetings through 2022 and into 2023. For the near future, we anticipate continuing to meet using WebEx, but this is always subject to change. If you have suggestions to improve meeting format or topics, please share.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Tessa Wegenke
Recording Secretary