

Minutes

Joint Meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee
and the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting date: October 23, 2024

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: 101 East 5th St.

MAWSAC members present:

- Chair, Wendy Wulff, Met Council
- Annika Bankston, City of Minneapolis
- Jeff Berg, Dept of Agriculture
- Todd Blomstrom, SPRWS
- Sandeep Burman, MDH

- Ellen Considine, DNR
- Tiffany Determan, Isanti County
- Mike Huang, City of Chaska
- Julie Jeppson, Anoka County
- Phil Klein, City of Hugo
- Brad Larson, City of Savage

- Xp Lee, City of Brooklyn Park
- Valerie Neppi, Dakota County
- Erik Smith, MPCA
- Kevin Watson, Vadnais Heights

= present

TAC members present:

- Chair, Scott Anderson, City of Bloomington
- Kristin Asher, City of Richfield
- John Dustman, Summit Envirosolutions
- Robert Ellis, City of Eden Prairie

- Dale Folen, City of Minneapolis
- Rich Hibbard, SPRWS
- Elizabeth Kaufenberg, MPCA
- Karla Peterson, MDH
- Matt Saam, City of Apple Valley
- Jim Stark, USGS & Legislative Water Commission

- Seng Thongvanh, City of Savage
- Tom Wesolowski, City of Shoreview
- Jim Westerman, City of Woodbury
- Ray Wuolo, Barr Engineering

= present

Call to order

MAWSAC members Bankston, Berg, Burman and Wulff took the oath of office.

A quorum being present for MAWSAC and for TAC, Committee Chair Wulff called the joint meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and its Technical Advisory Committee to order at 12:08 p.m.

Agenda approved

Committee Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Klein, seconded by Huang to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2024, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Saam, seconded by Folen to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024, and June 18, 2024, regular meetings of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee and the May 15, 2024, joint meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and its Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Information items and committee work

1. Committee administration (Lanya Ross 651-602-1803)

Committee members introduced themselves, the organizations they represent, and their motivation for serving on the committee.

2. Recap process to update the Metro Area Water Supply Plan (Lanya Ross 651-602-1803)

Ross summarized the history, context, roles, and process for updating the Metro Area Water Supply Plan. The committees discussed the strengths and areas for potential improvements for the process.

3. Public comments on the draft Metro Area Water Supply Plan update (Lanya Ross 651-602-1803)

Ross provided an overview of the public comments received. Committee members discussed the comments and potential responses. Additional ideas about potential projects were also discussed.

Priorities for Metro Area Water Supply Plan revision:

- Add discussion about the importance of the Upper Mississippi River Basin, beyond just Priority B source water protection areas, to inform water quality protection and drought management efforts.
- Be sure that each subregional chapter identifies an action and clear roles for Met Council and DNR to more intentionally and collaboratively address subregional water use and water resource issues. This should include education and engagement efforts based on a foundation of technical information that supports decisions around “is there enough water?” Consider a technical group looking at water use, resources, data, and roles.
- At the front of the plan, develop a strong message that the plan does and will continue to recognize local control as well as the value of regional and subregional planning and collaboration to support that local work. Also highlight the differences in how different communities choose to manage water resources. Review the complete plan to make sure that no text contradicts this.
- In the discussion of the region’s water supply sources, clarify the discussion around water use restrictions and how they relate to river flows, drought, etc.

Ideas to inform potential implementation projects:

- Develop materials to include in the updated Local Planning Handbook such as technical support providing options, pros/cons, and constraints (legal and physical resources).
- Revise the regional action plan to include an example of inter-agency collaboration on the topic of reuse. Also include updates and discussion of reuse, including the upcoming MDH report focused on next steps for stormwater reuse, in the MAWSAC-TAC work plan.
- Revise the regional action plan to include an example of legislative initiatives on the topic of enhanced funding for water supply systems with a limited customer base and emerging issues, to ensure safe and adequate water for the community. Also include research and policy work on this topic in the MAWSAC-TAC work plan.
- Funding for additional water treatment is a catch-22 with growth for emerging communities. They can’t afford the capital investment for treatment and can’t grow unless the treatment infrastructure is there. There are existing communities facing new treatment challenges as well. How to complement existing funding sources.



Ross committed to review all committee member comments shared in group discussion as well as individual written notes and revise the draft Metro Area Water Supply Plan accordingly. In addition, relevant comments will be passed on to Met Council staff working to update the Water Policy Plan and Land Use policies.

4. Scoping technical projects to implement the Metro Area Water Supply Plan and support local planning (Greg Johnson 651-602-1016)

Johnson noted that the committees will be receiving a survey to help focus on sequencing of potential implementation projects. The committee noted some on-going projects that this implementation work could coordinate with or complement. Johnson and Ross committed to looking at options to design the survey to collect information about related current projects.

5. Government Affairs and Legislative Update (Judy Sventek 651-602-1156)

Sventek noted the legislative session starts in January and it's a funding year for Met Council's water supply sustainability work and water efficiency grant program. Met Council may reach out to committees for support for this funding to work on committee-identified projects.

6. MAWSAC Chair's Update (Wendy Wulff 952-484-3353) and TAC Chair's update (Scott Anderson 952-563-4867)

None provided.

Next steps

1. Next meeting: Joint meeting of MAWSAC and TAC on December 11, 2024
2. Approve Metro Area Water Supply Plan, revised based on public comments
3. 2024 year-end evaluation
4. 2025-2027 work planning
5. Bylaws update

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:58 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 October 23, 2024.

Approved this 11th day of December 2024.

Council contact:

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