

## Minutes of the

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

### Committee Members Present:

Sandy Rummel (Metropolitan Council); Barry Stock (Savage); Michael Robinson (Chisago County); Tom Furlong (Chanhassen); Susan Morris (Isanti County); Julie Ekman (DNR); Jeff Berg (Department of Agriculture); Chuck Haas (Hugo); Bob Smude (Dept of Health)

### Committee Members Absent:

Jamie Schurbon (Anoka County Conservation District); Glen Gerads (City of Minneapolis); Randy Ellingboe (Department of Health); Katrina Kessler (PCA); Steve Schneider (St. Paul Regional Water Services); Mark Daleiden (Wright County); Lisa Volbrecht (Sherburne County); Georg Fischer (Dakota County)

### CALL TO ORDER

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 10:08 a.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2014.

Introductions of committee members present were conducted.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Susan Morris, seconded by Chuck Haas to approve the agenda of the October 22, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Susan Morris, seconded by Mike Robinson to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried.**

### STORMWATER INNOVATIVE PRACTICES: EMPIRE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

*"The Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is one of seven regional plants operated by MCES, serving the communities of Farmington, Apple Valley and Elko-New Market. The plant was expanded in 2007. During the expansion, a number of innovative stormwater practices were installed, including bioinfiltration basins, swales, permeable pavers, and a green roof. No surface runoff has left the plant since the practices were installed. MCES is currently monitoring the practices for effectiveness as well as tracking maintenance costs."*

Staff member Karen Jensen provided an update on the stormwater innovative practices at the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion project from 2004 to 2007. Innovative stormwater practices were designed, built, maintained, and observed at the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant to promote and integrated strategy for stormwater, groundwater, and wastewater to protect the Vermillion River. In the late 1990s a material resources plan was prepared by the Metropolitan Council, Friends of the Mississippi River, Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Demonstration projects were designed to collect data through a variety of methods allowing for the assessment of effectiveness.

Practices involved protecting surface water and encourage aquifer recharge through infiltration, the development of built landscape to function like a natural landscape, pervious paver parking areas were created as well as a green roof located on the top of the RAS building that would allow for monitoring. Rain gardens were also installed as infiltration basins. Infiltration basin monitoring equipment has been installed to collect data on water levels as well as drainage swales.

Chair Rummel inquired how property is converted in to a wetland. Ms. Jensen stated the field was originally used for spreading biosolids. The field did not allow for spreading due to the wetness of the land. The site was re-graded into a series of lower areas and berms that provided upland areas where reptiles and birds could nest. A ditch runs along a low area allowing for water to collect. The ditch was

diverted in to the wetland and functions as a flooded area in the spring. As the season progresses, it dries allowing for birds, reptiles and other animals to reside. Since this has been built, there are 100's of bird species.

Wetland is enrolled in the Board of Water and Soil Resources Wetland Bank and is functioning well between ground water and surface water. It provides credits as we need to impact wetlands on other interceptor areas.

Data is anticipated in 2015.

Committee Member Robinson inquired if the pavers hold up with the heavy equipment traffic. Ms. Jensen stated they are embedded in the sand layer and can hold 8000 pounds per square foot of weight. They do not shift and can hold up to the heavy equipment traffic. Cost of each paver was not available at the time of this meeting.

Chair Rummel asked if there are problems with weeds, sand and dirt accumulating. Ms. Jensen stated granite gravel is used and prevents the infiltration of weeds, sand, and dirt.

Committee Member Haas inquired what advantage there would be to having a green roof. Ms. Jensen stated depending on the type of business being built, a green roof will create energy savings due to the cooler surface area around air intakes. They provide temperature protection in the summer and provide cooling for the building. By putting a green roof on a building, the utility cost decreases.

Committee Member Furlong inquired how many inches of water are retained on the rooftop. Ms. Jensen stated the roof at the Empire plant can sustain a 1-2 inch rain. Structurally the building needs to be planned to sustain the weight of the water.

Since 2007 there has been no surface stormwater runoff from the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant process area. MCES staff have leveraged the lessons learned by participating in Minimal Impact Design Standards stormwater volume reduction standards, and updated the Minnesota Stormwater Manual and regional planning process at Metropolitan Council including the update the Water Resource Policy Plan.

Ms. Jensen stated the demonstration areas functioned well even during May and June 2014 heavy rain events. Committee Member Robinson inquired how this was proved. Ms. Jensen stated due to the MPDS Industrial Stormwater permit the staff inspected the two outfalls with no flow observed.

Committee Member Furlong asked about the total investment cost. Ms. Jensen stated she would circulate that information through Chair Rummel and Leisa Thompson as it was not available at the time of this meeting.

## **MASTER WATER SUPPLY PLAN UPDATE**

- a. Review and feedback on Plan Chapters
- b. Summary of elected officials forums
- c. Process, Schedules and next steps

*"The Council staff would like to receive MAWSAC member's feedback on the proposed contents, process and schedule of the updated master plan. The staff will also summarize the elected official's forums and how feedback is incorporated in the development of the master plan"*

Lanya Ross provided an update on the master water supply plan. A community forum for elected officials discussed planning sustainable water supplies, provided information about regional water supply issues and water supply approaches, solicited feedback about challenges with different water supply approaches and opportunities to implement alternatives, regional collaboration, and agency support. Meetings were held in Minnetonka and Maplewood. Over 700 elected officials were invited with over 60 in attendance. Key speakers included Council Member and MAWSAC Chair Sandy Rummel, Council Members Harry Melander and Gary Van Eyll, DNR Conservation Assistant and Regulations Manager Julie Ekman, and MCES Assistant General Manager Keith Buttleman. Key questions that came up included the main water supply issues facing communities, how cities are

collaborating with partners and neighbors, and how agencies and the Met Council help cities perform their water supply roles. Responses/Feedback resulting from the meetings included local water supply issues vary across the region, regionalizing water supply systems, conservation, water quality, reuse potential and barriers, financial resources, collaboration, governance structure, and agency support.

Ms. Ross stated chapter 8 on roles and responsibilities has been revised and sent to this committee for consideration. Changes include organization of responsibilities under new categories called Master Plan Implementation and Additional Activities. It also included a description of local plan requirements for consistency with the Master Plan and added Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Committee Member Furlong inquired Communities/public suppliers 4-7 to 4-9 contains a section discussing minimum requirements for consistency. When cities updated comprehensive plans in 2008, what are the additional requirements of this plan that were not included in the plan in 2008? Ms. Ross stated the communities have the template which remained the same. The template will change. We are working with the DNR to determine sections that need to be updated as well as evaluate consistency.

Committee Member Furlong inquired what happens if cities disagree with the issues. Ms. Ross stated this came up previously. The issue is acknowledged, what are alternatives, and what action will be taken. The action was to monitor water levels and implement water conservation programs. If cities disagree, they can acknowledge and provide justification and still be consistent with the plan.

Committee Member Furlong brought up item G – to be located within 2 miles of the wastewater treatment plant. What part of the region is within the recommended distance? Ms. Ross stated evaluation has been done to determine where wastewater reuse could be feasible. Committee Member Furlong stated if something is listed in a plan, it should be identified or listed elsewhere as “things to consider.”

Dr. Ali Elhassan spoke regarding the water supply plan in 2008. When the local plan in 2008 was developed, there was not a master water supply plan, which was developed in 2010. Regarding the disagreement of the issues, we are planning in December to visit communities to engage them and obtain feedback. Communities will be able to review the issues and comment before the plan is implemented. The schedule will be discussed later in this discussion.

Ms. Ross provided an update on the chapter 1 overview which included additional detail about process to update the plan. Ms. Ross stated the population forecasts have been submitted by the communities. Supplying water for communities should not limit growth and should be part of the consideration in the process of planning. Other resources may need to be considered.

Committee Member Furlong suggested including the requirements mandated by the legislature in the paragraph that discussed the mandate by the legislature for water supply planning.

The review of Chapter two discussed goals and principals and included policies from the Water Resource Policy Plan and listed six potential approaches to sustainably manage water supplies.

Committee Member Haas inquired regarding the section pertaining to the council supporting and planning for sustainable water use and if there was a plan to include action steps as to how the support will manifest itself. Ms. Ross stated the action steps were not planned for inclusion, however, the master plan implementation strategies are included the roles and responsibilities chapter. Committee Member Haas suggested to include an (\*) to reference the portion of the document where the action steps are located.

Committee Member Furlong referenced policy 2 and 3 – wording states Council will be protecting and enhancing rather than sustaining. A suggestion was made to change the words from protect and enhance to sustain.

A new chapter 3 on water use was presented for input. Ms. Ross asked for feedback on if all key water use sectors are included, are the water quality and quantity requirements of each section clear and

reasonable, is it clear how each sector will change by 2040 and what level of detail is most useful? This is a preliminary first draft. Follow up should be done with Ms. Ross.

The second new chapter is chapter 5 and discusses water supply issues. Questions encouraged when reviewing this chapter include whether all key regional water supply issues are included, are the issues adequately characterized, and what level of detail is most useful? Ms. Ross took into consideration feedback from the committee which will be considered in the next round of edits.

Committee Member Furlong inquired if the sub regional planning process was a new segment and whether it had been brought up previously. Ms. Ross stated as water supply sustainability is being evaluated and collaboration determined. A framework needs to be developed on how to address issues in all areas of the metropolitan areas. This is a first draft of how we could move forward. Chair Rummel stated folks wanted flexibility instead of one size fits all. Committee Member Furlong suggested consideration be given to smaller areas who may have different challenges with water supply planning than do larger urban areas.

Schedule and next steps is reflective of changes from the previous schedule to note.

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Master Plan Update - Chapters to Review</b>
<b>July 2014</b>	Chapter 1: Overview Chapter 2: Goal, Principles Chapter 8: Roles & Responsibilities
<b>October 2014</b>	Chapter 3: Water Use Chapter 5: Key Water Supply Issues Attend public meetings for Water Resources Policy Plan information review
<b>November 2014</b>	Chapter 4: Water Supply Sources Chapter 6: Outcomes Chapter 9: Resources/Tools
<b>December 2014</b>	Chapter 7: Implementation Strategies Attend public meeting with city utility and planning staff
<b>January 2015</b>	FINAL DRAFT COMPLETED for MAWSAC
<b>February 2015</b>	MAWSAC review of final draft
<b>Spring 2015</b>	PUBLIC REVIEW
<b>Spring/Summer 2015</b>	Review & incorporate public feedback
<b>Summer 2015</b>	COMPLETE & APPROVE

Dr. El Hassan proposed meeting dates for November. Final date will be communicated once schedules are reviewed.

Committee Member Morris asked if a plan was in the works for outlying areas for outreach. Ms. Ross stated focus is currently on the metropolitan area due to the Jurisdiction of the Council and planning timeline; however, consideration would be given to additional discussions for outlying areas.

Statutory deadlines include:

- MS 473.864 which states “local comp plans, including local water supply plans are due December 31, 2018
- MS 473.856 states Met Council must provide system statements to communities 3 years before comp plans are due, so statements will be issued in Fall 2015.

- MS 103G.287 stated local water supply plan must be consistent with the Master Plan.

A poster connecting the Water Resource Policy Plan to the Master Water Supply Plan and the Thrive initiatives was presented and reviewed with the Committee.

### **TECHNICAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

*"In 2013, the state Legislature approved \$2,537,000 from the Clean Water Legacy Fund to evaluate the reliability and sustainability of the water supply throughout the seven county metropolitan area, including the northeast metro. This presentation summarizes the status of two main efforts taken by the Council."*

Due to time constraints and the level of discussion with the water supply plan, this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

### **REPORTS FROM MAWSAC MEMBERS**

Chair Rummel requested the committee members to think about the type of questions they are getting from constituents in their area. She encouraged the committee members to think about it during the meeting and inquire during this section of the agenda.

Committee Member Haas stated he had attended a groundbreaking in Hugo for a senior citizens development. He spoke with a local farmer who was concerned about converting good soil to a pond. The farmer made a good point that regional ponding should be done instead of individual ponding. It makes sense for many reasons for any community development plan.

Chair Rummel encouraged everyone to write down what is being heard and share at upcoming meetings.

Chair Rummel stated the Clean Water Council will be focusing on water reuse and water resource projects in early 2015. Environmental Initiatives will be discussing industrial reuse of water on November 15. Additional information can be provided to those interested.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Susan Taylor  
Recording Secretary