

Minutes

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee



Meeting date: May 15, 2024

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

MAWSAC members present:

- Chair, Wendy Wulff, Met Council
- Jeff Berg, Dept of Agriculture
- Sandeep Burman, MDH
- Ellen Considine, DNR
- Valerie Nepl, Dakota County

- Mike Huang, City of Chaska
- Phil Klein, City of Hugo
- Todd Blomstrom, SPRWS
- Kevin Watson, Vadnais Heights
- Brad Larson, City of Savage

- Annika Bankston, Minneapolis
- Erik Smith, MPCA

= 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
- Elizabeth Kaufenberg, MPCA
- Matt Saam, City of Apple Valley
- Jim Stark, USGS & Legislative Water Commission

- Jim Westerman, City of Woodbury
- Ray Wuolo, Barr Engineering

= present

Call to order

A quorum being present for MAWSAC, but not 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 12:07 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 April 9, 2024 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Business items

1. TAC Member Appointment (Greg Johnson 651-602-7464)

Johnson summarized the selection criteria and process for appointing members to the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee. There are five openings on the committee. The selection committee met and recommended the following four candidates be appointed to TAC. They may meet again to consider applicants for the remaining vacancy.

- Rich Hibbard – Engineering Division Manager with St. Paul Regional Water Services
- Karla Peterson – Chief Engineer/Technical Advisor with MDH

- Seng Thongvanh – Utilities Director with the City of Savage
- Tom Wesolowski – Public Works Director with the City of Shoreview

It was moved by Klein, seconded by Nepl to approve the appointments recommended by the selection committee. Motion carried.

Information items and committee work

2. Overview of Metro Area Water Supply Plan (Lanya Ross 651-602-1803)

Ross summarized the draft Metro Area Water Supply Plan (MWSP) and the planning and statutory context in which it's developed. She noted that the MWSP will be included in the Water Policy Plan for this planning cycle and that MAWSAC maintains approving authority for the MWSP.

Ross summarized the comments submitted by Bankston, Berg, and Nepl after the March and April 2024 meetings.

The committees further discussed the draft plan including:

- what successful water supply planning looks like
- regional commitments to support success
- subregional asks
- measures to track regional progress
- local plan expectations and support
- water demand projections
- collaborative planning

Munsell noted that the plan is very focused on groundwater resources and reminded staff not to forget the two biggest cities that are on a surface water supply.

Huang asked how the Water Supply Atlas will be distributed to the communities since so much information related to the MWSP information will be in it. Ross noted that physically bringing the Atlas into the subregional conversations is an option. Guidance could also be developed regarding how the documents could be used. Sventek noted that since the MWSP will not be a printed document this time, everything will be on the web and more accessible. Huang suggested calling MWSP volume 1 and the Water Supply Atlas volume 2 to emphasize the connection. Wulff suggested having keys that are the same between the Atlas and the MWSP.

A Mentimeter survey was conducted to gather additional feedback.

Stark noted that definitions of success need to go back to the subregional work groups to be more effective in determining milestones and what that looks like. Anderson agreed and suggested a topic for June meeting to be SMART goals to go along with measures of success and whether it should be at regional or subregional level

Nepl noted that definitions being used should better align with agency definitions. Huang suggested an acknowledgement and listing the different definitions between agencies and professional groups and clarifying what is being used in the MWSP.

Munsell asked if there is a number for the limits when discussing sustainable water resources. Ross replied that very rough numbers for the region are included in the 2015 plan and there are models and flow information that can be used as a time independent estimate that could be included in the MWSP. Nepl noted that the biggest question that communities have is how much they can sustainably pump and some information in the plan to communicate that to the communities in a technically sound way would be appreciated. Wuolo noted the issue is defining what is sustainable and what neighboring communities do affect each other;



Huang noted that sustainable is more than just a definition, it's a philosophy that not everyone is aligned on right now. Kader noted the challenge to the committees is deciding what they are comfortable including in the plan, memorializing, and defending.

Ross asked committee members to read and digest the draft MWSP and come back to their next meetings with ideas, questions, and feedback.

3. Government Affairs and Legislative Update (Sam Paske, 651-602-1015 and Judy Sventek 651-602-1156)

There has been no change with the Governor's office regarding MAWSAC appointments and they won't be considered again until after the session.

4. Chairs' Update (Wendy Wulff 952-484-3353 and Scott Anderson 952-563-4867)

None provided.

5. Check In

Next steps

- Committee member review and input to staff by June 5, 2024
- Next meetings:
 - TAC on June 18, 2024
 - MAWSAC on July 10, 2024
- TAC new member orientation

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the joint meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and its Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee of May 15, 2024.

Approved this 23rd day of October 2024.

Council contact:

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