

Minutes

Committee of the Whole



Meeting date: September 3, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Charlie Zelle
- ☒ Judy Johnson, District 1
- ☒ Reva Chamblis, District 2
- ☒ Tyronne Carter, District 3
- ☒ Deb Barber, District 4
- ☒ John Pacheco Jr., District 5

- ☒ Robert Lilligren, District 6
- ☐ Yassin Osman, District 7
- ☐ Anjuli Cameron, District 8
- ☐ Diego Morales, District 9
- ☒ Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- ☐ Gail Cederberg, District 11

- ☒ Mark Jenkins, District 12
- ☐ Chai Lee, District 13
- ☒ Toni Carter, District 14
- ☒ Victor Obisakin, District 15
- ☒ Wendy Wulff, District 16
- ☒ = present

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:01 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Johnson.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Jenkins to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. Preparing for Local Comprehensive Planning: Systems Statements, Technical Assistance, and Financial Assistance Programs

Angela Torres, Senior Manager, Local Planning Assistance, gave opening remarks and

outline of the Local Comprehensive Planning presentation. Amber Turnquest, Senior Planner, provided an overview of the system statements, requirements, timeline and next steps. Emma Dvorak, Senior Planner, Local Planning Assistance, provided an overview of the Local Planning Handbook and Tools, a technical resource to assist local government partners in their comprehensive plans. Presenter walked through the online Local Planning Handbook, which is open to the public. Peter Wilfahrt, Principal Researcher, provided an overview of the online tool by using a few local communities as examples to demonstrate what the data looks for each community.

Amber presented on PlanIt - a program provides region-wide assistance for local planners, which offers community engagement sessions, workshops, webinars, and conference for local government to understand planning requirements. This program was implemented in 2016 and will be relaunched in 2026.

Angela Torres shared who the Council's seven sector representatives are and their respective district assignments. Sector representatives worked to develop and implement regional policy. They will provide technical assistance to local governments.

Merritt Clapp-Smith, Senior Planner, gave an overview of the Local Planning Assistance Grants. Staff summarized the program's eligibility criteria during the 2040 Plan cycle and shared recommendations for the 2050 Small Communities Program Eligibility Criteria to support smaller communities.

Council members shared that the accessibility and ability to download data would be helpful for local municipalities to overlay this information with other data. Staff noted that the information on the Community Profile and the Toolkit come from the same dataset.

2. Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program Update – Regional Goals

Krysten Ryba-Tures, Research Manager, presented an overview of the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program, recapping key points that were discussed during the Committee of the Whole on June 4, 2025. In addition, staff discussed plans that were charted out to bring the Imagine 2050 Amendment forward, including a timeline of drafting and adopting the amendment.

Sarah Nelson, Outcomes Measurement Researcher, presented on the measure development process which began in 2024 and included community engagement events, research, and connecting with peer agencies and partners in academia.

Chair Charlie Zelle asked how new measurement indicators will be tied to pre-existing indicators, and staff provided examples of measures that maintain continuity from 2040 and emphasized that the 2050 Amendment will introduce more indicators to the Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program.

Council members commented on the opportunities presented by the amendment's programmatic approach versus a project approach; relevance of the amendment to the Equity Advisory Committee; and whether these initiatives could address the Metropolitan Council's Land, Water, and People commitments.

Regional Administrator Ryan O'Connor welcomed Lidiya Girma to the Metropolitan Council in her new role as the Chief of Staff.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole meeting of September 3, 2025.

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Metropolitan Council