

Minutes

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



Meeting date: February 26, 2025

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
- ☐ Sandeep Burman, MDH

- ☒ Tiffany Determan, Isanti County
- ☐ Rich Hibbard, St. Paul Regional Water Services
- ☐ Julie Jeppson, Anoka County
- ☒ Pooja Kanwar, Dept. of Natural Resources

- ☐ Brad Larson, City of Savage
- ☒ Valerie Neppl, Dakota County
- ☒ Erik Smith, MN Pollution Control Agency
- ☐ Kevin Watson, City of Vadnais Heights

☒ = present

TAC members present:

- ☒ Chair, Scott Anderson, City of Bloomington
- ☐ Kristin Asher, City of Richfield
- ☒ Ellen Considine, DNR
- ☐ John Dustman, Summit Envirosolutions
- ☒ Robert Ellis, City of Eden Prairie

- ☐ Dale Folen, City of Minneapolis
- ☐ 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

No quorum being present for MAWSAC or 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

No quorum being present, approval of the minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

Business Items

1. 2025-01: Appointment of New TAC Member (Greg Johnson 651-602-1016)

No quorum being present, this business item was tabled to the next meeting.

Information items and committee work

1. Updating MAWSAC and TAC By-laws (Jen Kader, 651-602-1114)

Kader gave an overview of the by-laws update process and the rationale for an update. She summarized the proposed updates and committee members provided feedback.

2. Resources to Implement the Metro Area Water Supply Plan (Jen Kostrzewski 651-602-1078)

Kostrzewski thanked the committees for their work and recognized members with a token of appreciation.

Kostrzewski outlined the next steps and resources for the implementation of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan.

3. Scoping Metro Area Water Supply Plan Implementation (Greg Johnson, 651-602-1016)

Johnson summarized the anticipated projects and general timelines.

Committee members discussed additional resources and considerations for timing and phasing of the work.

Smith noted that there is some proposed legislation for the PCA to look at large water use data centers and that might come to bear. Kader noted that the Met Council is in the process of developing a scope of work researching the potential impact of high-volume water users in the metro area on water supply and the environment. This study includes developing some resources and tools for local communities to use when evaluating proposals. Kostrzewski added that there is also another effort to look at this from the wastewater perspective. The paper is not aimed at municipal water use but rather at high volume businesses. The timeline for completion of this study is anticipated to be within six months.

4. Subregional Engagement Update (Jen Kader, 651-602-1114)

Kader shared plans, including the approach and anticipated timeline, for relaunching the subregional engagement process. Committee members discussed and provided feedback.

Stark noted that private entities that drive development are missing from the list of those that will be invited. Kader noted that for the Central subregion, a list of large water users was compiled and invited and other subregions showed interest in doing the same in the future.

Neppl asked if engagements would be in-person or virtual. Kader noted that there are benefits and drawbacks to each and the subregions will determine how they would like to set up their engagements.

Updates

1. Government affairs and legislative updates (Sam Paske, 651-602-1015)

Paske noted that the legislature is in session.

- The Governor's budget recommendations were submitted to the legislature. As part of that budget, we are seeking \$1.5M of Clean Water Funds for the next phase of our water efficiency grants. (Bills 1447 in Senate and 1370 in House)
- The Met Council is also seeking \$2.750M to continue water sustainability work for FY 26 and 27.
- Senate bill 1736 was introduced to modify the Clean Water Council. This could potentially have an impact on Clean Water Council funding.
- The Environmental Quality Board's State Groundwater Policy plan is being drafted. The outline was influenced by MAWSAC-TAC work and the Metro Area Water Supply Plan.

2. MAWSAC Chair's Update (Wendy Wulff 952-484-3353) and TAC Chair's update (Scott

Anderson 952-563-4867)

- Wulff encouraged members to attend the June meeting so the committee has quorum to pass the by-laws and appoint the new TAC member.
- Kostrzewski noted that alternative meeting locations are possible if committees are interested in pursuing alternate locations.
- Conflicting dates appear on the committee's calendars. The recording secretary will confirm the meeting invitation dates match the dates in the approved work plan.

Next steps

1. Next meeting:
 - TAC – May 21, 2025
 - MAWSAC – June 18, 2025
2. Finalize and adopt bylaws
3. Fill vacant (MAWSAC) positions
4. Resume subregional engagement efforts

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 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 Month 00, 2025.

Approved this 00 day of Month 2025.

Met Council contact:

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