



Work Group discussion - Infrastructure solution(s), water savings solutions, and funding methods



Della Young, September 30, 2026 metro council.org

Questions (1/6)

1. Looking across both survey rounds, where did we see the strongest convergence in rankings?

Questions (2/6)

2. Are there specific combinations of infrastructure solutions that provide greater benefits than a single solution on its own?

Questions (3/6)

3. Should the comprehensive plan state that all five of the potential water savings solutions be adopted as policy by every White Bear Lake area community to conserve water for the long-term?
- Potential Water Savings Solution 1: Install smart controllers on all lawn irrigation systems
 - Potential Water Savings Solution 2: Increase tiered increasing block water utility rates
 - Potential Water Savings Solution 3: Alternative low input turf grasses
 - Potential Water Savings Solution 4: Implement stormwater reuse for irrigation in existing and future development
 - Potential Water Savings Solution 5: Relace all remaining outdated plumbing fixtures, water softeners, and appliances with high-efficiency units.

Questions (4/6)

4. Based on the survey results, the following potential infrastructure solution was the top ranked recommendation for the comprehensive plan? If anyone does not agree, explain why.

1. Potential Solution 17: Augment White Bear Lake from East Vadnais Lake (Study 7B)

- up to 2 billion gallons per year
- surface water treated for suspended solids, aquatic invasive species, phosphorus, nitrogen, total organic carbon and manganese

Questions (5/6)

5. Based on the financial dashboard analysis, which options carry risks or constraints that may make them unsuitable as we move forward?

Potential Funding for Capital Costs of Infrastructure Solution	Rank
1. Grant from United States Congressional funding	1
2. Grant from State of Minnesota (example - bonding bill)	2
3. Grant from Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)	3
6. Sales tax increase (statewide)	4
4. DNR groundwater appropriation fees increases (statewide)	5
8. Water Availability Fees (WAC) for new development	6
5. DNR groundwater appropriation fees increases (local)	7
7. Sales tax increase (local)	8

Questions (6/6)

6. What key constraints and community priorities must be reflected in the draft plan's recommendations to make sure they are practical, feasible, and responsive to community needs?

Questionnaire

Based on the various potential infrastructure solutions, water savings solutions, and funding methods evaluated in the individual studies, your survey rankings, and the thoughts and opinions that you heard at today's work group meeting, please take up to 30 minutes to complete the Questionnaire as they inform the draft comprehensive plan. If you completed both surveys and your rankings have not changed today from the previous two surveys, you have the option of listing "unchanged" as your response.