Minutes

Management Committee

Meeting date: July 22, 2026 **Time**: 2:30 PM **Location:** 390 Robert Street

Members present:

☒ Chair, Diego Morales, D9
☐ Vice Chair, John Pacheco Jr., D5
☒ Judy Johnson, District 1
☒ Robert Lilligren, District 6
☒ Yassin Osman, District 7
☒ Gail Cederberg, District 11
☒ Mark Jenkins, District 12
☒ = 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, Committee Chair Morales called the regular meeting of the Management Committee to order at 2:31 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Committee Chair Morales.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Cederberg, seconded by Lilligren, to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2026, meeting of the Management Committee. **Motion carried**.

Non-consent Business

1. **2026-119: Voluntary Vision Plan Services**
   It was moved by Jenkins, seconded by Johnson, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 26P032 with Vision Service Plan to provide voluntary vision services for all eligible Council employees, retirees and dependents in the amount not to exceed $2,530,739.

   Motion carried.

   Michelle Murray, Senior Manager - Benefits, presented the item.

2. **2026-132**: **Joint Powers Cooperative Agreement with Washington State Department of Enterprise Services**
   It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Osman, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute joint powers cooperative agreement #26I040 with the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services ("DES") to allow the Council to utilize their master contracts for cooperative purchasing of rolling stock and associated equipment and technology.

   Motion carried.

   Jody Jacoby, Chief Procurement Officer, presented the item.

Information

1. **2027 General Purposes Levy Strategy and Preliminary Regional Admin Budget Allocations** (Ned Smith, Chief Financial Officer; Stewart McMullan, Director – Finance)

   Ned Smith provided a high-level presentation of the budget timeline, levy strategy and Regional Administration budget allocation.

   Smith noted that the Council's budget development consists of the operating budget and the capital program. Smith walked through the Livable Communities Levies and grant programs, as well as the General Purpose Levy and how the Council levy compares to state-wide average from cities, counties and school districts. Smith concluded the presentation with the preliminary Regional Administration budget allocation and highlighted some of the key budget drivers, such as Information Services (IS) software and license maintenance, cyber security risk mitigation, organization-wide culture engagement work, build out of Risk and Compliance department and Human Resources supports.

   Council Member Johnson appreciated seeing these drivers in the budget and that the Council was investing in these areas as there were areas of need and concerns from previous administration.

   Council Member Jenkins asked if the Council will be setting the maximum levy like other public entities and if the IS increases were tied to future costs in 2027. Smith responded that the Council sets the maximum levy like other public entities do and the adopted levy cannot go beyond the maximum; and the IS increases are for current operations.

2. **Litigation Review** (**Closed Session**): Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged matters and Litigation issues.

Ann Bloodhart, General Council, presented the item.
It was moved by Jenkins, and seconded by Osman, to close this meeting to the public to discuss attorney-client privileged matters. **Motion Carried**.

Because this was the final agenda item, it was noted that the meeting would not be reopened following the discussion of attorney-client matters and the meeting would be adjourned at the conclusion of the discussions.

In accordance with the motion, the meeting was closed to the public and began discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged matters and Litigation issues at 3:02 pm, Wednesday, July 22, 2026. Chair Morales asked for the room to be cleared except for Council Members, Management Committee staff and others whose presence is necessary to conduct the closed meeting.

Closed session business was concluded at 3:35 p.m.

The following persons attended the closed portion of the committee meeting: Ann Bloodhart, George Henry, Chelsea Bartoe, Patrick Lee-Ohalloran, Ned Smith, Ray Engel, Phil Walljasper, Benjamin Johnson, Greg Ricci and Mee Cheng.

BUSINESS (in closed meeting):

A. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Beatrice Moore as Trustee v. Metropolitan Council, et al.* Risk Management Director Ray Engler advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.
B. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Lizette Cordero v. Metropolitan Council.* Risk Management Director Ray Engler advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.
C. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Ahmed Jama, as Trustee for Next of Kin of Mahad Osman v. Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit and Anthony Troy Moore.* Risk Management Director Ray Engler advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.
D. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *The Metropolitan Council and County of Hennepin v. DMJM Harris, Inc. d/b/a AECOM USA, Inc. and AECOM Technical Services, Inc (collectively "AECOM").* Associate General Counsel Patrick Lee-O'Halloran advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.
E. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Brooke Blakey and Sidney Jones v. Metropolitan Council.* Deputy General Counsel George Henry advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.

F. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Michael Fiorito v. Metropolitan Council, et al.* Associate General Counsel Chelsea Bartoe advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.

G. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Michael Fiorito v. Lockridge Grindal Nauen, Metropolitan Council, et al.* Associate General Counsel Chelsea Bartoe advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.

H. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Michael Fiorito v. George Henry and Token Transit.* Associate General Counsel Chelsea Bartoe advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.

I. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Blake Pederson v. Metropolitan Council.* Deputy General Counsel George Henry advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.

J. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Michael Janish v. Metropolitan Council, et al.* Deputy General Counsel George Henry advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.

K. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Metropolitan Council v. 800 Prairie Center Drive LLC and Craig Oberlander, et al. (Redstone American Grill – Parcels 215 and 2.215 – Green Line Extension).* Deputy General Counsel George Henry advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.

L. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *Metropolitan Council v. Crossroads Properties, Inc., et al. (Hartford Parcel 400 – Gold Line).* Deputy General Counsel George Henry advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter.

M. Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Matters and Litigation Issues Regarding a Matter Entitled *The Metropolitan Council v. CRW Woodbury, LLC; et al. (Parcel 401 – Gold Line).* Deputy General Counsel George Henry advised the committee members on the facts and issues regarding this matter and answered committee member questions. Committee members discussed the matter

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Management Committee meeting of July 22, 2026.

Council contact:

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