Minutes

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee

Meeting date: March 26, 2026 **Time**: 12:30 PM **Location:** 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Wendy Wulff, Met Council
- ☒ Chris Elvrum, Dept of Health
- ☒ Pooja Kanwar, DNR
- ☒ Erik Smith, MPCA
- ☒ Tiffany Determan, Isanti County
- ☐ William Menkhaus, Saint Paul Regional Water Services
- ☐ Julie Jeppson, Anoka County
- ☒ Ashlee Ricci, Chisago County
- ☒ Valerie Neppl, Dakota County
- ☐ Gary Gray, Sherburne County
- ☒ Marc Culver, Brooklyn Park
- ☐ David Strub, Hugo
- ☐ Annika Bankston, Minneapolis
- ☐ Brad Larson, Savage
- ☒ Steve Bot, St. Michael
- ☐ Kevin Watson, Vadnais Heights

☒ = 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

No quorum being present, Committee Chair Wulff called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee to order at 12:36 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by committee chair Wulff.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

Quorum being attained at 12:52 p.m. with the arrival of Bot, Neppl moved and Kanwar seconded the approval of the December 10, 2025 minutes of the joint meeting of the Metropolitan Water Supply Advisory Committee and the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried**.

Information items

1. **Local planning assistance resources: Water supply planning (Claudia Hochstein – DNR, Lanya Ross)**

Hochstein outlined the background requirements for water supply planning in Minnesota. Ross detailed the specific requirements for Twin Cities metro region communities, explaining how state regulations align with the Metropolitan Council's comprehensive and water supply planning frameworks.

Hochstein demonstrated the new user interface, highlighted updates to the submission process, and outlined general submittal timelines. Ross noted that Water Supply TAC members have beta-tested the new suite of tools provided by the DNR, which includes an online submission form, an updated Excel workbook template (featuring built-in scenario information), and a planning information packet. Additional assistance, including Met Council *PlanIt* resources, are available to help communities develop their plans.

The substance of the plans remain unchanged from the previous round and the primary update was a more modern submittal method. Other updates include in the area of emerging contaminants, emergency water supply plans, and more specific information regarding private wells and source water protection. The updates are designed to clarify expectations and ensure a more consistent, transparent, and predictable review process.

2. **Regional integrated water planning workshop (Steve Christopher, Jen Kostrzewski)**

Christopher summarized the activities at the regional integrated water planning workshop and asked for feedback on additional areas of focus for future workshops.

The committee suggested exploring the potential impact of large water users, requirements for wastewater treatment plants, the effects of drain tiles, and recent legislation that could impact the ability of state and local governments to regulate stormwater reuse.

3. **Technical projects (Jen Kostrzewski)**

Kostrzewski provided an overview of the technical projects currently underway. The committee suggested not requesting information as part of a technical project that will also be provided as part of comprehensive plan updates. Kostrzewski noted that a goal of this project is to inform the upcoming MAWSAC report to the Legislature and the Met Council.

4. **MAWSAC report to Legislature and Met Council (Lanya Ross)**

Ross requested input from MAWSAC on an effective format, a clear purpose, and list of priority water supply issues to include in the report. Ross proposed a "bite-snack-meal" approach - a plain language content strategy designed to deliver information in three sizes to meet different reader needs. Committee members noted that the proposed "bite" and "snack" sized formats were enough to provide to the Legislature and suggested that for "meal" level detail there could be links to web-based resources.

The committee participated in activities to clarify the purpose of the MAWSAC report, prioritized a list of water supply issues, and began to develop content for the top priority issues.

5. **Government affairs and legislative updates (Sam Paske)**

Paske provided a summary of H.F. 3883 proposing minor changes to MAWSAC's governance structure. He noted that Met Council has begun working with state agencies and the Clean Water Council to put together a request for FY2028/2029 Clean Water Funds which support water sustainability work. He requested committee members consider providing letters of support for these programs by April 30.

6. **Chair update and committee round-robin (Wendy Wulff**

The committee was invited to share items of interest from their work:

- Neppl shared that large water users/data centers are a big topic. There will be a

presentation to the county board on April 7. Additional topics include emerging contaminants and an EIS for a large limestone quarry dewatering project in Waterford.

- Smith shared that surface water assessments are on-going and this cycle is for the Mississippi River. He thanked everyone who contributed data and noted that next month there will be the Professional Judgement Group and that there may be new aquatic invertebrate permits.

Next steps

1. Next meeting is June 11, 2026, at Met Council Regional Maintenance Facility in Eagan; information shared today will come back for next steps
2. Reminder: the November 5, 2026, meeting was rescheduled to December 10, 2026
3. PlanIt Webinar April 29, 2026, from 12:00-1:00 p.m.: *Water Planning in Local Comprehensive Plans: What's Required and Where to Start* (register for this webinar)
4. Consider sending letters of support by April 30, 2026

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3:02 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 March 26, 2026.

Approved this 11th day of June 2026.

Council contact:

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