

Southwest Metro Water Supply Planning Workshop – Meeting Summary

Date and time: Thursday, May 7, 2026 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Location: McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center, 13550 Dakota Ave S, Savage

Workgroup purpose

A place for communities, water utilities, and partners to share challenges, goals, and practical solutions. The focus is drinking water—system capacity, water use, and source protection—with room to address related issues like land use and growth.

Meeting objectives

- Time and space to collaborate, and know that other communities are resources when questions come up
- Hear general updates from neighboring water utilities, watersheds, and state agencies
- Hear information presentations about U of MN turfgrass research and the 2050 comprehensive plan update process

Agenda

- Welcome, purpose, and agenda
 - Round robin: what is going on in your organization?
 - Presentation: U of MN Turfgrass Science Program
 - Presentation: Preparing for 2050 Comprehensive Plan Updates
 - Wrap up and next steps
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Meeting notes

The following organizations/perspectives were represented at the meeting: Communities (Credit River, Lakeville, Prior Lake, Savage), watersheds (Lower Minnesota River, Prior Lake-Spring Lake), agencies (DNR, MDH), Scott County, research institutions (University of Minnesota Turfgrass, Minnesota Geological Survey), and a non-profit organization (Freshwater Society). Metropolitan Council staff facilitated the meeting.

Round Robin

Short updates were shared by: City of Savage, Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District, DNR, Lakeville, Prior Lake, SMSC, Savage, Lower Minnesota Watershed District, Freshwater, MDH, Scott County, Credit River, and MGS

Presentation: U of M Turfgrass Research (Gary Deters)

Gary Deters presented about turfgrass research underway. He highlighted that a demonstration plot of different turf grass seed mixes has been established in Savage at the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center, so people can visit.

Links to resources shared during meeting

- From Department of Natural Resources
 - [Water Supply Plans | Minnesota DNR](#)
 - [Water Supply Plan Resources | Minnesota DNR](#)
- From Department of Health
 - [Metropolitan Comprehensive Planning - MN Dept. of Health](#)
- From University of Minnesota Turfgrass Science
 - [Minnesota Turfgrass Science | Turfgrass Science](#)
 - [UMN Extension: Caring for lawns and landscapes](#)
 - [New study aims to improve drought resilience in lawn grass mixtures | Turfgrass Science](#)
 - [Master Gardener Volunteer Lawn Leader Training | Turfgrass Science](#)
 - [Lawn Watering Resources](#)
 - [Rebates available in the Twin Cities for upgrading smart irrigation products](#)
 - [Lawns re-imagined Program – Dakota County](#)
- From Freshwater Society (in development)
 - https://www.lccmr.mn.gov/calendar/2025/2025-12-10-mtg/attachments/item05b2-water_risk_atlas_lccmr_p...

Wrap up and next steps

The group discussed future meeting scheduling and others to invite. There was consensus to meet again in the Fall (likely September or October). The goal would be for the group to meet twice a year going forward, in the spring and fall.

Possible future topic to explore: examples ordinances to do a “best policy swap” discussion, to support plan updates.