

Minutes

White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group



Meeting Date: September 30, 2026 **Time:** 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Location: Shoreview Community Center
4580 Victoria St N, Shoreview

Members Present:

- ✓ Bryan Bear, City of Hugo
- ✓ Clark Schroeder, City of Lake Elmo
- ✓ Bob Goebel, City of Mahtomedi
- ✓ Morgan Dawley, City of North St. Paul
- ✓ Mark Statz, City of Oakdale
- ✓ Shawn Sanders, City of Stillwater
- ✓ Jim Hauth, City of Vadnais Heights
- ✓ Paul Kauppi, City of White Bear Lake
- ✓ Larry Poppler, White Bear Township
- ✓ Mary Van Milligen, City of Woodbury
- ✓ David Weum, Department of Health
- ✓ Randall Doneen, Department of Natural Resources
- ✓ Dave Strub, Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee
- ✓ Liz Kaufenberg, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- ✓ Will Menkhaus, Saint Paul Regional Water Services
- ✓ Greg Johnson, Metropolitan Council
- ✓ Judy Sventek, Metropolitan Council
- ✓ Sam Paske, Metropolitan Council
- ✓ John Chelbeck, Metropolitan Council

Alternate Members Present:

- ✓ Diane Hankee, City of Lino Lakes

Call to Order

Judy Sventek called the meeting of the White Bear Lake Comprehensive Plan Work Group to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Approved

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

Information Items and Committee Work

1. Welcome and introductions (Judy Sventek, Metropolitan Council and Della Young, Young Environmental)
Della Young from Young Environmental welcomed the group and went over the agenda. New attendees introduced themselves.
2. Project schedule, surveys, and preliminary comprehensive plan outline (Greg Johnson, Metropolitan Council)
Greg Johnson from Met Council provided an update on studies and the overall project timeline for creating the final report and recommendations. A work group member asked questions and shared feedback about whether there would be an option to not recommend an infrastructure solution or alternatively recommend a policy-based solution. Work group members shared concerns about the long-term implications and precedent of funding lake augmentation projects. Work group members

also discussed the historical pumping for lake augmentation, operational requirements, and how large infrastructure alternatives differ in design requirements. Additional discussion focused on the different augmentation rates being evaluated, the historical augmentation rates that were approximately 2 billion gallons per year, how the capacity of a lake augmentation impacts the cost of the solution, and suggestions for the next survey on recommendations.

3. Financial analysis dashboard (Ben Crary, Hazen and Sawyer).

Hazen and Sawyer provided an overview of the financial dashboard, explaining how it was developed, the information included, and how it can be used. Work group members asked questions about how the funding dashboard could be used to inform recommendations and whether it provided enough community-specific information to evaluate funding options. Discussion focused on how different funding mechanisms would impact households and communities and how the dashboard could help assess those questions. Work group members also asked if the legislature would have access to this tool and Greg confirmed they would.

4. Preliminary survey results of potential solutions (Della Young, Young Environmental)

Della provided an overview of the preliminary survey results and focused on the top five ranked potential infrastructure solutions. Work group members asked about other potential solutions to consider but overall did not have any questions about the top five potential infrastructure solutions.

5. Work group exercise & discussion - preliminary survey results and prioritizing potential solutions (Della Young, Young Environmental)

During the work group exercise and discussion of the preliminary survey results, work group members talked about why they selected certain solutions that ranked outside the top five solutions. Some solutions discussed included raising the outlet elevation, surface water supply options, conservation strategies, and relocating wells farther from the lake. Participants also discussed different perspectives of augmentation and surface water supply between communities and regulatory agencies. They also discussed how some solutions meet broader long-term water sustainability goals.

Work group members asked questions about how solutions could be combined, which options were mutually exclusive, and whether some lower-ranked alternatives should be removed from consideration. The group also discussed the importance of considering feasibility, costs, community impacts, and how recommendations should reflect both widely supported solutions and the different perspectives represented in the work group.

6. Project expenditures, questions, and next steps (Judy Sventek, Met Council)

Judy Sventek from Met Council provided an update on how much of the budget has been allocated for current studies so far. Work group members discussed how alternative or modified solutions would be shown in the final report and whether additional ideas that were not officially studied could still be shown in the report. Participants also asked questions about how different organizations ranked potential solutions and the differences in opinion on augmentation and surface water supply and how those rankings should be interpreted.

The discussion also focused on upcoming outreach to local councils, including how project information should be presented, how differing community viewpoints will be communicated in the report, and the importance of documenting both consensus and differing opinions. Work group members discussed the need to consider household costs and community impacts as recommendations are finalized.

Next Steps

1. Next in person meeting: October 22, 2026 - Vadnais Heights Commons (655 County Road F E, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127)

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



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