

Minutes

Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting date: February 12, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Scott Anderson, Bloomington
- ☒ Kristin Asher, Richfield
- ☒ Evan Christianson, Barr Engineering
- ☒ Ellen Considine, DNR

- ☒ John Dustman, Summit Envirosolutions
- ☒ Robert Ellis, Eden Prairie
- ☒ Dale Folen, Minneapolis
- ☒ Elizabeth Kaufenberg, MPCA
- ☒ Michelle LaGarde, Braun Intertec

- ☒ Karla Peterson, MDH
- ☐ Matt Saam, Apple Valley
- ☒ James Stark, USGS
- ☒ Seng Thongvanh, Savage
- ☒ Tom Wesolowski, Shoreview
- ☐ Jim Westerman, Woodbury
- ☒ = 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 Anderson called the regular meeting of the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee to order at 12:39 p.m.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Folen, seconded by Dustman to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2025, joint meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Information items and committee work

1. Introduce new TAC members (Greg Johnson)

Johnson introduced new members Michelle LaGarde and Evan Christianson and TAC members introduced themselves.

2. Update on local planning assistance resources: Water supply plan resources (Claudia Hochstein, DNR; Lanya Ross)

Hochstein detailed the upcoming water supply plan resources, including an online form, Excel workbook, and community-specific planning packets. Ross highlighted efforts to streamline metro region submittals. She noted that the MAWSAC/TAC joint meeting (originally Nov 5, 2026) will be rescheduled due to a conflict with the PlanIt workshop. Committee members were invited to beta-test resources before they are posted to Met Council's website.

3. Proposed approach for MAWSAC report to Legislature and Met Council (Lanya Ross)

Ross requested TAC feedback on the proposed 3-part format of the report consisting of a 4-page main executive summary and supplementary topic briefs for legislators. The committee participated in an activity and discussion. The TAC suggested focusing on water quality, quantity and infrastructure. Peterson emphasized the need to address water quality and contaminants in private wells, even where capacity is not an issue. Stark suggested providing simple, focused talking points for legislators to use with constituents. Members noted that fears that water supply issues may limit future growth is an emerging risk that could be highlighted.

4. Take aways from integrated water planning workshop (Steve Christopher, Jen Kostrzewski)

Christopher summarized the regional water planning workshop, which was focused on integrated water planning. He requested feedback on the structure and recommendations for a future workshop in September. Ideas include overlap between climate and equity.

Members noted that integrated planning is challenging because there are a lot of different perspectives between surface water planners and water suppliers and they often speak different technical languages. It felt like a step-back to some and too advanced for others. Ross noted that when moving from water supply into integrated water planning the focus is different and there is a need for a shared vision. Members suggested additional background information on the goals and focus of subregional participants would be helpful to enable the group to discuss shared issues across disciplines.

5. Continued scoping of priority technical projects (Greg Johnson, Jess Collin-Pilarski, Lanya Ross)

Johnson gave an update on the status of the scoping of priority technical projects.

Collin-Pilarski summarized the purpose of the regional assessment of aging infrastructure project. She requested feedback on the following categories:

- Watermain condition assessment
- Water storage condition assessment
- Water treatment condition assessment

Ross provided a summary of the Metro Model update project which is entering Phase 2. She invited the TAC to review the conversion and provide feedback. She requested feedback on Phase 1 deliverables and for suggestions for scenarios the model should be used to explore.

6. 2026-2028 Water Efficiency Grants Program (Henry McCarthy, Jen Kostrzewski)

McCarthy summarized the draft changes for the 2026-2028 round of the water efficiency grant program. Kostrzewski noted grants are currently focused on municipal areas. There is a need to ensure grants initiate change rather than supplanting existing budgets. HOA common areas are currently ineligible for turfgrass grants to avoid overlap with programs like BWSR's Lawns to Legumes.

7. Government affairs update (Jen Kostrzewski)

We will be presenting to the Clean Water Council our request for Clean Water Funding 2028-2029 for water sustainability work and water efficiency grants members were asked to support this request. Templates for letters of support will be sent out as a follow up to this meeting.

8. Roundtable discussion – committee member updates (Scott Anderson)

TAC members provided brief updates from their communities:

- Anderson noted that eight communities in the West subregion are collaborating on a joint wellhead protection plan. It is a good example of what is possible at larger scales.
- Dustman emphasized the threat of abandoned/untracked wells to aquifers. MDH noted funding is available to help seal these.
- Ellis shared that they are exploring treated water as a heat source for geothermal HVAC and using machine learning AI for leak detection.
- Folen noted ozone bench-scale testing and lining cast iron mains to extend service life.

Next steps

1. Next meeting – May 14, 2026, at 390 Robert St. N., Saint Paul
2. Conflict for Nov. 5 MAWSAC/TAC joint meeting – will be update
3. Call for volunteers – letters of support, beta-testers

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee meeting of February 10, 2026.

Approved this 14th day of May 2026.

Council contact:

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