

**Minutes**  
**Southwest Metro Groundwater Work Group**  
**Thursday December 10, 2009**  
**1:00 PM**  
**Savage City Hall**

*Reports from members:*

Burnsville

Due to taste and odor issues, granulated activated carbon filters (GAC) are being added to the surface water treatment plant. Two of the four bays will go online this week. So far, \$175,000 has been spent on GAC. Powdered activated carbon was used before GAC was online, which helped bring complaints down to 1-2 calls per day. This is down from the 500-600 complaints received in the first month and a half after bringing the surface water treatment plant online. Maintaining chlorine levels has also been a challenge associated with blending treated surface water and treated groundwater.

Lakeville

Lakeville had nothing new to report since the last meeting. The last planned well is now online. This, combined with slowed growth, means that new system expansion is currently planned. The city has only seen 100 new housing units this year, and half of them are because of the CDA. This is down from a peak of 700 units per year.

Prior Lake

The utility has only had 1 brown water complaint since the new treatment plant went online. There are no major system expansion plans due to slow growth; the city expects to add only 75 new houses this year. One new well is scheduled to be drilled in approximately a year and a half to meet firm capacity.

Savage

Major maintenance has been completed on both water treatment plants. Well 5 is scheduled for rehabilitation in 2010. The utility has had approximately 70 calls about filming and taste/odor issues resulting from surface water coming through the interconnection with Burnsville. The interconnection was recently closed until these issues are resolved. After Burnsville's surface water treatment plant came online, Savage took 153 million gallons of water through the interconnection between August and November. Burnsville supplied slightly over 50% of Savage's total demand, allowing Savage to reduce pumping. The Savage city council is very supportive about how the utilities are addressing the interconnection issues. Savage is also experiencing slow growth and they don't expect to need additional water supply for three to four years.

Shakopee

Unlike the other communities, Shakopee is still seeing growth. 329 utility reviews (which turn into building permits) have come in. No system improvements are planned, however. SPUC will be implementing a conservation rate structure in January 2010. The new rate

structures include tiered residential rates and a new commercial irrigation rate. Commercial irrigation rates are not tiered due to the difficulty of normalizing use between small and very large businesses; the commercial irrigation rate is simply 20% above the first tier of the residential rate. Billing for multi-family units was particularly challenging to implement. The commission is going to see how these new rates work and suggest changes in the future, if needed. SPUC has also completed an update to Part 1 of their wellhead protection plan. A public meeting will be held on January 4, 2010 at 5:00. Following that meeting, scoping of Part 2 will begin. The update is due to the addition of six wells to the system. The updated DWSMA is approximately 25% larger than previously, due to the additional wells and the use of the MDH's fracture flow delineation method. Steve Robertson, MDH, noted that updates to wellhead protection plans now include a more formalized delineation method for aquifers with secondary permeability features. These updates also include a review and improvement of previous implementation strategies.

### DNR

All water supply plans have been submitted for communities in the southwest metro. Most cities statewide have now adopted conservation rate structures; most addressed the requirement through changes to their residential rates. A few cities are balking and have not yet implemented new rates; DNR can only hold back approval of permit amendments for those communities. DNR Waters is merging with Ecological Services in July 2010. Janell Meirsch of DNR expects full integration won't take place until a year later. It is still unclear who will be taking over which programs; the water appropriation permit approval process may be affected. Chris Elvrum noted that this merger may help in the establishment of management criteria for surface water features that consider ecosystem function.

### MDH

Approximately \$200,000-\$300,000 in Legacy money will be used to fund a grant program to support source water protection activities. The grants have to be awarded this fiscal year, so the program will have to be finalized in the next few months. Steve asked if the DNR's new eleven county monitoring plan would affect anyone in this area. Chris provided a brief summary of the plan and noted that communities may be impacted by DNR's stance that site-specific data is the responsibility of local users. This data is expected to augment a state-run "backbone" network (an expanded version of the DNR's existing observation well network). Janell noted that DNR hydrologists are being very diligent in identifying existing wells that can be used for local monitoring to reduce costs to communities. Chris pointed out that the Legislature asked DNR to estimate the cost per user of the proposed monitoring network – so stay tuned for news on how the Legislature proposes to pay for such a monitoring plan.

### MPCA

No MPCA representative attended. Chris Elvrum noted that the PCA is working a proposal to spend five million dollars the legislature set aside for drinking water protection. It may be used to seal abandoned wells, for data management, or on various agriculture issues. Their plan is required to be finalized by January 15, 2010.

## MCES

The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) met in October to review the Master Water Supply Plan. The group wanted a few more tweaks to the plan before approval – mostly to clarify Appendix 3. The Council requested feedback from AWWA and communities who had water appropriation permits approved in the past year (Prior Lake provided a comment letter). The new draft has been posted online. The latest draft will go before MAWSAC in January for final approval. Annual MAWSAC meetings are anticipated to review the status of the plan and discuss the need for changes. With the plan completed, the Council intends to look at local problems such as East Bethel and Washington County. The Council will also continue to be involved in sub-regional planning like this at the Southwest Metro Groundwater Work Group.

### *Discussion of Memorandum of Agreement*

Chris introduced a discussion of the Memorandum of Agreement, which expires in March 2010. While it is not a particularly binding agreement, it was an accomplishment to create a document that was signed by all the participating communities and agencies. The group also developed a management plan that established the work group meetings. Should this either or both documents be updated? Should the group continue to meet?

John Crooks noted that it took months to have the MOA signed by the commission the first time. There have been several years of good working relationship between the communities. He feels that the MOA has value, and it wouldn't be a big deal to go back to the commissioners with an updated MOA as long as it is and update and not significant changes.

Bud Osmundson said that that group meetings should be continued. He finds the State agency participation particularly valuable, because it allows him to hear the full story from all involved parties when projects or issues come up.

Steve Albrect also supported the continuation of work group meetings and suggested that the easiest thing to do would be to simply update the MOA to make it current.

It was agreed that Chris would edit the MOA to make it updated and relevant and send it out to the group for review before the March meeting. Chris will bring a final version to the March meeting. He'll also provide a legislative update.

The next meeting will be at the Lakeville water treatment facility March 11, 2010, 1:00.

**Attendees**  
**Southwest Metro Groundwater Work Group**  
**City of Savage**  
**December 10, 2009**

| <b>NAME</b>     | <b>ORGANIZATION</b>       |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Chris Elvrum    | Metropolitan Council      |
| Keith Nelson    | Lakeville                 |
| Chris Petree    | Lakeville                 |
| Mark Janovec    | Bonestroo                 |
| Michael Klimers | Savage                    |
| Janell Miersch  | DNR                       |
| Steve Albrecht  | Prior Lake                |
| Bud Osmundson   | Burnsville                |
| Linda Mullen    | Burnsville                |
| John Crooks     | Shakopee Public Utilities |
| BJ Bonin        | WSB                       |
| Nancy Zeigler   | WSB                       |
| Steve Robertson | MDH                       |
| Lanya Ross      | Metropolitan Council      |