

Meeting Notes
Southwest Metro Groundwater Work Group
September 10, 2009
City of Prior Lake
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Chris Elvrum, Metropolitan Council, facilitated the meeting. Introductions were made; an attendance list is attached. Next meeting December 10, City of Savage.

1. Updates by members

Lakeville – Experienced a peak day of 19 MG this summer, which is the highest peak day the city has experienced since about 2001. The city recently changed its billing system to a tiered system. The city anticipates that this new billing system will help to get some of the largest water users to reduce their use.

Prior Lake – Peak day this summer, 6 MG, was lower than last year. The city has noticed that over the last 3 years peak days have been decreasing.

Savage – Peak day was in June at about 6.9 MG. The city has begun receiving water from Burnsville and the transition from groundwater to blending Burnsville's water with Savages groundwater appears to have been smooth. The interconnection with Burnsville will allow Savage to relax its use of a couple of wells in the PDCJ thus reducing the potential for impact to the Savage Fen.

Burnsville- The last several weeks have been very busy for the city. Using the water from the quarry has caused some odor and taste complaints from customers. The city is working vigilantly to figure out a process for fixing the odor and taste issues. Peak day was down this year at 16 MG in early June. Average day water use this summer has been 9-10 MG.

Shakopee – Peak day was lower than previous years at 13 MG in June. The city average day this summer has been around 10.5 MG. The city recently received an approval letter from the DNR for its water supply plan. The city applied for stimulus funding through the state drinking water revolving fund, to help fund a project to add a well to blend with an existing well with high radium. The project was not recommended for funding.

Dakota County – Noticing a drop in well construction and well sealing. Informed the group that recent law requires the DNR and others with observation wells to pay a fee to the MDH. This may discourage the construction of wells to monitoring well standards if the intention is to only use them for water level measurements. Then later, the well may not be available for water quality sampling.

DNR – DNR continues to work on reviewing and approving water supply plans.

MDH – The state is also noticing the number of new wells and sealed wells is way down. MDH is receiving Clean Water Legacy funding and has committed to use the funds to work on speeding up the Wellhead Protection process. MDH is also going to start two new grant programs with the funding:

- a. Provide funds to communities to implement wellhead protection plans
- b. Provide funds to local units of government assisting communities in their development of their water supply plans.

MCES – The Council is receiving \$400,000 FY 2010 to implement the Master Water Supply Plan. Over the next year the Council will begin working with MGS to better characterize glacial material around the metro. The Council will also be initiating studies to assess stream base flow throughout the year. Chris asked the group if there were any studies or information regarding water use and/or conservation that would be useful to communities. He suggested that if anyone has suggested to let the Council know.

SMSC – Recently had a public meeting on its wellhead protection plan. They will have a public meeting on November 10th for its groundwater management plan. The injection well pilot project is on hold indefinitely, funding is tight these days and they feel funds would be better spent in other areas right now.

2. Master Water Supply Plan: Appendix 3

At the March Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee meeting, committee members voiced concerns about the usefulness of the information presented in appendix 3 of the plan. The advisory committee agreed to provisionally approve the plan and charged Council staff to test the effectiveness of the plan. Over the summer, Council staff tracked water appropriation permit requests and approvals. Based on discussions with the DNR it was decided that appendix 3 should include more specific information about actions communities will be required to take given specific water supply issues. While appendix 3 is a component of the Master Plan, which is authored by the Metropolitan Council, the DNR has been intimately involved in the development of the entire plan including the development of Appendix 3. Once approved by the advisory committee, the plan will go to the DNR for approval. The Council wanted to bring the revised appendix 3 to the SWMWG to provide water suppliers with an opportunity to review and provide comments on the revisions. In addition to asking the SWMWG to comment on the revisions to appendix 3, the Council intends to ask AWWA Minnesota members to review and comment on the appendix as well as Metro Cities. The comments shared will be incorporated into the presentation the Council gives at the October 22 Advisory Committee meeting.

Comments are included below.

1. Shakopee is concerned about a couple of the required actions in that this is the first time they are hearing about the requirements and they question the fairness of implementing such requirements. Shakopee was also concerned that this is the third time changes have been made to the Master Plan and wanted to know if there would be an opportunity for public review.

2. Several individuals had specific concerns regarding the requirement of communities with anticipated significant increases (greater than 5% in 10 years) in withdrawals measure water levels at least daily in municipal wells and an additional nested observation well in each of the aquifers hydraulically related to aquifer being utilized.
3. It was discussed that Appendix 3 reads more like requirements rather than guidance. This needs some clarification.

The Council welcomes additional comments.

Next meeting City of Savage, December 10, 2009

Attendees
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NAME	ORGANIZATION
Chris Elvrum	Metropolitan Council
Keith Nelson	Lakeville
Mark Janovec	Bonestroo
Michael Klimers	Savage
Ole Olmanson	SMSC
Dave Edmunds	Kramer Mining and Materials
Steve Albrecht	Prior Lake
John Greer	Barr Engineering
Janell Miersch	DNR
Bill Olsen	Dakota County
Laurel Reeves	DNR
Bud Osmundson	Burnsville
Linda Mullen	Burnsville
John Crooks	Shakopee Public Utilities
BJ Bonin	WSB
Nancy Zeigler	WSB
Steve Robertson	MDH
Sara Smith	Metropolitan Council