

Note: Minutes are not official until approved by the Committee.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Mears Park Centre, 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Meeting of the **METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

March 27, 2008

Committee Members Present:	Peter Bell, Chair	Metropolitan Council
	Chuck Haas	City of Hugo, Council Member
	Joseph Harris	Dakota County, Commissioner
	Hugoson, Gene	Department of Agriculture, Commissioner
	James Japs	DNR, Assistant Director, Waters - Alternate
	Peggy Leppik	Metropolitan Council Member
	Linda Loomis	City of Golden Valley, Mayor
	Steve Schneider	St. Paul Water, General Manager
	John Stine	Dept of Health, Director, Environmental Health Division – Alternate
	Barry Stock	City of Savage, Administrator
Committee Members Excused/Absent:	Dennis Berg	Anoka County, Commissioner
	Tom Furlong	City of Chanhassen, Mayor
	Gaylen Reetz	PCA – Alternate

Call to Order

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Leppik, seconded by Haas to approve the March 27, 2008 agenda and the minutes of the November 15, 2007 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Planning Schedule Update

Meetings will be held monthly through November. Goal is to complete elements of the Master Plan for review at stakeholder workshops in September, with the final Master Plan ready for review by the Committee in November.

Legislative Update

Elvrum and Homuth presented topics the legislature is currently considering. H.F. 4021 consolidates agency reports, requires water suppliers use a conservation rate structure when charging their customers and defines conservation rate structure. Other bills extend MAWSAC's sunset date to December 2010 and provide funding or would raise funds for new DNR groundwater monitoring wells.

Availability Analysis Update: Regional Groundwater Flow Model

Lanya Ross, Senior Environmental Scientist, explained that the purpose of the model is to enable assessment of current and projected groundwater withdrawals, future availability of water, and to identify alternatives in areas facing possible future water supply limitations. All of the major aquifers of the seven-county metropolitan area will be modeled. The

Council's Metro Model will be available to the public for water supply management, protection, and research. The information that this model will provide will assist with policy-making. Parameters and policy guidelines will be developed.

Workshop Recap and Regional Assistance

The purpose of the workshop was to decide if the region should consider supporting or providing funding for water supply system expansions beyond existing funding mechanisms.

The committee was reminded that in its report to the legislature, one of the recommendations was: "Upon the request of local governmental units support an appropriate level of state funding for interconnections and other physical water system improvements to ensure water supply reliability, natural resource protection, and/or safety and security, including economic security, of the region and state." Consistent with the committee's recommendation to the legislature, it supports an appropriate level of state funding for the proposed Minneapolis and Saint Paul water supply systems interconnection.

Forms of regional assistance include: 1) water supply demand and availability/analysis; 2) regional monitoring plan; 3) water conservation resources; 4) water supply infrastructure cost information; 5) engineering planning assistance; 6) provide funding for capital expenditures. Infrastructure costs were reviewed.

Workshop overview: Three workshops were held; 41 stakeholders participated. Attendees included city representatives, consultants, state agencies, county representatives. Two primary questions considered at the workshops: 1) what are the benefits and challenges of multi-community water supply development and expansion?; 2) are there instances when the region should provide communities with financial assistance?

The Master Water Supply Plan will clarify roles/responsibilities, which will ultimately lead to simplification of the planning and decision-making process. provide water resource evaluation tools, and make recommendations for a planning process.

Challenges and benefits of multi-community planning were considered, as well as the concerns with and rationale for providing funding. Existing funding options include Minnesota Department of Health drinking revolving fund; state bonding requests; contamination assistance; USDA rural development loans. Issues with current funding are the restrictions, unpredictability, limited resources, and that it can be event specific.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.