

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**

September 11, 2008

Committee Members Present:	Peggy Leppik, Vice Chair	Metropolitan Council Member
	Steve Schneider	St. Paul Regional Water Services, General Manager
	John Stine	Department of Health, alternate
	Tom Furlong	City of Chanhassen, Mayor
	Chuck Haas	City of Hugo, Council Member
	Joe Harris	Dakota County, Commissioner
	Jim Japs	Department of Natural Resources, alternate
	Linda Loomis	City of Golden Valley, Mayor
	Barry Stock	City of Savage, Administrator
Committee Members Excused:/Absent:	Peter Bell, Chair	Metropolitan Council
	Dennis Berg	Anoka County, Commissioner
	Gene Hugoson	Department of Agriculture, Commissioner
	Brad Moore	Pollution Control Agency, Commissioner

Call to Order

Chair Leppik called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Chuck Haas, seconded by Linda Loomis, to approve today's agenda and the minutes of the August 28, 2008 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Schedule Update

Christopher Elvrum reviewed the tentative schedule, and proposed that the Committee decide at the end of today's meeting whether to cancel the meeting on September 25 if review of the draft water supply plan was completed today.

Technical Analysis Update

Chris Elvrum handed out the maps missing from the first draft of Master Water Supply Plan report handed out at the August 28th meeting. He also handed out an updated version of the community profiles, explaining that the staff had made a few changes to the profiles since the draft that was previously handed out to the Advisory Committee.

Master Water Supply Plan Discussion

Peggy Leppik led the group through a review of the Master Water Supply Plan report, chapter by chapter. Chris Elvrum was available to answer questions on the report.

Chapter 1:

Tom Furlong pointed out that the tone of chapter 1 was different from the rest of the chapters in the report. Chapter 1 says the region has adequate water supplies to meet future demand, but a few communities may face water supply limitations and will need to use an alternative water source to meet future demand.

Linda Loomis suggested adding supply limitations to chapter 1 in order to help match the tone of chapter 1 with the rest of the report. Staff agreed to work on this before the next meeting.

Chuck Haas and Barry Stock both noted that the report does not adequately address requirement IV of the legislative mandate. The report should describe how the decision-making process has changed/been improved from how it was implemented before. If more work needs to be done to further streamline the decision-making process then the report should also describe what needs to happen and how it will happen.

John Stine pointed out that page 1-10 might be a good place to provide more detail about how the decision-making process has been improved.

Chuck Haas and Linda Loomis pointed out that the report speaks to the importance of and increased opportunities for interjurisdictional cooperation among communities, but does not mention the opportunities for interjurisdictional cooperation among state agencies and between state agencies and communities.

Chapter 2:

John Stine proposed adding the following principle:

“All hydrologic system components, naturally-occurring and man-made, must be carefully evaluated when planning for future water infrastructure.”

After discussion by the Committee, it was moved by Stine and seconded by Jim Japs to add the new principle. **Motion carried.**

John Stine suggested that the third principle should include more detail about the importance of protecting public health. The committee discussed whether the principle itself should be reworded or if just the textual description needed changes. The Advisory Committee agreed to let staff make changes to the text of principle three based on this discussion.

The chapter 2 discussion led the Advisory Committee into a general discussion of the purpose and intent of the plan itself.

Tom Furlong suggested that there are other issues beyond water supply quantity issues that the report should focus on.

John Stine suggested that since this is meant to be a long-term plan it should provide enough guidance to help communities think about how to deal with future uncertainties.

Barry Stock suggested that the plan should define water use thresholds that require specific action. Those thresholds and required actions should be laid out in the report.

Steve Schneider responded by asking, isn't it the DNR's responsibility to establish the quantity thresholds?

Jim Japs responded by saying yes but it is important that land use planning decisions be made in accordance with these thresholds, which is what this plan is attempting to do.

At the next meeting, staff will present the revised chapters 1 and 2. They will also work with DNR and MDH to define water use thresholds, explain why these thresholds were created, and how a community must respond if the model and analysis predicts that the community will exceed a given threshold. Chris Elvrum suggested that Chapter 4 also be discussed at this meeting since it may help with this discussion.

Adjourn

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.