

## **METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

Mears Park Centre, 230 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

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

Thursday, January 26, 2006

Committee Members Present: Peter Bell, Metropolitan Council Chair  
Bev Aplikowski, City of Arden Hills, Mayor  
Dennis Berg, Anoka County Commissioner  
Quinn Cheney, alternate for Gene Hugoson, Dept of Agriculture  
Tom Furlong, City of Chanhassen, Mayor  
Chuck Haas, City of Hugo Council Member  
Joe Harris, Dakota County Commissioner  
Peggy Leppik, Metropolitan Council Member  
Linda Loomis, City of Golden Valley, Mayor  
Diane Mandernach, Department of Health Commissioner  
Gene Merriam, DNR Commissioner  
Faye Sleeper, alternate for Sheryl Corrigan, PCA

Committee Members Absent: Barry Stock, City of Savage

#### **Call to Order**

A quorum being present, Chair Peter Bell called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

#### **Welcome, Introductions, Schedule, Review of Legislation and Committee Charter – Peter Bell**

The committee will meet monthly through May 2006, and bimonthly thereafter unless the need arises. Mr. Bell reviewed the water supply legislation establishing the committee and its role. The committee reviewed and agreed with the draft charter. Mr. Bell explained that the committee will be most effective if it is a working group with continuity of members attending meetings.

#### **Background and History of Water Supply and Planning in the Metro Area**

Keith Buttleman, Assistant General Manager-Environmental Quality Assurance, and Chris Elvrum, Senior Planner, provided the following information.

- Water supply sources, systems and use. Rivers, wells and groundwater provide water for 2,700,000 in the metropolitan area. It is estimated that water use will increase 35% by 2040.
- Metro water supply issues. Physical limitations include: uneven distribution of high-yield aquifers; impact of withdrawals on surface and groundwater; potential for contamination; increased impervious surface, and drought. The organizational limitations consist of a cumbersome permit process, insufficient data, lack of coordinated planning, and fragmented structure.
- Current water supply planning efforts by the Metropolitan Council include preparing regional supply plans and facilitating and participating in solutions to inter-community issues, e.g. SW and NW Metro Groundwater groups, Mississippi River protection, and Woodbury-Afton groundwater issues. The Governor's Water Initiative will

consolidate technical information, develop the framework for long-term coordination, address issues in the Twin City – St. Cloud growth corridor, and promote interconnect project to increase core cities' system reliability, security and cost-effectiveness.

- 2005 water supply planning legislation established. Planning activities of the committee include: development of a base of technical information, development and periodic update of water supply master plan, recommendations for streamlining permit process, and recommendations for ongoing funding source. A report to the Legislature is due January 2007. The legislation also authorized the Council to transfer \$2 million to fund the activities.
- Projects underway and overall approach to planning. Technical studies include: water systems inventory, aquifer recharge and hydrogeologic mapping, groundwater contaminant mapping, Mississippi River analysis, water conservation, and expansion of existing subregional planning efforts. Institutional issues to be addressed consist of: water supply governance, regulatory/permitting process, and funding for capital improvements and planning.

## **Meeting Topics**

### Committee discussion of water supply issues and topics for future meetings.

William Moore, General Manager of Environmental Services, reviewed the proposed format of meetings, explaining that each meeting will start with a presentation consisting of background and issues, followed by discussion. Mr. Bell stated that the Metropolitan Council will not be involved in the water utility business. Mr. Harris asked if protection of recharge areas and water tables will be addressed. Mr. Bell responded that it will be addressed and Mr. Moore said it will be included as part of the technical presentations and issues. Ms. Aplikowski asked if there will be an overview of the watershed districts and whether the districts will be invited to give input. Mr. Moore explained that the districts will provide information as far as they are involved. Mr. Bell asked if there are national trade associations that deal with these issues in order to establish best practices to which we can compare our recommendations. Mr. Moore responded that staff will look at national models. Mr. Berg suggested looking at international models. Staff agreed. In response to questions from the committee regarding public comment, staff explained that a mechanism will be developed to take public comment. A consultant will help with outreach and there will be a formal public comment period for the legislative report. Mr. Haas suggested aligning the charter with the water supply legislation by adding "recommendations for streamlining the permit process" to the duties. Staff agreed.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Harder  
Recording Secretary