

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Mears Park Centre, 230 E. 5th St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

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

February 23, 2006

Committee	Peter Bell, Chair	Metropolitan Council
Members	Bev Aplikowski	City of Arden Hills, Mayor
Present:	Dennis Berg	Anoka County, Commissioner
	Quinn Cheney	Dept. of Agriculture, Policy Development Director
	Tom Furlong	City of Chanhassen, Mayor
	Chuck Haas	City of Hugo, Council Member
	Joe Harris	Dakota County, Commissioner
	James Japs	DNR Waters, Assistant Director
	Peggy Leppik	Metropolitan Council Member
	Linda Loomis	City of Golden Valley, Mayor
	Faye Sleeper	PCA, Watershed Section Manager
	John Stine	Dept of Health, Acting Director
	Barry Stock	City of Savage, Administrator

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2006.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

It was moved by Joe Harris, seconded by Dennis Berg, to approve the February 23, 2006 agenda and the minutes of the January 26, 2006 meeting. **The motion carried.**

March 23, 2006 Meeting Date

The meeting in March will be held on Wednesday, March 22, at 9:30 a.m.

Revised Charter

The charter as revised was accepted by the committee.

Regional Water Supply Assessment Project Scope

Keith Buttleman, Assistant General Manager, introduced the consultants: Dennis Larson and Nathan Eklund, AMEC, and Adam Kramer, RW Beck Co.

Council staff and committee members discussed the following points of the assessment project.

1. Water supply system inventory:
Information will be gathered on supply systems, capacity, storage, treatment types, and the number of wells. The Department of Health will provide much of this information. Recharging is a topic of interest to committee members, as well as examination of the cost differences of providing water supply by jurisdiction. Information generated in the first part of the study will become part of the considerations in developing the master plan, particularly if there are to be regional initiatives in terms of developing water supplies. Cost benefit would be a critical factor.
2. Resource monitoring inventory:
A variety of groundwater monitoring wells and stream monitoring exist. The study will summarize where all the sampling points are and what is being sampled at those points. Gaps will be identified in the monitoring system to get a better idea of the impact of withdrawals from the resources in the region. The study will focus primarily on quantity; however, most sampling points have the opportunity to sample for quality. Committee members agreed it is important to have a consensus among agencies as to what is used for assumptions on a per capita daily demand basis. Information is generally available as to variations of quality throughout the region. The Department of Health is looking at specific contaminants and how they vary across the metropolitan area.
3. Water demand projects and resource limitations:
Projections of water demand by community will be updated. In addition, potential resource limitations in those communities will be examined. Opportunities for cooperation between communities will also be addressed.
4. Evaluate institutional (intergovernmental) arrangements:
Information will be summarized as to who has responsibility for governing water supplies. Workshops will be held with stakeholders to exchange information. The study will also provide information about national best practices on water management and compare with current practices in the metropolitan area.
5. Evaluate current water supply regulatory and permitting process:
Funding sources and regulatory processes will be reviewed; Stakeholders will be asked for input to identify where it can be improved and better coordinated. PCA staff is willing to help where possible.
6. Security and safety assessment:
Individual suppliers have completed assessments of their vulnerabilities. Common themes will be identified, as well as any gaps in protecting the water supply, resources and the system.

7. Recommend additional studies. AMEC and R. W. Beck Company will make their recommendations.
8. Prepare report to legislature (due January 2007).

AMEC will handle the first three items; R.W. Beck Company will handle the next two. Both teams will work on items 6, 7 and 8.

Additional work will be identified in the first phase. The master plan will be developed in the second phase.

Twin City Water Resources and Potential Supply Limitations

The committee reviewed water resources in metropolitan area, and how they are used for drinking water supplies and what some of the issues and potential limitations are.

Staff presented the extent and capacity of aquifers.

Water level measurements in monitoring wells were reviewed. Levels are affected by seasonal fluctuations, area development, and drought. One of the things not well understood in the science of groundwater is where, when, and how much water gets to the aquifers. Some areas show downward decline, some show fluctuation, some are rebounding.

Studies are underway that focus on aquifer recharge.

Contamination of aquifers was discussed. All aquifers have different concerns relative to water quality. Deeper aquifers are fairly well protected.

Groundwater withdrawals have impacts on private wells and natural resources, e.g. fens, trout streams, boiling springs.

Groundwater contaminants were discussed:

Contaminants: Water supplies can potentially be contaminated by septic systems, pesticides, fertilizers, automobiles, hazardous waste dumps, landfills, urban runoff, and underground storage tanks.

Naturally occurring: Radium

Contaminant Plumes: manmade chemicals that have been spilled or dumped on land surface.

Nitrate can be naturally occurring, however, elevated concentrations that are over the drinking water standards is typically the result of either agriculture or urban practices of fertilizing.

Financial aspects of groundwater treatment systems will be addressed in this project.

Water supply is relatively abundant, but unequally distributed in the metropolitan area. There are growth policy implications.

There are a number of areas where more work is needed in order to predict and understand groundwater recharging, e.g. the paths groundwater takes when it is recharged, in order to determine the reliable supplies and the amount of drawdown that can occur without having an adverse impact on neighboring supplies or on natural resources that need to be protected.

Water supply studies will be done internally by Council staff, in partnership with other organizations and agencies, as well as with our contractors.

Studies will include:

Regional assessment of water supplies;

Aquifer recharge and hydrogeologic mapping; in conjunction with the MN Geological Survey;

Groundwater contaminant mapping - Health Dept has considerable data;

Mississippi River flow analysis;

Water conservation and wastewater reuse;

Sourcewater protection

Committee members commented that duplication of effort should be avoided. Some communities/agencies already have studies underway and the information from all sources should be brought together. Committee and staff agreed that as each study is completed it will be presented to the committee for its consideration in making policy recommendations.

An outreach plan will be brought to the next committee meeting.

Committee meeting material will be accessible through the Internet.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary

METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER

Organization As established in Minnesota Statute 473.1565, the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee shall consist of 12 members including: the Commissioners of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture and Pollution Control Agency or their designees, two officials of counties and five officials of non-county local governments appointed by the Governor, and the Chair of the Metropolitan Council or the Chair's designee who is the Chair of the Committee. The Advisory Committee expires December 31, 2008.

Purpose The purpose of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee is to assist the Metropolitan Council in its water supply planning activities. In this role the Committee will:

- Evaluate potential policy changes to address water supply issues;
- Serve as a direct channel of communication for agencies, counties and communities, relaying the Committee's perspective and receiving input to relay to the Council;
- Provide input to the Council on its approach to assessing and addressing potential water supply limitations.

Duties Specific duties of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee include providing review and input to the Council's:

- 2007 report to the legislature;
- Policy recommendations to address the roles and responsibilities of local, regional and state government, streamlining the water supply decision making and permit approval process, safety and security issues and potential long-term funding sources for ongoing planning and capital improvements;
- Technical studies to evaluate and ensure a sustainable water supply for the region;
- Preparation of the Twin Cities Area Water Supply Master Plan.