

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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

Meeting of the METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 27, 2006

Committee Members Present:	Peter Bell, Chair Bev Aplikowski Dennis Berg Chuck Haas Joe Harris Dale Homuth Peggy Leppik Linda Loomis Faye Sleeper John Stine Barry Stock	Metropolitan Council City of Arden Hills, Mayor Anoka County, Commissioner City of Hugo, Council Member Dakota County, Commissioner DNR, Regional Manager-Waters Metropolitan Council Member City of Golden Valley, Mayor PCA, Watershed Section Manager Dept of Health, Acting Director City of Savage, Administrator
Committee Members Excused:/Absent:	Tom Furlong Gene Hugoson	City of Chanhassen, Mayor Department of Agriculture, Commissioner

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Peggy Leppik, seconded by Bev Aplikowski, to approve the April 27, 2006 agenda and the minutes of the March 23, 2006 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Advisory Committee Schedule Update

The revised schedule was reviewed, noting that there will be a meeting on June 22nd to enable the committee to review the outcome of the workshops that are scheduled to take place in May and June. Committee members were encouraged to attend.

Water Law and Permitting

Jim Japs, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, explained that Minnesota's water law is based on the common law doctrine of riparian rights modified by the concept of reasonable use. He reviewed primary water appropriation program elements, focusing on water use priorities, resource protection and conflict resolution. The permit process is a nationally recognized comprehensive program. In order to streamline the process, a work group consisting of DNR and AWWA staff has been created to define problems and consider issues of concern. Mr. Japs referred the Committee to the DNR website for information on Public Water Supply Emergency and Conservation Plans.

The Committee suggested developing a flow chart explaining the water use permit process and steps, including the front end of the process. Staff agreed and will transmit a draft to committee members for review and discussion at future meetings.

The Committee agreed that its report to the Legislature will include the flow chart (current and improved) as well as examples of experiences that communities have encountered when applying for permits.

Water Use and Conservation

Chris Elvrum, Water Supply Planning Manager, reviewed the metropolitan area water use and the benefits of water conservation. Local conservation practices include water restrictions, education, conservation pricing, and top soil requirements. Mr. Evlrum discussed conservation programs that include rebate programs for energy efficient appliances, residential audits, wastewater reuse, and commercial and industrial efficiency assistance.

At future meetings, the Committee will continue reviewing components of a possible region-wide conservation program, and will examine options for redirecting some water use fees to water supply related programs.

The Committee agreed that the following elements will be included in its report to the Legislature:

1. Flow chart (current and revised) of the water supply well approval process.
2. Recommendation to allow the DNR Commissioner to approve water appropriations of greater than 2 MGD to communities who jointly apply for water use permits rather than seeking legislative approval.
3. Options for redirecting some water use fees to water supply related programs.
4. Recommendation of a region-wide water conservation effort.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Harder
Recording Secretary