

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

## **METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

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

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

August 24, 2006

Committee Members Present:	Peter Bell, Chair	Metropolitan Council
	Bev Aplikowski	City of Arden Hills, Mayor
	Dennis Berg	Anoka County, Commissioner
	Greg Buzicky	Department of Agriculture, Director, Pesticide & Fertilizer Mgmt. - Alternate
	Tom Furlong	City of Chanhassen, Mayor
	Chuck Haas	City of Hugo, Council Member
	Joe Harris	Dakota County, Commissioner
	James Japs	DNR, Assistant Director, Waters - Alternate
	Peggy Leppik	Metropolitan Council Member
	Linda Loomis	City of Golden Valley, Mayor
	Faye Sleeper	PCA, Watershed Section Manager
	John Stine	Dept of Health, Director, Environmental Health Division - Alternate
	Barry Stock	City of Savage, Administrator

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Leppik seconded by Loomis to approve the 8/24/06 agenda and the minutes of the 7/27/06 meeting. **Motion carried**

#### **Advisory Committee Schedule Update**

Chris Elvrum, Manager of Water Supply Planning, provided a brief update. Adam Kramer, RW Beck, summarized the contents of the report that will be prepared for the legislature. Draft reports will be reviewed by the Committee on September 28<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup>. The final report will be available for review in November.

#### **Water Resource Availability Data Collection and Analysis – Glen Champion and Mark Janovec, Bonestroo & Associates**

Opportunities and Recommendations for addressing projected future demands:

- Encourage conservation efforts
- Evaluate re-use as potential supply source
- Evaluate potential resource limitations identified
- Obtain better scientific understanding of the aquifer systems
- Determine measurable scientific criteria to determine impact on natural resources
- Establish appropriate management models
- Evaluate regional water interconnections
- Link water supply to growth decisions [added by Committee, 8/24/06]

Mr. Champion provided an overview of recent water use in metro area. The majority of use in 2004 was by municipal waterworks. A review of population projections and estimated water demands indicates that by 2030, there will be an increase of water demand of 26.5 billion/gallons/year in the seven-county area. Additional study is needed to determine the risk of groundwater withdrawals impacting surface waters. MDH and MPCA are working on mapping contamination areas in the metro area.

Considering available data and estimated demand increases through 2030, there is generally an adequate supply of water in the metro area. A number of western and northern metro communities may run into limitations of the potential yield of the aquifers and there is some potential for surface water resource impacts in some communities. Nitrate and/or pesticide contamination may restrict availability of water in some areas, although treatment is possible. Careful management of resources may be necessary to sustain water use in areas presently designated as adequate. Limitations may become critical in some of these areas after 2030. Impacts of projected demands in 2050 will also be evaluated.

In response to questions about the possibility of manually recharging aquifers, staff replied that water quality and expense are concerns in that regard. Stormwater management is an option.

The Committee agreed that, based on current information, there seems to be an adequate supply of water, and steps need to be taken now to avoid problems later. There are implications for land planning. The Committee decided that linking water supply to growth decisions should be added as a recommendation.

When asked why expansion of impermeable surfaces is not included in the recommendations, staff responded that study is continuing. There are no specific recommendations for the committee to evaluate at this time.

### **Water Supply Regulatory Process and Water Conservation – Issues and Opportunities**

In order to streamline the water appropriation permitting process the following recommendations have been proposed:

- Address potential limitations prior to growth through data collection and analysis and the development of the Metro Area Water Supply Master Plan
- Endorse the integrated ten-year permit plan
- Develop a water conservation toolbox for communities to meet the minimum requirements of the ten-year permit
- Coordinate plan reviews to ensure consistency between water demand and demographic forecasts
- Develop clear instructions on what will be necessary to review both the ten-year permit and other water appropriation permit requests

Mr. Elvrum reviewed the current water supply regulatory process in the metro area, as well as the concerns water suppliers have expressed relative to the process. A central issue with the process is unaddressed resource limitations/impacts prior to growth,

which causes delays or withdrawal limitations. A main goal of the master planning process is to address this issue.

Communities with municipal water supply systems within the metro area are required to prepare a water conservation plan as part of their emergency and conservation/water supply plan. Guidelines have been developed to assist communities in updating their plans, and outlines specific water conservation goals and suggest programs to help communities reach those goals. Approval of appropriation permits can be delayed if a community: 1) does not provide documentation of conservation programs; 2) does not implement any or implements very few conservation programs; 3) omitting other information on applications; submits forecasts that are inconsistent with Council forecasts.

#### Integrated 10-Year Permit-Plan

Mr. Japs explained a more flexible approach recently developed by the DNR, which attempts to integrate supply planning, permitting and water conservation and resolve some of the problems with the existing process. Under this permit-plan concept, a community can apply for pre-approval of its 10-year water appropriations. As a condition of approval, a community is required to either meet certain water conservation benchmarks or commit to implementing water conservation measures and programs intended to address any shortfalls.

Water conservation benchmarks include:

- Maintain unaccounted for water at less than 10% of withdrawals
- Maintain residential per capital water usage less than or equal to 75 gallons/day
- Maintain peak daily demands at less than or equal to 2.6 times average daily demands
- Maintain water conserving or conservation neutral rate structure that does not include any volume of water in the base charge (except for discretionary 'lifeline' exceptions addressing essential indoor use)
- Following an approved monitoring plan
- Undertaking mitigation efforts related to resource impacts or limits

In addition, the community will need to provide water demand forecasts and a schedule for additional well installations.

After discussing the proposed plan, the Committee asked for more details on how the benchmarks were developed. Staff will prepare background information on the proposed benchmarks for the September committee meeting.

#### **Water Supply/Emergency and Conservation Plan Review Process – Issues and Opportunities**

The Committee agreed with the following recommendations:

- Formalize review coordination (Metropolitan Council and Department of Natural Resources)
- Recommend legislative changes requiring alignment of schedules and a coordinated review process

- Recommend legislative changes to clarify roles and outline plan requirements in one State Statute.

## **Water Supply System Safety and Security – Issues and Opportunities**

### Recommendations:

- Support development of backup water supplies in the region
- Support efforts of Minneapolis, Saint Paul and Saint Cloud to implement their sourcewater protection plan
- Clarify who is required to take NIMS training
- Support development of the State WARN system
- Track development of emerging security standards and programs
- Evaluate practicality of developing regional plans to address water treatment in the event of an emergency

Steve Schneider, Manager of St. Paul Regional Water Services, and Shahin Rezania, Director of Minneapolis Water Works, presented their views on the Saint Paul / Minneapolis interconnect, and explained why it should be supported by the Committee.

After considering the benefits and economic and environmental considerations, the Committee determined it needs additional information before making a recommendation. Mr. Elvrum informed the Committee that an economic impact analysis has been completed and will be brought to the Committee in September for further consideration.

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### MN 2006 Clean Water Legacy Act (CLWA)

Faye Sleeper provided an introduction to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs), the Clean Water Legacy Act and how they connect with the work of Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC).

Ms. Sleeper gave an overview of the process used to fix impaired waters, the purpose of the CLWA, the policy framework, and the Clean Water Council.

In the case of Minneapolis/Saint Paul/Saint Cloud, much of the work PCA is doing in the TMDL program can address some of the same pollutants that enter the Mississippi River that impact Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Using the Crow River watershed as an example, she explained that removing sediment-related impairments will protect surface water, which is and result in lower costs for utilities and added safety. The program benefits drinking water in the metro area, which is part of the effort to ensure a sustainable water supply for the region.

The Clean Water Council will oversee implementation and funding distribution. One-year funding has been allocated for: Assessment and Monitoring, TMDLs, Nonpoint Source Restoration, and Point Source Protection and Restoration. Currently, only 10% of our rivers and streams and 14% of our lakes are assessed. It is estimated that \$8 million/year over 20 to 25 years is needed to do the TMDLs and for restoration costs. Additional funding is needed. It is hoped local communities will take on some of the

needed studies, or partner with PCA and DNR. The hope is to fund these programs at \$80 million.

**Adjourn**

Business completed, it was moved by Harris, seconded by Leppik to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting will be two hours, 9:30 – 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted  
Susan M. Harder, Recording Secretary