

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** March 1, 2007

Committee Members Present:	Peter Bell	Metropolitan Council
	Dennis Berg	Anoka County, Commissioner
	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
Committee Members Absent:	Greg Buzicky	Department of Agriculture

Call to Order

Chair Bell the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Haas, seconded by Japs, to approve the 3/1/07 agenda and the 11/13/06 minutes of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee meeting.
Motion carried.

Phase II Activities

Chris Elvrum, Manager of Water Supply Planning, gave an overview of activities underway in the second phase of water supply planning. These included the efforts to evaluate the supply availability and options for areas with potential limitations as well as others assessing the regional role in managing water supplies. The information will be used in the development of the regional master water supply plan. Mr. Haas asked about evaluating stormwater reuse. Mr. Elvrum said staff would explore the idea. Mr. Furlong mentioned it is important to consider cost effectiveness in the development of the master plan. An update on the budget was also given. Approximately \$500,000 of the \$2 million of funding available for water supply planning was spent on the activities through the end of 2006. The schedule for future Advisory Committee meetings was discussed. Meetings will be held at 9:30 on the 4th Thursday in May, August, September and October as well as November 15th.

Legislative Update

Mr. Japs informed the group that the recommendation included in the Water Supply Planning Report to the Legislature for streamlining the water supply plan statutes was included in the DNR technical bill which does not contain any funding issues but is

intended to clarify existing statutes. It had been passed by committees in both the House and Senate with only minor discussion.

Water Quality in East Metro

Mr. Stine described the perfluorochemical groundwater contamination found in southern Washington County related to former 3M disposal sites. The chemicals don't break down quickly in groundwater and can travel long distances. Guidelines for concentrations in drinking water have been established for some of the chemicals. There has been only limited research on the effects of exposure to human health. The Minnesota Department of Health and Pollution Control Agency continue to conduct additional sampling and assessment.

Drought Response Planning Update

Mr. Japs discussed the current drought situation in the State. The northwestern third of the State is in the extreme drought category with much of the rest of it in some less severe drought category. It would take significant rainfall to return to normal conditions.

Mississippi River Headwaters Low Flow Releases

Jodi Kormanik and Kenton Spading, United States Army Corps of Engineers, discussed the issues surrounding a request for releases from the Mississippi River Headwaters Reservoirs for water supply. It would include a public process as well as discussions of stakeholders. Securing releases would be very challenging. There is no assurance that releases would make it down to the Twin Cities and there would be an expectation that the requestors would have significant conservation measures in place before a release would be considered.

Water Conservation

Sara Bertelsen, Environmental Planner, provided an overview of water conservation programs and efforts in California, Southern Nevada, Southeastern Wisconsin and the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Conservation efforts in southern and western United States are typically more aggressive than in the midwest due to the climate and water availability limitations. Water conservation benefits include augmenting existing water supplies, reducing energy consumption, reducing consumer water bills, protecting ecosystems, and deferring wastewater treatment expansion costs. In the upcoming months Council staff intend to develop a water conservation toolbox for water suppliers and to re-evaluate the water use, maximum/average day ratio and unaccounted for water use benchmarks. Additional water conservation regional opportunities include: establishing water conservation goals; developing a media campaign; implementing native landscape demonstration projects; initiating water using fixture; appliance and landscape rebate programs; performing water audits for customers; and developing regulations.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.