

Meeting Minutes
East Metro Water Supply Work Group
March 16, 2010
Washington County Government Center, Room 20

Purpose: Exchange of water supply related information and aquifer management plan brainstorming

Welcome and Introductions

Lanya Ross (Metropolitan Council) welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Round table discussion – Cities, Counties, State Agencies, Others

- Oakdale
 - Very early stages of considering an interconnection with the City of Lake Elmo
 - Water use down in 2009 from 2008 usage
 - Drilling new Jordan well to replace another Jordan well (PFC levels in well to be replaced are over the health standards); Plan to be online in August 2010
- Cottage Grove
 - Converting a well from diesel to electric
 - Revamping water restriction ordinance to include time of day restrictions (already implement odd/even watering restrictions)
- Lakeland
 - Community built out, no expansion planned
 - Considering some additional hookups of residents whose homes are in the area affected by a contamination plume
- Lake Elmo
 - Looking for funding for large expansion effort
 - In negotiation with 3M to get a new well to meet firm capacity needs
 - Recently updated watering restriction ordinance
 - Implemented new conservation rate structure, receiving some push back from residents
 - Educating and informing customers through water conservation education efforts
 - Very early stages of considering an interconnection with Oakdale (Lake Elmo to purchase water)
- Woodbury
 - Water use down in 2009 from 2008 usage
 - Planning new well in Tamarack wellfield – determining what type of monitoring would be appropriate to ensure groundwater pumping is not affecting the Valley Creek Trout Stream
 - Offered free irrigation audit to top water users – almost all users that were offered the audit accepted it. City does not know if any of these customers are considering changes to their irrigation this summer.
- Washington County
 - County did not receive the grant they applied for from BWSR that would fund an effort to seal wells in wellhead protection areas

- MDH
 - Grant program being initiative that would provide funding to communities for implementation of existing wellhead protection plans. Funding opportunity to open in
- DNR
 - Continue to work on reviewing Water Supply Plans and will continue to work with communities on their implementation of water conservation rate structures
 - Asked communities if they have any concerns with dry conditions moving into the spring/summer. Communities did not seem concerned.
- Metropolitan Council
 - The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee recently approved the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Plan. The Metropolitan Council Environment Committee also approved the plan on March 9, and the Plan is before the Council on March 24 for its final approval.
<http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/WaterSupply/masterplan.htm>
 - Council just signed a contract with Barr Engineering to work on a project to look at in more detail the connection between surface water and groundwater in the metropolitan area. The Council will also begin a project soon assessing local water supply conditions in East Bethel associated with the proposed water supply development and wastewater discharge.
 - Legislation in the senate that would provide the Council with \$500,000 from the Clean Water Fund to support ongoing water supply planning activities.

11-County Groundwater Monitoring Plan – Jeanette Leete, DNR

In response to two legislative mandates the DNR recently published two reports:

- *A Plan to Develop a Groundwater Level Monitoring Network for the 11-County Metro Area* http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/legislative/groundwater_level.pdf
- *Long-Term Protection of the State's Surface and Groundwater Resources* http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/legislative/surface_water.pdf

The reports discuss the importance of monitoring, type of monitoring needed, where monitoring is needed, and costs associated with meeting the state's monitoring needs.

Although there was general support for monitoring, the discussion following the presentation centered on who should pay for the monitoring. Legislation recently introduced would add a fee to groundwater appropriations in the 11-county metro area to cover the costs of developing a monitoring network of wells in areas not influenced by pumping centers (it was misstated in the meeting that the fee would apply to surface water appropriators as well). This is considered the 'unstressed network'. Monitoring in the stressed network around pumping centers would remain the responsibility of the appropriators.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2010

