

Meeting Minutes
East Metro Water Supply Work Group
July 14, 2009, 1:30
Washington County Government Center Rm 20

Purpose: Establish a forum to discuss water supply development and issues in the East Metro Area

Welcome and Introductions

Chris Elvrum (Metropolitan Council) welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Background and Meeting Format

Chris gave an overview of the agenda and discussed what had lead to the formation of this group. During review of the Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan, Washington County recommended that this group be formed. The group is modeled after the Southwest Metro Groundwater Group who's main purpose is to act as a forum for the open exchange of information.

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

- Jamie Wallerstedt (WSB) representing Hugo and Mahtomedi
 - Hugo
 - Peak and average day use appear up in the 2nd quarter
 - Finished new well and currently going through the appropriation permitting process
 - Looking into the potential for well interference issues with new well
 - Beginning plans for new well
 - Updating rate structure to meet conservation rate structure requirement
 - Mahtomedi
 - Peak and average day use appear up in the 2nd quarter
 - Implement odd/even and time of day watering restrictions – enforcement is an issue, the city realizes that the success of the program is related to how well it is enforced.
 - Performing a rate study, to determine the appropriate changes to make to the city's water use rate structure to meet the conservation rate structure requirement
- Steve Kernik (Woodbury)
 - Water use is up but is not near record levels
 - Implement time of day and odd/even watering restrictions
 - Currently have a conservation rate structure (bill quarterly)
 - Tracking individual water use and have found that a small percentage of residents use extremely high amounts of water for irrigation. The conservation rate structure put in place last year was targeted at this high water usage.
 - Concern that additional wells in the city's east well field will affect the Valley Creek trout stream. The city has put in four sets of monitoring wells between the well field and the surface water body in order to assess potential impacts from

pumping. Thus far no direct impacts to the surface water body from groundwater pumping have been observed through the current monitoring system. The city is looking into alternative techniques to measure smaller impacts from groundwater pumping. There is a technical advisory committee working with the city to protect the trout stream. The city will continue its one well at a time approach until impacts are considered likely at which point the city will consider using a southern well field.

- Craig Wills, Jay Frischman and Laurel Reeves (DNR)
 - Information regarding departure from normal precipitation available on the DNR web site
 - The DNR is unable to approve updates or new appropriation permit request until a city implements a conservation rate structure per Minnesota Statutes.
 - DNR is working on an 11-county monitoring plan that will be completed in October 2009. The document will be more a guidance document than a plan for action.

- Geoff Nash (Ramsey Conservation District)
 - Conservation district currently working on a Groundwater protection plan
 - Referenced Rice Creek Watershed's groundwater report on monitoring

- Brian Bachmeier (Oakdale)
 - Peaks not above normal, suggest the economy may be contributing to lower usage
 - Currently use conservation rate structure
 - Implement odd/even watering restrictions
 - Evaluating new metering systems that would allow the city to meter water usage at specific times and days allowing the city to consider a rate structure based on time of use.
 - Working with 3M to replace a contaminated well

- Jennifer Levitt (Cottage Grove)
 - Peak use lower than normal, predict the economy may be contributing to lower usage
 - Switched from quarterly billing system to monthly billing system, have already begun to see the impact – Monthly billing allows customers to track usage more closely instead of getting their summer watering bill in September and the city has already seen customers making changes to their usage because of this.
 - City tracks individual users and is able to identify when a user is using exceptionally high amounts of water. In these instances, the city contacts the customer and suggests the customer check for leaky faucets or running toilets. City has found this to be an effective mechanism for getting customers to fix leaks.
 - Working with 3M to test water quality and have found contamination in proposed new well field so the city is now considering a northern well field that would be close to Woodbury's southern well field. City considering the benefits of suggesting a joint well field with Woodbury.

- George Bender (TKDA representing Lake Elmo, White Bear Twp and Stillwater)
Lake Elmo
 - Working on comprehensive plan update – water system primarily in northern part of community and sewer coming from the south
 - Has been sharing water with (receiving water from) Oakdale this summer

White Bear Twp

- One of two water towers has been down temporarily for repairs so the city has been receiving water from neighboring communities to meet daily demand.
- Use appears to be down this summer as compared to other summers

Stillwater

- Working on new well and pumphouse

- John Freitag (Washington County)
 - Noticed that water table has been dropping in Washington County and have heard from a few residents in West Lakeland Twp that they have had to drop their pumps in order to get water.
- Steve Roberts (MDH)
 - MDH regulates water suppliers – facilitates wellhead protection activities
 - This workgroup is a good place to discuss wellhead protection issues especially those WHP areas that overlap or go beyond community boundaries
 - This workgroup is also a good place for educating one another and sharing resources on water supply related topics

Presentation: Regional Master Water Supply Plan– Chris Elvrum, Metropolitan Council
Chris described the history and preparation of the metropolitan area master water supply plan.

Master Plan: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/WaterSupply/masterplan.htm>

Metro Groundwater Model 2:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/WaterSupply/metrogroundwatermodel.htm>

Master Planning process fact sheet:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/about/facts/WaterSupplyPlanningFacts.pdf>

Work Group Exercise: Future Well Siting – Water suppliers were asked to provide information about where future wells might be located to improve the predictions used to develop the metro master water supply plan.

Next Meeting: Tuesday November 17, 9:30 – 11:30AM, Washington County Government Center