

# Minutes

Committee of the Whole



**Meeting date:** November 5, 2025

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Deb Barber
- ☐ Judy Johnson, District 1
- ☒ Reva Chamblis, District 2
- ☒ Tyronne Carter, District 3
- ☐ Vacant, District 4
- ☒ John Pacheco Jr., District 5

- ☒ Robert Lilligren, District 6
- ☐ Yassin Osman, District 7
- ☒ Anjuli Cameron, District 8
- ☒ Diego Morales, District 9
- ☒ Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- ☒ Gail Cederberg, District 11

- ☒ Mark Jenkins, District 12
- ☐ Chai Lee, District 13
- ☒ Toni Carter, District 14
- ☐ Victor Obisakin, District 15
- ☒ Wendy Wulff, District 16
- ☒ = present

## Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

## Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:04 p.m.

## Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Morales.

## Agenda approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2025 Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole minutes. **Motion carried.**

## Public Hearing

### 1. 2025-273: Public Hearing on the Draft Amendment to the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan, Modernizing Mapping Project

Chair Barber opened the Public Hearing at 4:09 p.m. There were no speakers signed up to provide public comments and Chair Barber closed the Public Hearing at 4:10 p.m.

## Information

### 1. Potential Regional Impacts of High-volume Water Users

LisaBeth Barajas, Executive Director of Community Development, provided an overview of the presentation regarding impacts of high-volume water usage and introduced speakers, Jen Kostrzewski, Assistant Manager, Water Resources Policy and Planning, Environmental Services, and John Chelbeck, Assistant Manager, Wastewater Resources Planning & Community Programs, Environmental Services.

Presenters gave definition of high-volume water users and provided examples of potential high-volume water users. Presenter shared national data center water usage information and the growing trend in the number of data centers and their water usage. Presenter shared factors that make the seven-county metropolitan region a desirable location for potential high-volume water users. Factors include abundance of water, capacity of the electricity grid, fiber optic cables and latency, transportation and distribution corridors, land availability, financial incentives and skilled workforces.

Presenters noted how the Met Council plans for potential high-volume water users. From a regional perspective, the Council will know about the project when the information becomes public information but after agreements have been signed with local jurisdictions.

Presenters covered the key areas of concerns of potential high-volume water users, such as impacts on nearby water bodies, industrial use versus future population growth, municipal water appropriation and its impacts on water systems. In addition, presenters noted the impacts on regional wastewater such as increased wastewater volume and water quality.

Council members and staff discussed the role of the Council in reviewing local planning documents before full development plans are set. Council members discussed working collaboratively with state agencies (such as Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) as well as local jurisdictions and regional partners.

Council members applauded staff for their great work on the presentation –it was highly technical but understandable.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole meeting of November 5, 2025.

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### Council contact:

Mee Cheng, Recording Secretary  
[Mee.Cheng@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Mee.Cheng@metc.state.mn.us)  
651-602-1222