



MAWSAC Report



Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee

Lanya Ross | March 26, 2026

MAWSAC direction requested

- Effective format**
- Clear purpose**
- Priority water supply issues**

MAWSAC report – statutory requirements

Audience: Minnesota Legislature, Metropolitan Council

Due date: February 15, 2027

Purpose: Report with the information required under Minnesota Statute 473.1565. The policy advisory committee's report and recommendations must include information provided by the technical advisory committee.

Information required by 473.1565:

- Metropolitan Council carries out water supply planning activities (technical information, update of metropolitan area water supply plan, recommendations)
- Metropolitan Council considers MAWSAC work and recommendations on regional development framework update.
- TAC advises MAWSAC.

Input at December 2025 joint MAWSAC/TAC meeting

Highlights

- Be clear that this is a MAWSAC report specifically
- Help legislators, Metropolitan Council members have an impact by providing specific ideas for action
- Draw on input heard through subregional engagement to help identify stakeholder priorities and actions to address them
- Highlight what worked/was accomplished since MAWSAC's 2022 report, and what lessons learned

Proposed format

Concise, adaptable

High-level context

- The Twin Cities region runs on water
- Where water comes from and how we use it
- Warning signs
- Who shapes water decisions
- The big policy questions and direction for action

Issue briefs

- What is happening and why is this issue emerging?
- Why this issue puts us at risk
- Current conditions: strengths and warning signs
- Key policy question: Are current tools strong enough?
- Options for action
- Prompts for conversation with constituents



Clarifying the purpose of a MAWSAC report to legislators and Met Council members

Who

Decision about what

Supporting resources or recommendations

Specific outcome

Clarifying purpose

This report to Minnesota legislators and Met Council members
helps _____ make better decisions
about _____
by providing _____
so that _____ can occur.

Identifying and prioritizing issues

Water Policy Research

Water quality
Reuse
Source water protection
Wastewater
Climate change
Rural waters

Subregional Engagement

Water quantity
Water quality
Coordination/collaboration
Growth
Asset management
Changing behaviors
Data/tools
Workforce
Funding
Climate change
Affordability

Metro Water Supply Plan

Infrastructure
Water quality
Land use
Groundwater-surface water interaction
Sustainable quantity

TAC input on issues and actions

Highlights from February 12, 2026 meeting

- Expand regional groundwater monitoring and assessment
- Address emerging contaminants and treatment needs
- Plan for climate, growth, and large-volume water use
- Protect natural resources while meeting community demand
- Ensure sustainable funding and renewal of aging infrastructure

Consolidated list of issues to consider

1. Affordability
 2. Asset management
 3. Changing behaviors
 4. Climate change
 5. Coordination and collaboration
 6. Groundwater–surface water interaction*
 7. Growth
 8. Data and tools
 9. Funding
 10. Infrastructure*
 11. Land use*
 12. Rural waters
 13. Source water protection
 14. Sustainable water quantity*
 15. Wastewater and reuse
 16. Water quality*
 17. Workforce
- * *In Metro Area Water Supply Plan*

Prioritizing issues

Instructions:

Walk around the space to consider 17 identified issues.

If you feel an issue is missing, write it on the blank flip chart sheet/poster.

Then use your five stickers to identify up to five issues that you consider to be a priority. You can put more than one sticker on an issue.

Staff will identify the top 7-10 issues for the next group activity: a gallery walk.

Gallery walk:

Describing priority issues

Instructions:

Find a partner, grab a marker, and go to one of the priority issues.

Spend three minutes responding to the questions on the flip chart sheet.

When you hear the alarm, move to the issue to your right and repeat.

Go around the room until you've commented on all priority issues.

If someone has already commented on what you want to share, put a check mark. If you disagree, note why.

We will have a short reflection as a group at the end of this activity.

Next steps: Proposed committee milestones

- ✓ Dec. 10, 2025 Kickoff conversation at joint MAWSAC-TAC meeting
- ✓ Feb, 12, 2026 TAC input on technical aspects of key messaging, draft outline
- ✓ **Mar. 26, 2026** **MAWSAC drafts report outline and key messaging**
- May 14, 2026** TAC input on draft report, focusing on technical content
- June 11, 2026** **MAWSAC input on draft report**
- Aug. 13, 2026** TAC reviews draft report for technical accuracy
- Sep. 24, 2026** **MAWSAC approves report and recommends finalizing design**
- Dec. 10, 2026** **Opportunity for MAWSAC & TAC to address any final issues**
- Jan. 13, 2027** MAWSAC & TAC receive final report to promote with stakeholders
- Feb. 15, 2027** Report submitted to Minnesota Legislature



Thank you

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