

Minutes

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee



Meeting date: June 11, 2026

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 3565 Kennebec Dr., Eagan

Members present:

- ☒ Chair, Wendy Wulff, Met Council
- ☒ Spencer Herbert, Dept of Agriculture
- ☒ Chris Elvrum, Dept of Health
- ☐ Randall Doneen, DNR
- ☒ Erik Smith, MPCA

- ☐ Tiffany Determan, Isanti County
- ☐ William Menkhaus, Saint Paul Regional Water Services
- ☒ Julie Jeppson, Anoka County
- ☒ Ashlee Ricci, Chisago County
- ☒ Valerie Neppl, Dakota County
- ☒ Gary Gray, Sherburne County

- ☒ Marc Culver, Brooklyn Park
- ☒ David Strub, Hugo
- ☒ Annika Bankston, Minneapolis
- ☐ Brad Larson, Savage
- ☒ Steve Bot, St. Michael
- ☐ Kevin Watson, Vadnais Heights
- ☒ = 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, Committee Chair Wulff called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee to order at 12:38 p.m.

Agenda approved

Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Neppl, seconded by Ricci to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2026, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

Information items and committee work

1. New member welcome and introductions (Wendy Wulff)

New member Spencer Herbert with the Department of Agriculture introduced himself and was introduced to committee members and staff.

2. Subregional engagement update (Steve Christopher)

Christopher provided an overview of 2025-2026 accomplishments of the subregional engagements and continuing work. There is a regional integrated water planning workshop planned for October 8, 2026 at the Chaska Event Center focusing on climate resilience.

Christopher requested MAWSAC consider whether there are any actions the legislature and Met Council should take related to empowering collaboration and integrated water management among community utilities, development departments, watersheds, counties, state agencies, and others. MAWSAC suggestions could inform the upcoming legislative report. Wulff suggested summarizing the work that the subregions have accomplished so far and sharing that with the Legislature. Christopher offered to highlight items in the subregional action plans that rise to the level of Legislative requests.

3. Water Efficiency Grant update (Jen Kostrzewski)

Kostrzewski summarized the background of the water efficiency grant program and provided an overview of the updates in the 2026-2028 program. The program kicks off on July 1, 2026. Kostrzewski requested letters of support for the program going into the next funding year as well as any ideas for amplifying the success of this or similar programs that could be included in the MAWSAC report to the Legislature. Neppi requested data on water savings for turf conversion. Johnson noted that low input turf grass is being studied by the White Bear Lake Comprehensive Plan work group and that study will appear on the work group website once finalized.

4. White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group update (Greg Johnson)

Johnson summarized the activity of the work group and noted that the MAWSAC representative of the work group is David Strub. Elvrum requested additional information related to rainfall and lake levels and a summary of the technical studies. Culver asked if there have been conversations at the work group regarding setting a precedent for other areas. Paske noted that the function of MAWSAC is to discuss policy around long-term water supply sustainability in the metro area and that for the White Bear Lake area it is the court system that is driving the project. The next meeting of the work group is July 16, 2026. Meeting materials and technical studies are on the Met Council's White Bear Lake Comprehensive Plan Work Group website.

5. TAC meeting Update (Scott Anderson)

Anderson provided a summary of the TAC meeting on May 14, 2026. He noted that TAC is excited to begin working on implementation projects and that funding is a major consideration that should be highlighted in MAWSAC's report to the legislature and the Met Council. Anderson shared that TAC discussed if what is happening in the White Bear Lake area is aligned with the recently developed Water Policy Plan and Metro Area Water Supply Plan (MWSP) or not. TAC wants to see plans and investments that support MWSP goals. He also noted large volume water users and infrastructure challenges put increased pressure on affordability, access, and equity for water supply. Johnson noted that the issue briefs being reviewed in the MAWSAC exercise today reflect TAC's input.

6. MAWSAC report update (Lanya Ross)

Ross led MAWSAC in an activity to develop and condense draft contents of the issue briefs that will be included in the MAWSAC report to the legislature. She noted that the content will be revised based on MAWSAC input and shared at the next TAC meeting for technical perspective, and then an updated draft will be shared at the September MAWSAC meeting.

7. Government affairs and legislative update (Judy Sventek)

Sventek summarized the results of the legislative session as it relates to MAWSAC. A bill proposed to clean up language in the MAWSAC legislation (M.S. 473.1565) did not pass out of committee, \$15 million was secured for Inflow & Infiltration grants, and other water supply issues were tracked. Next year, Clean Water Fund appropriations are being considered, which is important to all aspects of MAWSAC's work, so letters of support were requested from committee members.

8. Chair update and member round-robin (Wendy Wulff)

No updates were shared.



Next steps

1. Next meeting: September 24, 2026, at Regional Maintenance Facility (3565 Kennebec Dr. Eagan)

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee meeting of Month 00, 2026.

Approved this 00 day of Month 2026.

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