Technical projects update

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee

Jen Kostrzewski | May 14, 2026

Status: Ongoing

MN TAP Partnership

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) is an outreach program at the University of Minnesota.

MnTAP helps Minnesota businesses develop and implement industry-tailored solutions that conserve groundwater, prevent pollution at the source, maximize efficient use of resources, and reduce energy use and costs to improve public health and the environment.

Through 2024, the Met Council has funded **53 MnTAP interns** at businesses throughout the metro region.

They have identified improvements to reduce water consumption in the metro region by an estimate **1.4 billion gallons** of water.

Staff Lead: Greg Johnson

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT
YOUR Clean Water Fund AT WORK

Metropolitan Council

Status: Ongoing

University of Minnesota Turf Grass Research

The Metropolitan Council in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Extension is continuing work to increase the efficiency of water use in home landscapes. This phase will focus on educating the citizens of the Twin Cities metropolitan region about lawn water conservation.

Current outreach efforts will be reinforced and new educational materials for homeowners will be created in the form of online videos, signs, pamphlets, and in-person workshops.

Staff Lead: Greg Johnson

Metropolitan Council

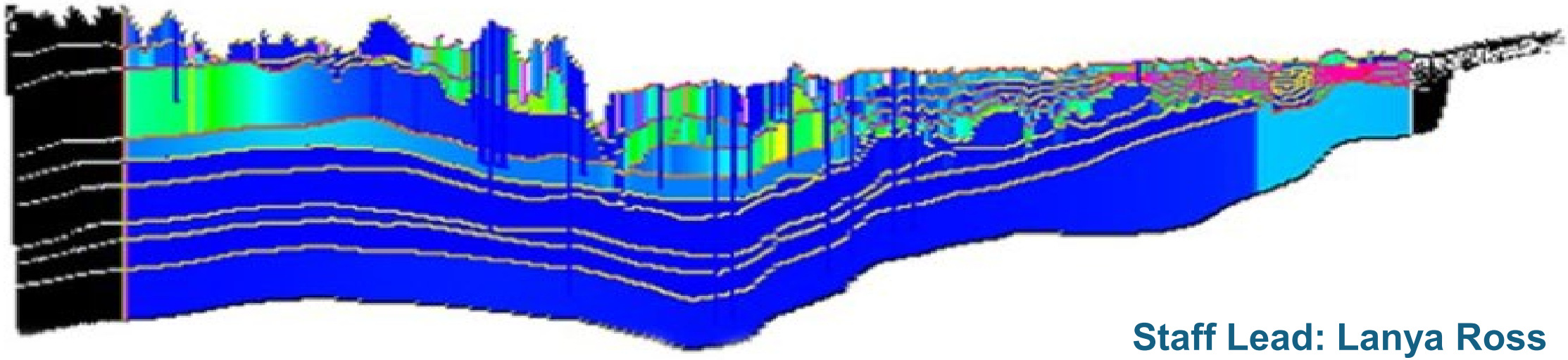
Status: Ongoing

Metro Model 4 Update

Modeling the future of regional water

The Metro Model is a computer program that uses decades of data and cutting-edge science to simulate how groundwater moves, responds to climate and pumping, and interacts with surface water.

It's a key tool for sustainable water planning—helping agencies, planners, and communities make informed decisions today that protect water for tomorrow.



Staff Lead: Lanya Ross

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT
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Status: Ongoing

High Water Use Development Paper

Providing guidance to local planners

Developments that include industries requiring large amounts of water for their operations and facilities are increasingly looking to locate in Minnesota. Local jurisdictions are faced with pressures from developers, industries, regulators, neighboring communities, and residents to rapidly and thoroughly assess the potential risks and benefits of proposed projects.

Sound decisions about development begin with integrated, holistic planning that aligns the goals across policy and planning areas. To do so requires coordination among departments, with neighboring communities, agencies and regulators, and community members. The risks and benefits of any development are then evaluated to align with and support outcomes like economic growth, sustainability, resilience, and equity.

This brief provides an overview of the incentives and potential benefits for local jurisdictions, developers, and industries, as well as the risks to source waters, surrounding environments, municipal water service providers, and communities. The paper offers guidance that supports collecting the essential data and information needed to understand tradeoffs, mitigate negative outcomes, and facilitate the conversations needed to make sound decisions about high water use development proposals.

Staff Lead: John Clark

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT
YOUR Clean Water Fund AT WORK

Metropolitan Council

Status: Scoping

Regional Assessment on Aging Infrastructure

Building our understanding of infrastructure conditions

Water infrastructure across the region is aging, with many systems built 50 to 100 years ago. Aging infrastructure increases risk of drinking water contamination through corrosion of remaining lead pipes, water loss and waste due to watermain breaks and leaks, service disruptions, and the potential for costly emergency repairs. This project would use similar criteria as ASCE and include additional criteria as requested by TAC. Data collected from public water suppliers will be used to evaluate the condition of watermains, storage facilities, and treatment systems, and summarized in a regional report card. This information can also be used for long term planning of needed future infrastructure improvements.

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT
YOUR Clean Water Fund AT WORK

Metropolitan Council

Staff Lead: Jess Collin-Pilarski

Status: Scoping

Metro Water Supply Rates

Investigating the rate structures and affordability of water supplies

The Water Affordability in the Metro Region brief will include a compilation and analysis of regional water utility rates, including current rates and rate structures, ten-year local and national trends, and affordability metrics.

The Brief will highlight the impact of rates on residents, municipalities, and overburdened communities and support the MAWSAC legislative report, a regional water equity brief, and future water supply planning.

Staff Lead: Kristen Poppleton

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT
YOUR Clean Water Fund AT WORK

Status: Scoping

Regional Groundwater Synoptic

Measurement matters.

This project will update our last regional groundwater synoptic data set from 2009. We are recruiting interested organizations to help support well level, stream depth, and lake level monitoring.

The dataset will inform the Metro Model and other research efforts throughout the region.

The USGS is our current scoping partner, and we will be inviting others (state agencies, watershed orgs, cities, utilities, etc.) to help support the scoping and implementation of this project.

Staff Lead: Lanya Ross

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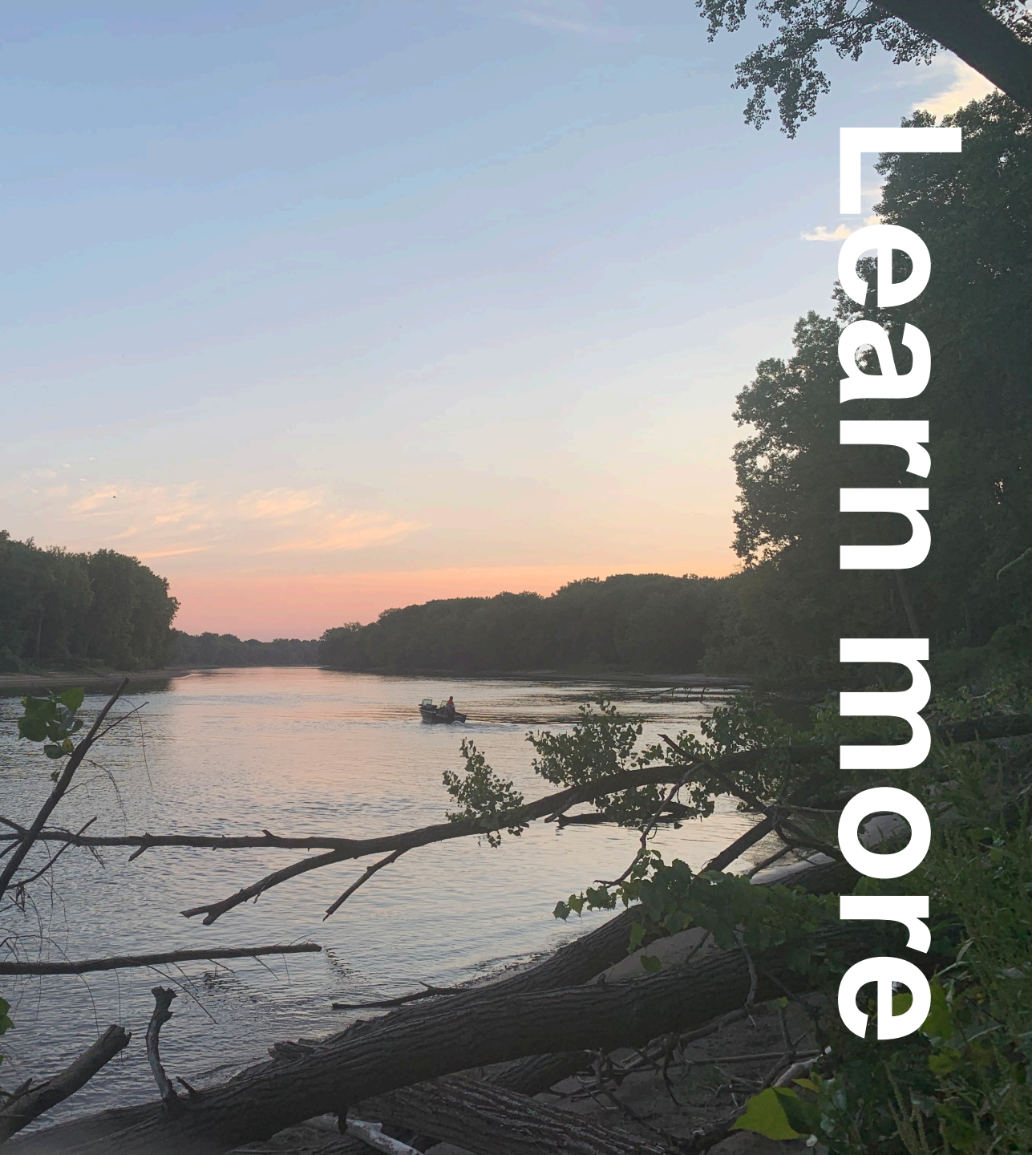
YOUR Clean Water Fund AT WORK

Metropolitan Council



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