Advisory Committee Position Description

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC)

metrocouncil.org

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

Created by the Minnesota Legislature, the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) provides advice and assistance to the Metropolitan Council in its water supply planning activities. MAWSAC plays a lead role in developing the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Plan and provides continuing guidance on its implementation.

WHO IS ON THE COMMITTEE?

MAWSAC consists of 18 total members as defined by Minnesota Statute 473.1565 (Metropolitan Area Water Supply Planning Activities; Advisory Committees).

- The Chair of MAWSAC is the Chair of the Metropolitan Council (or their designee)
- Four members are the Commissioners of the following state agencies (or their designees)
  - Minnesota Department of Agriculture
  - Minnesota Department of Health
  - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
  - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Eleven members are officials of local government units, appointed by the governor.
  - A local government unit in each of the seven counties in the metropolitan area must be represented as follows:
    - Two counties in the metro area
    - Five non-county local government units
  - One representative each from Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, and Wright counties
- One representative of St. Paul Regional Water Services
- One representative of the Minneapolis Water Department, appointed by the mayor.

VACANCIES

There are currently seven vacancies for four-year terms starting on January 5, 2027 through January 5, 2031.

- Three representatives (elected officials or local government unit staff) from counties as follows:
  - 1 - Chisago County
  - 1 - Isanti County
- Five representatives (elected officials or local government unit staff) from a local governmental unit in the metro area. Two must be county representatives and three must be from non-county local government units as follows:
  - 1 - Anoka County
  - 1 - Carver County
  - 1 - Dakota County
  - 1 - Ramsey County
  - 1 - Scott County

RECENT WORK

2025 approval of the updated Metro Area Water Supply Plan and a portion of the 2050 Water Policy Plan:

- Drafting updated content for the Metro Area Water Supply Plan
- Supporting a subregional approach to engagement and content development for the updated Metro Area Water Supply Plan

The draft February 2027 MAWSAC report that will be submitted to the Met Council and Minnesota Legislature on water supply planning:

- Bringing MAWSAC perspectives into state level water policy and funding conversations
- Bringing MAWSAC perspectives into regional policy and planning conversations
- Working with subregional groups to scope future projects and available funding (through Met Council appropriation from the Clean Water Fund)

Informing and promoting Metropolitan Council water supply planning-related projects:

- Regional Water Demand Projections
- Multi-Community Wellhead Protection Planning Pilot in the West Metro
- Continuation of Industrial Water Conservation with the Minnesota Technical Assistance and Intern Program
- Continuation of Partnership with University of Minnesota Turfgrass Science Program
- Continuation of the Water Efficiency Grant Program
- "Three Plans" Coordination by the Met Council, Department of Natural Resources, and Minnesota Department of Health
- Input to the State Drinking Water Action Plan
- Input to technical assistance for local controls to promote water efficiency
- Water values research
- Classifying areas for recharge protection and enhancement activities in the metro region

MEETING INFORMATION

Frequency: Approximately four meetings per year, typically on Thursday afternoons from 12:30–3:30pm.

Location: Metropolitan Council Regional Maintenance Facility (3565 Kennebec Dr., Eagan, MN 55122)

Approximate time commitment annually: A minimum of 12 hours per year of meeting time and additional outside work to review materials and prepare for meetings.

EXPERIENCE

Looking for MAWSAC committee members with the following experiences and interests:

- Interest in water supply planning and policy
- Education or experience with local water supply systems and surface water or groundwater resources
- Commitment to conservation, interjurisdictional cooperation, long-term sustainability, and regional equity goals
- Willingness to prepare for meetings by reading materials provided, attending in-person MAWSAC meetings, and providing development, review, and guidance for the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Plan and its implementation.

BENEFITS

Serving on the committee is a volunteer role without compensation. Members are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, including transit fare or local parking for meetings.

WHAT WE DO AT THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

The Council provides the following services for the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region:

- **Plans for Future Growth of the Region:** As the Metropolitan Planning Organization the Council plans for future growth and makes strategic, efficient public investments to support the region's high quality of life and economic competitiveness.
- **Operates Metro Transit**: Every day, Metro Transit serves bus and rail passengers with award winning, energy-efficient fleets (nearly 85 million in 2014 or nearly 90% of all regional transit rides). These strategic investments support a growing network of bus and rail transitways, and transit-oriented development.
- **Collects and Treats Wastewater**: This region collects and treats wastewater at rates 40% lower than peer regions, while winning national awards for excellence.
- **Protects and Monitors Clean Water**: The Council works to ensure adequate clean water for the future through water supply planning and lake and river monitoring programs.
- **Develops Regional Parks and Trails**: The Council plans and develops a world-class regional parks and trails system made up of more than 60 parks, park reserves, special recreation features, and more than 415 miles of interconnected trails.
- **Provides Affordable Housing:** The Council creates and supports affordable housing opportunities throughout the region by providing affordable housing for 6,500 families in 100 communities through the Metro Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and establishing regional housing policies and planning.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit an online application to join the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) via the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State's website: (https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/Agency/Details/282).

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the committee or the application process, please contact the following Metropolitan Council staff:

- Judy Sventek, Water Resources Manager: 651-602-1156, judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us
- Hannah Pallmeyer, Government Affairs Liaison: 651-602-1364, hannah.pallmeyer@metc.state.mn.us

OTHER RESOURCES

Committee materials and more information are available on the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee webpage on the Metropolitan Council website. There you may find the Committee's meeting minutes, agendas, and member roster.