

Minutes

White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group



Meeting Date: October 21, 2025 **Time:** 12:30 PM – 3:30 **Location:** Stillwater Public Library
244 3rd St. N, Stillwater, MN

Members Present:

- ✓ Bryan Bear, City of Hugo
- ✓ Clark Schroeder, City of Lake Elmo
- ✓ Mike Grochala, City of Lino Lakes
- ✓ Bob Goebel, City of Mahtomedi
- ✓ Shawn Sanders, City of Stillwater
- ✓ Paul Kauppi, City of White Bear Lake
- ✓ Jim Hauth, City of Vadnais Heights
- ✓ Mary Van Milligen, City of Woodbury
- ✓ Liz Kaufenberg, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- ✓ Will Menkhaus, Saint Paul Regional Water Services
- ✓ Jason Moeckel, Department of Natural Resources
- ✓ Greg Johnson, Metropolitan Council
- ✓ Judy Sventek, Metropolitan Council
- ✓ Sam Paske, Metropolitan Council
- ✓ John Chelbeck, Met Council

Alternate Members Present:

- ✓ John Oswald, Department of Health
- ✓ Brian Bachmeier, City of Oakdale

Call to Order

Judy Sventek called the meeting of the White Bear Lake Comprehensive Plan Work Group to order at 12:30 p.m.

Agenda Approved

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

Information Items and Committee Work

1. Welcome and introductions

Ashley Thompson from Zan Associates welcomed the group. New attendees introduced themselves.

2. Wastewater reuse for aquifer injection or direct lake augmentation update – Study 6 (Chris Larson, SEH)

Chris Larson from SEH presented updates on the method of reusing wastewater and injecting it into the aquifer or directly augmenting White Bear Lake. The study initially looked at augmenting the lake with current wastewater volumes compared to future water use scenarios. An updated analysis was done to compare augmentation to existing water use scenarios. The work group did not have any questions on the presentation.

3. Additional modeling scenarios for augmentation (Glen Champion, DNR)

The work group asked questions about how the augmentation process would work under

different scenarios, how augmentation needs might change over time, and how effective augmentation would be if used as the sole method. They also discussed other potential uses for treated wastewater if it wasn't needed for augmentation, since the systems must operate regularly to remain effective, as well as the possibility of raising the lake's outlet elevation. After discussion, the group agreed it would be valuable to model a hybrid approach that uses direct augmentation during the summer months and aquifer injection during the winter months.

4. Model and evaluate raising outlet elevation of White Bear Lake update – Study 9B (Mat Cox, Kimley-Horn)

Mat Cox from Kimley-Horn presented a model that evaluated impacts to raising the outlet elevation of White Bear Lake. He went over different modeling results, impacts to infrastructure and properties on the lake, and cost impact. The work group discussed if there were impacts to Bald Eagle Lake, how residents on the lake would feel about property impacts if water level increased, and how it would need to be paired with another method such as augmentation. The work group is interested in seeing this method continue to be studied as well as reviewing a secondary outlet option.

5. Water reuse for irrigation and process water update – Study 11 (Uma Vempati, Kimley-Horn)

Uma Vempati from Kimley-Horn presented on reusing water for irrigation or process water in White Bear Lake and Vadnais Heights. He provided an update on which tasks they have completed so far and which were in progress. Uma provided an overview on a survey they sent to businesses about water usage, projected water demand, and different water use in the area. The work group discussed different types of water users and how that impacts water consumption, impacts to Vadnais Lake, and potable vs. non-potable water.

6. White Bear Lake area groundwater flow pathline analysis for PFAS – Study 14A (John Oswald, MDH)

John Oswald from the Minnesota Department of Health presented on groundwater flow pathlines analysis for PFAS. He went over how PFAS would travel over 50 years in different communities in the northeast metro. He concluded that most areas induce minor changes to the direction of flow and areas near altered, added, or removed wells show the greatest impact. The work group did not have any questions.

7. Current and upcoming studies

Greg Johnson from Met Council provided an update on current studies including the following studies:

Study 1 Amendment - Redirect stormwater to Augment White Bear Lake

- Study 5 - Reuse water discharged from contaminated wells – MPCA Project 1007
- Study 6 - Treat wastewater from local Met Council interceptors and inject the treated wastewater into the aquifer to raise groundwater elevations
- Study 7A – Water quality study as it relates to lake augmentation study (Study No. 7B)
- Study 9B – Model and evaluate raising White Bear Lake outlet elevation
- Study 11 - Implement/require/encourage non- or less-potable water reuse or potable water for irrigation and process water
- Study 14A - White Bear Lake Area Groundwater Flow Pathline Analysis for PFAS
- Financial Analyses Study – Initial data being evaluated

He also went over upcoming studies including:

- Study 2 - Convey treated surface water from St. Paul Regional Water Services, a regional surface water treatment, or both to north and east communities
- Study 4 – Stormwater reuse for irrigation
- Study 7B – Lake augmentation infrastructure as it relates to water quality study (Study 7A)



- Study 10 – Lawn watering restrictions (day of week and time)
- Study 12 – Tiered increasing block water utility rates
- Study 13 – Potential water savings from alternative low input turf grasses
- Study 15 - Construct two additional wells in Shoreview and expand the city’s existing water treatment plant capacity to serve drinking water for North Oaks
- Financial Analyses Study – Next phase for financing and model options

Greg also went over the project schedule and where each study was in comparison.

8. Project Expenditures, questions, and next steps

Judy Sventek from Met Council provided an update on how much of the budget has been allocated for current studies so far.

Next Steps

1. Next meeting: January 15, 2026, from 12:30-3:30 pm, Shoreview Community Center, 4580 Victoria St N., Shoreview, MN.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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