City Council Item

March 10, 2025

Item	Resolution 2025-XX: West Metro Multi-Community Wellhead Protection Plan	
File No.	PW379C	**Item No:** H.1
Agenda Section	**GENERAL BUSINESS**	
Prepared By	Charlie Howley, Director of Public Works/City Engineer	
Reviewed By	Laurie Hokkanen	

SUGGESTED ACTION

"The Chanhassen City Council adopts a resolution approving Part I of the West Metro Multi-Community Wellhead Protection Plan and agrees to continue to participate in the development and implementation of Part II of the Plan."

Motion Type	Simple Majority Vote of members present
Strategic Priority	Asset Management

SUMMARY

The state of Minnesota's Wellhead Protection Program, administered by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), requires all public water suppliers to develop local wellhead protection programs to protect groundwater sources of drinking water.

The City of Chanhassen (City) currently has a Wellhead Protection Plan approved by MDH in place, but these plans need to be updated at least every 10 years, sometimes sooner with major changes to the water supply system per the Wellhead Protection Rule (Minnesota Rules parts 4720.5100 to 4720.5590).

The City is currently updating their Wellhead Protection Plan, but this time in conjunction with seven other communities in the West Metro that utilize the same water supply aquifer. Participating communities include Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Richfield, and Saint Louis Park. This is part of a pilot project with MDH and the Metropolitan Council to evaluate

alternative drinking water planning approaches to the current "city-by-city" approach. The pilot project offers the opportunity to explore multiple benefits that a multi-community Wellhead Protection Plan may provide. The West Metro was selected for this pilot project due to the interest of local public water suppliers and the presence of many overlapping drinking water supply management areas (DWSMAs) that extend into multiple jurisdictions.

BACKGROUND

The vision for this pilot project is to develop a coordinated and collaborative approach to protect and safeguard sub-regional drinking water sources that reduces barriers and improves local drinking water protection implementation in overlapping DWSMAs or where DWSMAs extend into a neighboring city.

DISCUSSION

Part I of the Wellhead Protection Plan includes the delineation of a wellhead protection area and DWSMA, along with vulnerability assessments for the water supply wells and water supply aquifer. Please see the attached summary of the Part I plan for further information on the delineations and assessments.

This Part I plan has been approved by MDH, as it has been determined to be in compliance with the Wellhead Protection Rule. The Part I plan was completed at no cost to the City by Barr Engineering under contract with the Metropolitan Council, who received a Clean Water Fund appropriation specifically for this work.

The Wellhead Protection Plan will now continue into Part II of the plan, which includes determining goals, objectives, and management strategies for potential sources of contamination with the DWSMA. This Part II plan will also be a multi-community plan with the same communities that participated in the Part I, with specific management strategies for the City to complete within their jurisdiction.

An outline of the elements included in a Part II Wellhead Protection Plan is as follows:

- Executive Summary
- Relevant data and assessment, including inventory of potential contamination sources
- Impact of upcoming changes on the public water supply wells and aquifer
- Issues, problems, and opportunities
- Wellhead protection goals
- Objectives and plan of action
- Evaluation program
- Alternative water supply; contingency strategy

The Part II plan will be written by MDH and Minnesota Rural Water Association staff, with assistance from the Metropolitan Council, so there will be no funding needed from the participating communities to complete this plan. The City may choose to invite their own consultant to various meetings at their own expense, but this is not a requirement or expectation. Due to the pilot nature of this project, there is not a hard deadline for the Part II to be completed, but it is estimated to be approved by MDH in Winter-Spring 2026.

In order to ensure all governing bodies are on the same page, MDH is asking each participating community to approve the Part I plan and agree to continue the Wellhead Protection Plan process by completing and implementing a multi-community Part II plan. This action is required to be public

facing. Staff will give a presentation to the City Council as part of the agenda item.

BUDGET

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of Part I of the WHPP and moving forward with Part II of the Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution_25-XX_Approve Part 1 WHPP
Multi-Community_WHP_Intro_Vision_Document
WHPP Part I Summary
Signed WHPP
Chanhassen DWSMA Map
Presentation