

Memorandum

TO: City Council Workshop
FROM: Tom Wesolowski , Public Works Director
DATE: July 21, 2025
SUBJECT: NE Metro water supply planning update
ITEM NUMBER: 1.d
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Met Council's metro area water supply plan update, seven subregional areas were established and workshops held to provide engagement for the update. The northeast subregion has 27 communities including the City of Shoreview.

DISCUSSION

In 2005, the Minnesota Legislature passed a measure that directs the Met Council to carry out planning activities addressing the water supply of the Twin Cities metro region. To assist the Met Council in its planning activities, the legislature established the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC). MAWSAC, advised by the Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and input from subregional engagement, played a lead roll in developing the metro area water supply plan. The MAWSAC is responsible for appointing the 15-member TAC which provides scientific and engineering expertise to inform MAWSAC's work. The majority of members must represent single-city and multicity public water supply systems in the metropolitan area. Shoreview's Public Works Director, Tom Wesolowski was appointed to the TAC in 2024 and Shoreview's previous public works director, Mark Maloney, served on the TAC from 2016 to 2023.

From fall 2023 through the winter of 2024, three workshops for the NE subregion were hosted by the Met Council to provide engagement on the following topics:

- Integrate water supply, watershed and land use planning perspectives
- Build a shared vision for water supply in the subregion
- Prioritize issues and opportunities
- Develop an action plan to guide implementation
- Enhance relationships within the subregion and with the Met Council

Representatives from the communities including public works, engineering and community development staff, nonprofits, and large volume users as well as agency representatives from the MN Department of Health, Department of Natural Resources, watersheds and more participated in the workshops. Based on the discussions and input from the workshops water supply planning for the NE would be successful if the following outcomes are produced in the long term:

- Water supply is clean, affordable and sustainable for humans and ecosystems
- There is regional sustainability and coordination with local control
- Growth and resource protection are balanced
- Source water is protected

The following conditions were determined to be needed to successfully achieve those goals:

- Increased culture of stewardship
- Increased trust of water and the water system
- A streamlined and improved policy framework
- Increased state and regional support for planning and plan implementation
- Decisions are scientific and financially sound
- Current and emerging contaminants are understood and addressed

Based on the goals listed above an action plan was created for the NE subregion with specific action steps identified to focus on work needed over the next 10-years with some actions expected to be ongoing over the next 25-year or more. The 2050 Water Policy Plan for the metro area is attached for review and includes the subregional actions plans that were developed.

Tom Wesolowski represented the City of Shoreview at the workshops for the NE subregion and also served as one of the core team members working with Met Council staff to tailor the engagements to the subregion, determine meeting schedules and provide input on topics, agendas and other items as required. As the process moves from planning to implementation in late 2025, Tom will continue to represent the city at future workshops and also continue to serve as a core team member in the next phase.

RECOMMENDATION

Review information as presented by staff.

ATTACHMENTS

[2050 Water Policy Plan](#)