



# Metro Area Water Supply Planning



Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy | November 14, 2023 | Judy Sventek

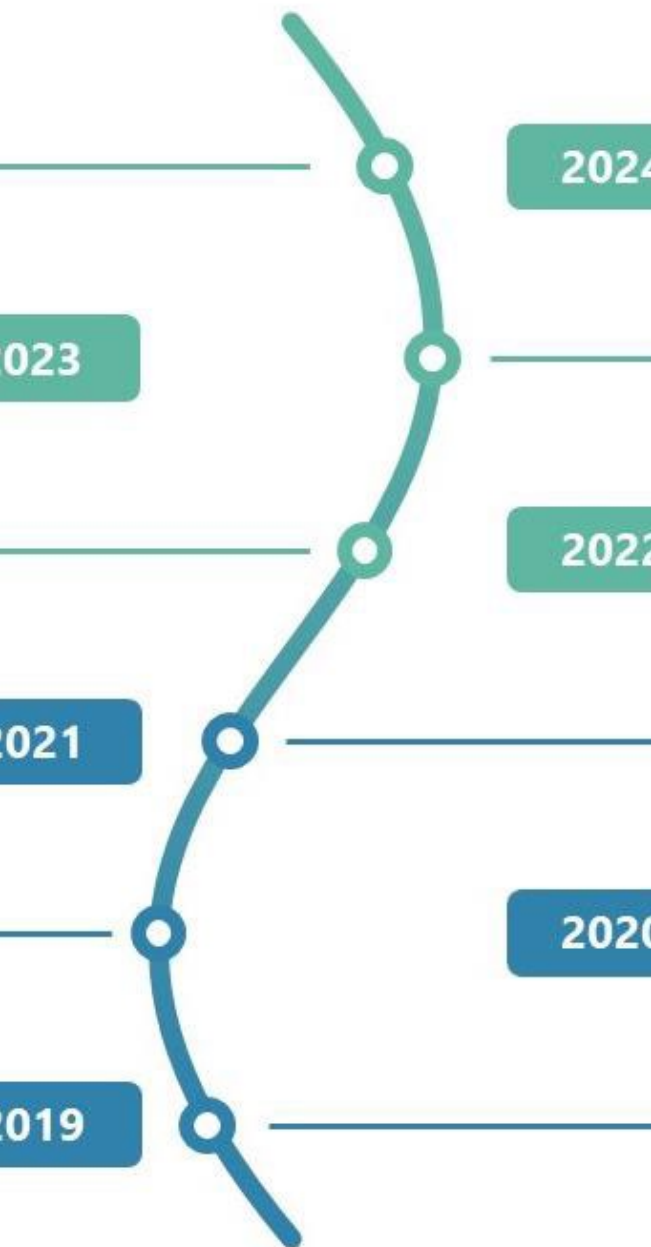
# Goals for today



## Topics

- Council's role in water supply planning
- Water supply planning framework and schedule
- Water supply concerns
- Stakeholder engagement
- White Bear Lake – Water sustainability project update

# Key milestones in the history of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan



2005: MN Statute 473.1565

2006-2008: Local comprehensive plans submitted (with local water supply plans)

2006-2010: Stakeholder engagement to develop the first MWSP

**2010: MAWSAC approves, Council adopts, and DNR approves 1<sup>st</sup> MWSP**

2014: Thrive MSP 2040 adopted by Council (May 28)

2015: 2040 WRPP adopted by Council (May 20)

2015: Community Water Supply Technical Workgroup formed to guide MWSP

**2015: MAWSAC approves and Council adopts [2<sup>nd</sup> MWSP](#) (Sep 16)**

2015: System statements send to communities

2016-2018: Local comprehensive plans submitted (with local water supply plans)

2017: [MAWSAC report to Council and legislatures on water supply recommendations](#)

2018: 2040 WRPP amended to strengthen reuse policy

2020: [Council report to Legislature about water supply planning work](#)

2022: [MAWSAC report to Council about water supply recommendations](#)

# Statutory requirements for metro area water supply planning



## Minnesota Statute 473.1565

The Metropolitan Council must carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the metropolitan area

- A. Provide technical information
- B. Make recommendations about roles, streamlining, and funding
- C. Develop a metropolitan area water supply plan that:
  - Provides guidance for local water supply systems and future regional investments
  - Emphasizes conservation, interjurisdictional cooperation, and long-term sustainability
  - Addresses the reliability, security, and cost-effectiveness of the metropolitan area water supply and its local and subregional components

The plan must be prepared in cooperation with and subject to the approval of MAWSAC. TAC will inform MAWSAC.

The Council must consider the work and recommendations of MAWSAC when it prepares its regional development framework.

# Guided by the diverse perspectives of MAWSAC and TAC members

## MAWSAC membership

- **Metro Council Member, Committee Chair**
- **Appointments from State Departments of:**
  - **Agriculture**
  - **Health**
  - **Natural Resources**
  - **Pollution Control Agency**
- **Appointment from:**
  - **Minneapolis Water Department**
  - **St. Paul Regional Water Services**
- **Governor Appointed Members:**
  - **Representatives from 2 metro counties and cities for the other 5 metro counties**
  - **Representatives from Wright, Sherburn, Isanti and Chisago Counties**

## TAC members

### 15 Members appointed by MAWSAC

- **Majority of members represent single-city and multi-city public water supply systems**
- **Experts in water resources analysis and modeling**
- **Hydrology**
- **Engineering, planning, design, and construction of water systems or water systems finance**

# Regional Planning Cycle



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
WATER SUPPLY PLANNING IN THE METRO AREA

METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY, 2022

# Metro area water planning framework



# MAWSAC goals for water supply

1. **Water Supply Infrastructure:** Communities can act quickly, thoughtfully, and equitably to address aging infrastructure, contamination, changing groundwater conditions, changing water demand, and financial challenges.
  2. **Water Quality:** Communities have the resources they need to provide a safe water supply. A shared process is developed that allows communities, water utilities, and regulators to respond in a more coordinated and effective way to both contaminants of emerging concern and existing contamination.
  3. **Land use and Water Supply Connections:** Public water suppliers, land use planners, and developers have tools a, funding and authority to work together – supported by aligned agency directions - to guide and support development in ways that balance communities' economic needs while protecting the quantity and quality of source waters that are vital to the region's communities.
  4. **Understand and Manage Groundwater and Surface Water Interactions:** Water resource managers, community planners, and leaders understand how groundwater and surface water interact and how those interactions impact water supply sustainability.
  5. **Sustainable Water Quantity\*:** Communities and water agencies understand the sustainable limits of groundwater and surface water sources. Agency directions are aligned and support local plans to supply demand that exceeds sustainable withdrawal rates using the most feasible combination of alternative groundwater or surface water sources, conservation, reclaimed wastewater and stormwater reuse.
- *\*Added after 2022 report to Met Council, Legislature.*



# Challenges to achieving regional goals

## DIFFERENCES BY SUBREGION

"THE WATER RESOURCES ARE THE DIFFERENCE - LEADS TO LOCAL NEEDS/PRIORITIES"

SUBREG. APPROACH + CONVENING TO GETHER STRONG, SUPPORTABLE

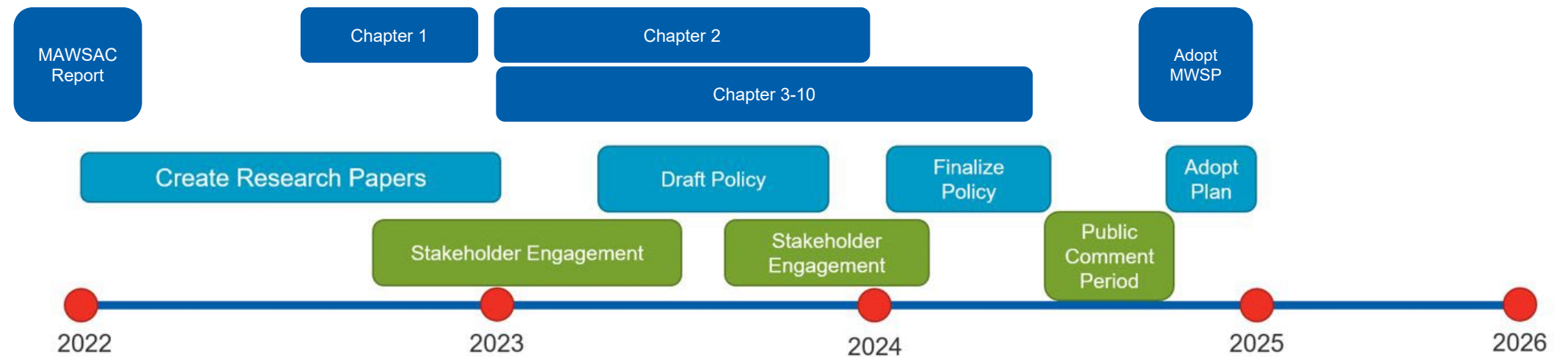
## Stakeholders' shared concerns

- Money
- Conservation
- Growth
- Climate
- Contamination
- Work force

# Consider the following

- Funding is needed for public water suppliers' and partners' emergency responses.
- Communities across the region need and are seeking funding for proactive infrastructure upgrades and expansion.
- Coordination across political boundaries is critical, because water moves freely between communities and one community's water supply decisions will impact others.
- Proposals have the most impact when they can advance multiple goals at once, recognizing the nexus between water quality, land use, groundwater-surface water interaction, and water supply infrastructure.
- Look for opportunities to remove regulatory barriers to help advance our goals for the region.
- Request information from water utilities and resource managers to craft the most effective legislation.

# Overall Metro Area Water Supply Plan process timeline



## Upcoming committee work:

- Supporting subregional engagement to shape Metro Area Water Supply Plan content
- Committee input to water policy development and projects
- Development and approval of Metro Area Water Supply Plan

# White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Project



## Purpose

Develop a comprehensive plan to ensure communities in the White Bear Lake area have access to sufficient drinking water to allow for municipal growth while simultaneously ensuring the sustainability of surface and groundwater resources to supply the needs of future generations.

## Work Group Membership:

- Commissioners or designees from DNR, MDH, and MPCA
- Representatives from Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee and St. Paul Regional Water Services
- Communities of Stillwater, Mahtomedi, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Lino Lakes, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights, Shoreview, Woodbury, New Brighton, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, and North Oaks

# White Bear Lake Project Preliminary Schedule

Milestone	Date
One-on-one meetings with each of the group members	Completed
Award up to two consultant contracts for communications support	Nov.-Dec. 2023
Work Group kickoff meeting	Jan. 2024
Monthly Work Group meetings: introductions, initial scope development, and drafting consultant RFPs for technical and financial work	Feb.-March 2024
Award consultant contracts for technical and financial analysis work	June 2024
Quarterly Work Group meetings: plan development	July 2024 – Dec. 2026
Submit final Metropolitan Council adopted plan to the House of Representatives, Senate committees, and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources finance and policy	June 30, 2027

# Learn more about Council water supply work

**Summary of the Council's work since 2005, guided by MAWSAC and TAC:**

<https://metrocouncil.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Water-Supply-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

## WATER SUPPLY PLANNING IN THE TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA (2005-2020)

*Metropolitan Council report on findings, recommendations and continuing planning activities completed under Minnesota Statutes 473.1565*



September 2020



Thank You

**Judy Sventek**

Manager, Water Resources

