

MINUTES

Metro Chapter Minnesota Watersheds Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 7:00 PM Via Zoom

Metro Watersheds Board Member Attendees:	Staff and Guest Attendees:
Sherry White, Minnehaha Creek WD	Linda Loomis, Lower Minnesota River WD
Mary Texer, Capitol Region WD	Laura Jester, Bassett Creek WMO
Jill Crafton, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD	Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds
Jackie Anderson, Comfort Lake–Forest Lake WD	Brandon Barnes, Barr Engineering, Inc.
Rick Sanders, Capitol Region WD	Paige Ahlborg, Ramsey Washington Metro WD
Grace Butler, Nine Mile Creek WD	Anna Eleria, Capitol Region WD
Mike Bradley, Rice Creek WD	Joni Giese, Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD
Joe Collins, Capitol Region WD	Justin Hanson, Board of Water & Soil Resources
Bill Olson, Minnehaha Creek WD	Miranda Nicols, MN Pollution Control Agency
Joan Hauer, Bassett Creek WMO	Judy Sventek, Met Council Environmental Services
Shawn Mazanec, Capitol Region WD	Marcey Westrick, Board of Water & Soil Resources
Matt Tofanelli, Prior Lake Spring Lake WD	John Bilotta, MN Stormwater Research Council
Ben Burnett, Prior Lake Spring Lake WD	Isabelle Bassett, Capitol Region WD

I. Call to Order

Chair White called the online meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. via Zoom.

A. Attendance, Introductions & Approval of the Agenda

Attendees introduced themselves.

MOTION: Mary Texer moved to approve the agenda. Jackie Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Action Items

A. Approve April 18, 2023 Meeting Notes

MOTION: Mary Texer moved to approve the notes from the April 18, 2023 meeting. Rick Sanders seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Jester volunteered to take meeting minutes. It was recommended that a template for taking meeting minutes be developed for future volunteers.

III. Special Reports and Presentations

Brandon Barnes with Barr Engineering and Paige Ahlborg with Ramsey Washington WD gave a presentation on flood risk reduction planning at the Ramsey Washington WD.

Process involved:

- Identifying flood prone areas through hydrologic modeling
- Setting priorities (habitable areas were assigned highest priority)
- Distinguishing “district” vs. “local” at-risk areas

Performed resiliency study with real-time control of outlet structures with the goal of reducing flooding

Created GIS webmap that’s open to the public for real time edits and comments. This helped communicate type and scale of the project.

Brandon and Paige provided an overview of projects implemented to date and noted funding comes from county and city partners, WD levy, and grants.

They continue to refine the operation and maintenance tasks and are looking at future projects. They will give a presentation at this year’s Water Resources Conference.

IV. Agency and Association Updates

A. Minnesota Watersheds Update, Jan Voit

- Reminder of the Strategic Plan newsletter
- Reported on a successful Summer Tour and Education Session in Albert Lea with about 120 people in attendance. (Managers complimented MN Watersheds on a great tour.)
- Reported on statewide survey of watershed organizations – results are being compiled and summarized; will be presented at the annual meeting/conference
- Reported that an education survey is currently out and the resolutions packet is coming later this summer
- MN Watersheds Handbook is complete and will be available online soon
- Annual conference will have a new format and a call for abstracts is going out in late July
- 2024 Summer Tour – planning already underway – hoping to find a volunteer host in the east Metro

B. BWSR Update – Justin Hanson

- MN Legislature provided significant fund to BWSR to address climate risk and build resiliency
- BWSR is on track to approve the next round of Watershed Based Implementation Funding allocations with a slight increase expected for Metro jurisdictions
- BWSR Board tour is scheduled for August 23 and 24 in the Metro area

There was discussion about how One Watershed One Plan partnerships would be funded if the Clean Water Act funding isn't renewed before it sunsets. Justin noted that many different agencies are working hard to demonstrate the success of the funding.

Question on whether the locations of Lawns to Legumes projects are available to the public so people can view them. Justin will follow up on that and provide mapping resources that are available.

Later in the meeting, Justin noted that climate resiliency funding being used for flood mitigation projects, the Lawns to Legumes Program, peatland projects, and working land easements where there are climate benefits.

C. MPCA Updates – Miranda Nicols

- This is a new role for Miranda as supervisor of project managers in the Metro area
- A new watershed approach prioritizes TMDLs differently: according to local desires and priorities
- MPCA has funding assistance available for planning: contact your local project manager
- A new construction stormwater permit is coming out soon

There was a question about shoreline standards. MPCA and DNR are looking more closely at lakes impaired for the fish community to better understand if shoreline alterations are a stressor

D. DNR Updates – No report

E. MDH Updates – No report

F. MNDOT Updates – No report

G. Met Council Updates, Judy Sventek

- Provided an update on the Water Resources Policy Plan which sets the stage for economic growth of the region and the development of local plans. There are research papers being developed for 7 different issues. Judy described the planning process including using local advisory group with partners from cities, watersheds, and other communities.
- MCES is working with EPA to secure funding for climate resiliency for local planning.

There was a discussion about PFAS testing. It was acknowledged that it's very expensive so it has not yet been added to surface water monitoring.

H. Clean Water Council Update – No report

I. Local Government Water Roundtable Update - Sherry White indicated there was nothing to report

J. Minnesota Stormwater Research Council, John Bilotta

- Annual meeting and tour later in the week, still space available; will view 8 different projects
- Briefly reviewed the annual report
- Noted the importance of technology transfer
- Looking for new partners and advisory board members

- John will send links to the documents noted above

K. MAWA (Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators) Update – Brief report

V. Updates from Watersheds

No updates or reports from watersheds in attendance.

VI. Future meetings

A. Next Metro Watersheds Meeting – October 17, 2023 at Capitol Region

VII. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:23



Water Policy Research Project



Metro Watersheds: 17 October 2023

Jen Kostrzewski

Regional Values, Vision, and Goals

Values

Values are core beliefs or principals that guide the work of the Council, our expectations of partnerships, and our policy and program development.

Vision

Our vision is what we want to achieve for the region through our policies, practices, programs, and partnerships.

Goals

Our goals broadly describe the desired outcomes that we want to achieve for the region.

Cross-Cutting Goals

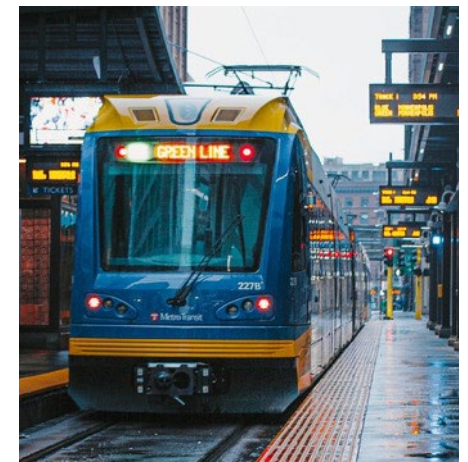
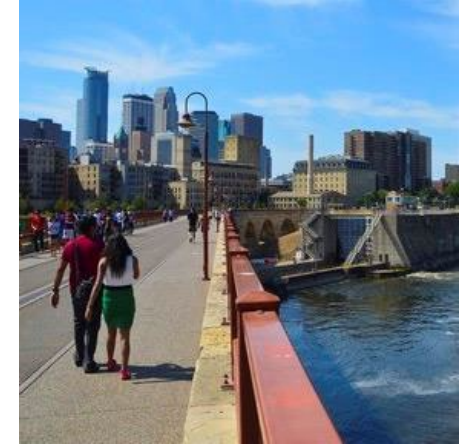
Goals that require special collaboration across policy and work areas.



Water Policy Plan (WPP)

Plan Purpose

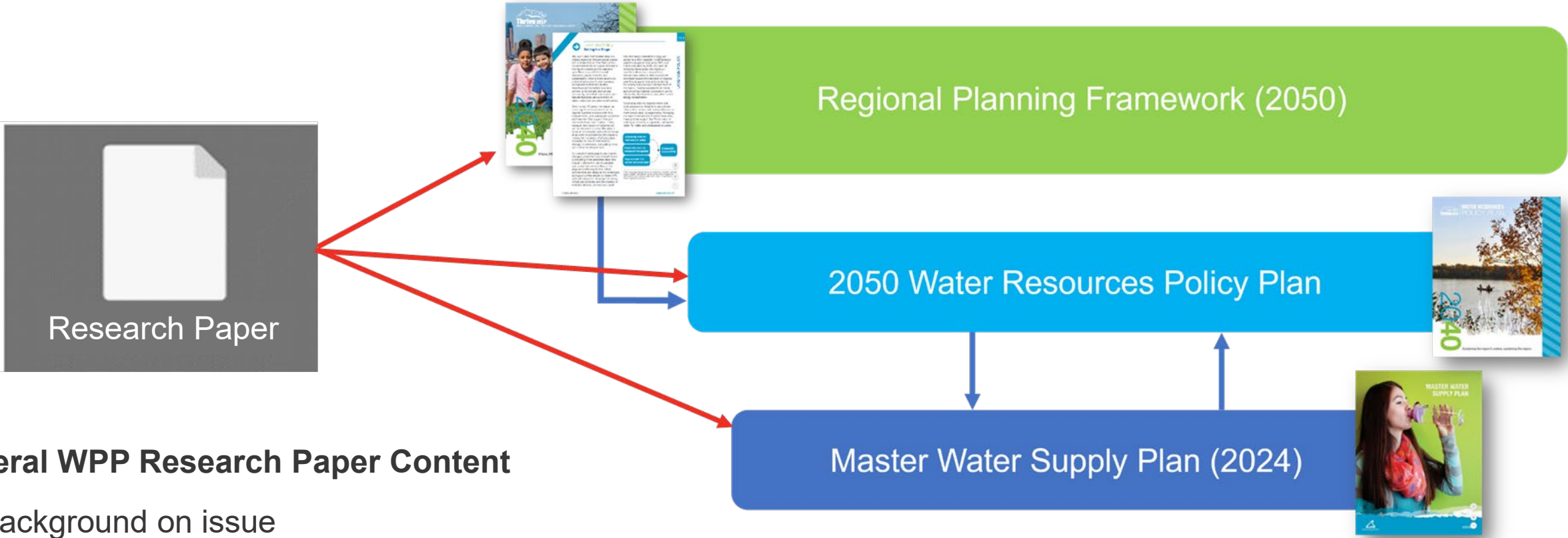
- Met Council is developing the 2050 Water Policy Plan, which **focuses on ensuring sustainable water resources in the region**. It is a part of and informed by the Regional Development Guide.
- The WPP provides a **framework for integrative water planning** (wastewater, water supply, and water resources) the Metro Area Water Supply Plan, and the Wastewater System Plan.
- It contains water **policies, strategies, and actions** for both the Met Council and our 180+ local governments within the seven-county region.
- WPP policies **will commit the Council** to take action in the areas of long-range visioning and planning, regional system investments, facility management, technical assistance, research and assessment, and partnerships.



Regional 10-Year Planning Cycle



Definition & Use



General WPP Research Paper Content

- 1. Background on issue
- 2. Council's role
- 3. Connections with current policy
- 4. Policy Recommendations

Water Quality

- Watershed Approach
- Highlighted Contaminants:
 - Chloride
 - Nutrients
 - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Manganese, Trichloroethylene (TCE), Dioxane
- Climate Change
- Future Challenges



Water + Climate

- Identify Regional Climate Risk
- Highlight impacts on ES (planning and operations) and local governments
- Focus on Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies



Wastewater Issues

- Vector Waste Disposal
- Liquid Waste Receiving
- Aging Infrastructure
- Existing Community Wastewater (WW) Systems
- Regional System Expansion
- Public & Private Inflow & Infiltration (I/I)
- Future Challenges



Water Reuse

- Impact of Reuse on Water Supplies
- Stormwater Reuse
- Wastewater Reuse (ES facilities)
- Wastewater Reuse (External)



Source Water Protection & Vulnerable Areas

- Land Use & Water Protection
- Overlapping Jurisdictions
- Water Contamination
- Emergency Response



Rural Water Concerns

- Community Designations & Densities
- Community Challenges
 - Private Wells
 - Private Subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS)
 - Community Water Utilities
- Environmental Challenges
 - Wetland Protection
 - Water Storage & Drainage
 - Contamination
- Future Challenges



Your feedback is important!



If you would like learn more about this topic and other policy research, please access our website using this QR code. There you can read the executive summary, the full research paper, or provide your feedback.





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