

September 21, 2018

Mr. Jim Stark, Director
Legislative Water Commission
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Input to Legislative Water Commission recommendations on groundwater from the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC)

Dear Mr. Stark and Members of the Legislative Water Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC), to respond to your request for stakeholder input on Legislative Water Commission recommendations on groundwater.

We would like to thank you for your leadership on Minnesota's water challenges. We value the Legislative Water Commission as a vital resource to promote informed and effective water policy in Minnesota. Groundwater is an important component of the water issues we face.

As you know, water is fundamental to the prosperity and quality of life of our Twin Cities region. Approximately 75% of our water comes from groundwater. Every sector of our regional community relies on groundwater – our homes, commerce, manufacturing, construction, health care, recreation, and agriculture.

Since 2005, MAWSAC's eighteen members have studied the issues impacting metro water supplies. For the past three years, this work has been done with the added assistance of fifteen Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members.

MAWSAC Members

- Sandy Rummel, *Chair*
- Patty Acomb, *City of Minnetonka*
- Mark Daleiden, *Wright County*
- Georg Fischer, *Dakota County*
- Glen Gerads, *Minneapolis Water Works*
- Todd Gerhardt, *City of Chanhassen*
- Phil Klein, *City of Hugo*
- Dean Lotter, *City of New Brighton*
- Michael Robinson, *Chisago County*
- Steve Schneider, *St. Paul Regional Water Services*
- Jamie Schurbon, *Anoka County*
- Lisa Volbrecht, *St. Cloud Public Utilities*
- DNR, MDH, MDA, and MPCA also sit on this committee; members abstain from legislative recommendations.

TAC Members

- Mark Maloney, *Chair, City of Shoreview*
- Kristin Asher, *City of Richfield*
- Scott Anderson, *City of Bloomington*
- Dale Folen, *City of Minneapolis*
- Robert Ellis, *City of Eden Prairie*
- Bruce Westby, *City of Ramsey*
- John Dustman, *Summit Envirosolutions*
- G. H. Crystal Ng, *University of Minnesota*
- Lih-in Rezanian, *MDH*
- Matt Saam, *City of Apple Valley*
- James Stark, *USGS/LWC*
- Jamie Wallerstedt, *MPCA*
- Jim Westerman, *City of Woodbury*
- Ray Wuolo, *Barr Engineering Company*

Together, these 33 local governmental officials, utility directors, and water agency staff developed and approved a master water supply plan for the Twin Cities metro. This plan provides a framework for coordinated planning and action toward water supply sustainability.

The Twin Cities master water supply plan, approved by MAWSAC on September 16, 2015, identifies strategies related to these LWC groundwater recommendations:

- **Inter-jurisdictional water planning:** Support and encourage processes such as Metropolitan Council's regional planning and coordination process and the DNR's groundwater management process.
- **Support programs that identify and protect vulnerable aquifers that are important sources of water**
- **Data, information and analysis:** Maintain and enhance water information and monitoring programs.
- **Groundwater analysis and modeling:** Increase efforts to construct and apply groundwater models, like the Metro Model, to assess regional groundwater availability and sustainability. Incorporate groundwater modeling into watershed planning in areas of concern.
- **Groundwater recharge and re-use:** Explore managed recharge and protection areas where enhanced recharge makes hydrologic sense. Assess and allow water reuse where appropriate.
- **Groundwater/surface water interactions:** Develop programs to better integrate groundwater/surface water interactions into rule. Increase programs to collect information to understand interactions.
- **Importance of sustainable water:** Dedicate a portion of the Clean Water Fund for water sustainability efforts.

As you move forward, MAWSAC is interested in continuing to provide input on recommendations. We look forward to opportunities to contribute to this important work.

Please consider this input as your Legislative Water Commission finalizes its recommendations for the 2019 legislative session.

On behalf of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee, thank you for your ongoing support to protect the water that allows our region, and our state, to thrive.

Best regards,



Sandy Rummel, Chair
Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC)

cc. **Mark Maloney**, Chair
Technical Advisory Committee

Leisa Thompson, General Manager
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Patricia Nauman, Executive Director
Metro Cities