

APPENDIX

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History and Background of the MetCouncil

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Overview of Presentation



Creation of the MetCouncil

- Context: Spirit of Regional Cooperation
- Rosenmeier-Albertson Plan
- Ogdahl-Frenzel Plan

History of the MetCouncil

- Growth and Expansion
- Statutory Responsibilities

MetCouncil in Comparison

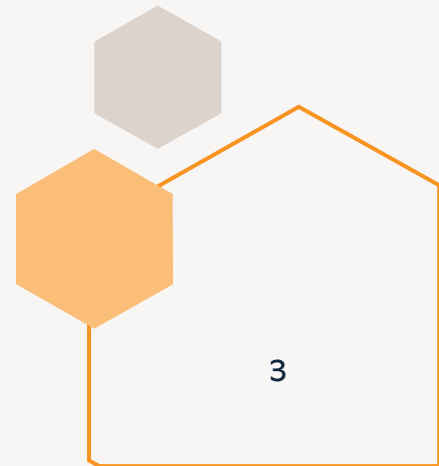
- Brief Comparison of Responsibilities

History of Reform Efforts

- Timeline of Efforts to Reform MetCouncil
- Former Reports & Recommendations

Context: Spirit of Regional Cooperation

- Increasing Formation of Regional Organizations:
 - Twin Cities Sanitary District (1933), Metropolitan Airports Commission (1943), Metropolitan Area Sports Commission (1956), Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Commission (1957), Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (1958)
- Growing concern about need for *regional solutions to regional problems*
 - Regional growth, development, and service provision challenges
 - Twin Cities Region: highly fragmented local government system, making planning and economic development more difficult
- Mid-Late 1960s:
 - House Metropolitan and Urban Affairs Committee held hearings on problems of urban growth to develop legislative proposal on metropolitan governance
 - Senate and House Committees on Metropolitan Affairs heard extensive testimony on question of regional government



1967 Proposals for a Metropolitan Council

Rosenmeier-Albertson Plan

- Planning & coordination only, no operating powers
- Members appointed by governor w/ advice and consent of Senate
- Staggered 6-year terms
- Council as an arm of the legislature, not an independent level of gov.
- Envisioned a Council with more passive role - limited powers and duties

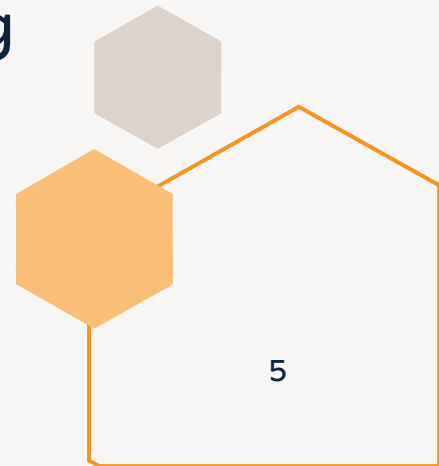
Ogdahl-Frenzel Plan

- Planning & coordination with operating dept. for each service/function
- Elected body of 15 members
- Candidates placed on nonpartisan ballot at general election
- Staggered 4-year terms
- Council members to appoint Chair and Executive Director
- Envisioned a Council with more active role - policymaking and service provision

1967 Minn. Laws Chap. 896

473B.01. Metropolitan council; purpose. In order to coordinate the planning and development of the metropolitan area comprising the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington, it is in the public interest to create an administrative agency for that purpose.

473B.06. Administration of metropolitan council. Subdivision 1. General powers. The metropolitan council shall have and exercise all powers which may be necessary or convenient to enable it to perform and carry out the duties and responsibilities now existing or which may hereafter be imposed upon it by law. Such powers include the specific powers enumerated in this section.



Growth and Expansion



1974: Metropolitan Reorganization Act

Conferred additional planning duties on MetCouncil



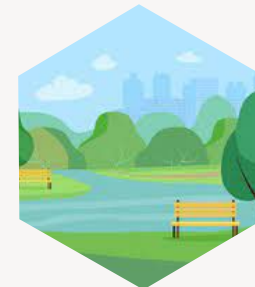
1974: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Designation

MetCouncil designated as region's MPO



1974: Metro HRA

MetCouncil to administer Section 8 subsidy



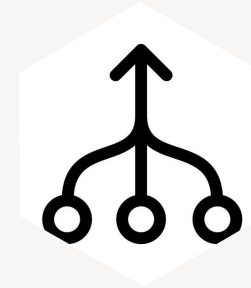
1974: Regional Parks Act

MetCouncil to plan, develop, and fund regional park and trail system



1976: Metropolitan Land Planning Act

MetCouncil to prepare long-range development plan



1994: Metropolitan Reorganization Act

MWCC, MTC, and RTB merged into MetCouncil – new operating powers

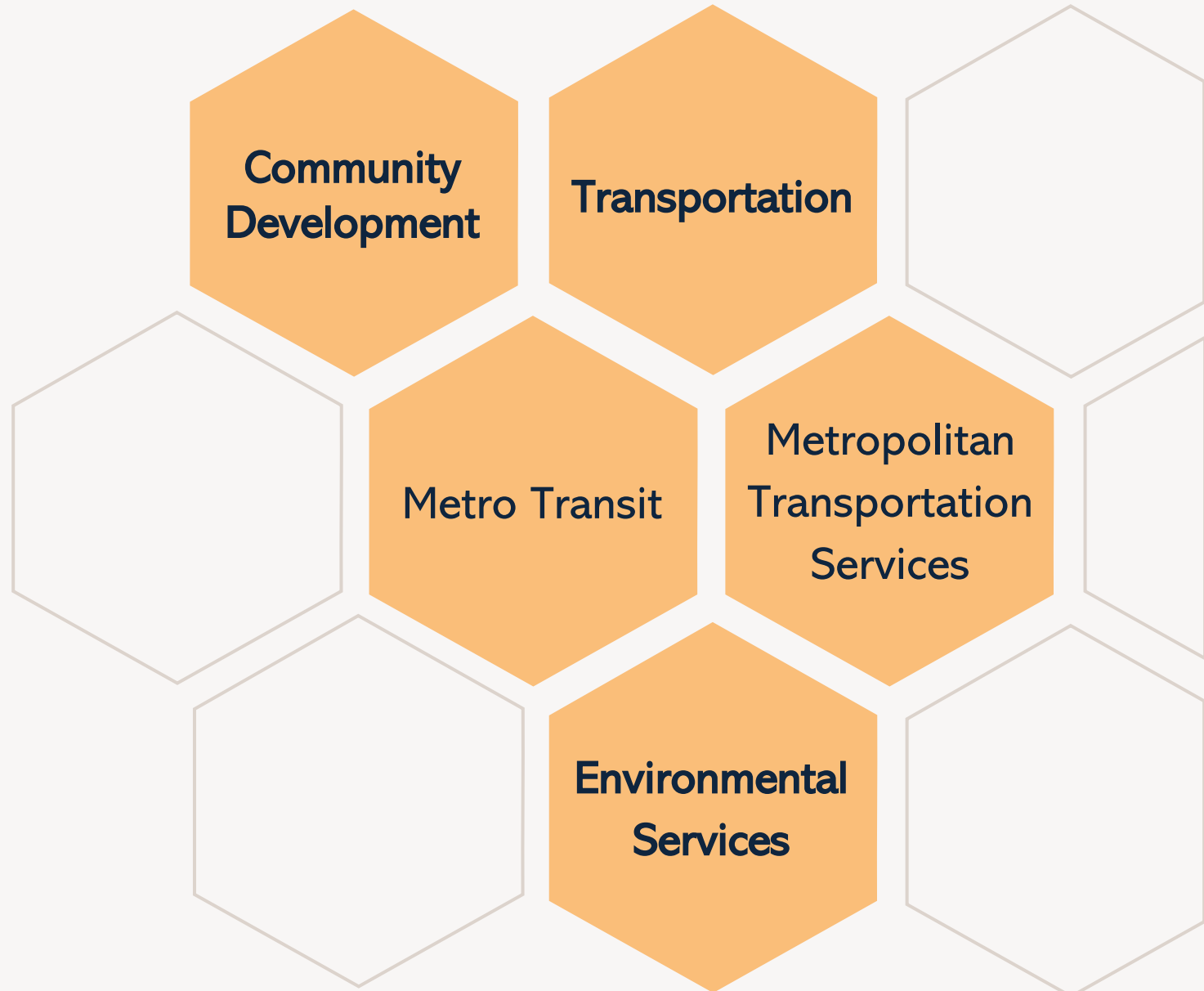


1995: Metropolitan Livable Communities Act

MetCouncil to administer grant funding to local govts



MetCouncil Divisions



Statutory Duties & Powers: Minn Stat. Chap. 473

CITATION	CONTENT
Minn. Stat. 473.145	Preparation & Maintenance of Development Guide
Minn. Stat. 473.146	Policy Plans for Metropolitan Agencies – Wastewater & Transportation; MPO Designation
Minn. Stat. 473.149	Solid Waste Comprehensive Planning
Minn. Stat. 473.1565	Planning on Regional Water Supply Issues
Minn. Stat. 473.157	Regional Parks Policy Plan
Minn. Stat. 473.175	Review of Local Comprehensive Plans
Minn. Stat. 473.195	Housing and Redevelopment Authority Powers
Minn. Stat. 473.249	Tax Levy
Minn. Stat. 473.25-473.255	Livable Communities Act
Minn. Stat. 473.371-473.452	Transit Powers & Duties – Buses, Light Rail, Transit Police, Transit Tax Levies
Minn. Stat. 473.501-473.549	Wastewater Services – Watershed Management, Sewer Service, Waste Facility Acquisition & Operation

Regional Governance Approaches

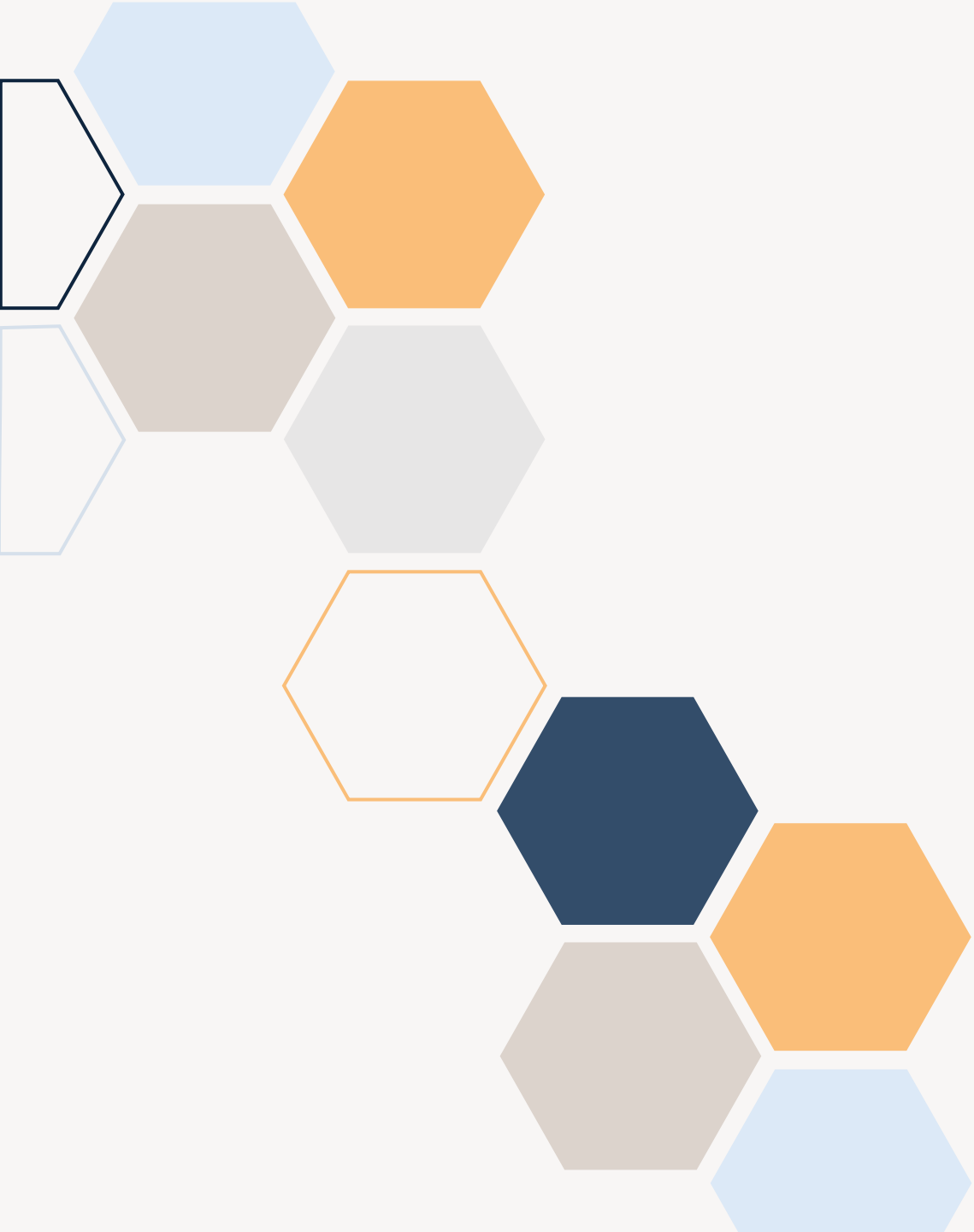
P = Policy O = Operating

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Region	Type	Representatives	Areas of Responsibility										Notes	Geography	Estimated Population (most recent available)	
			Transportation	Growth Management / Land Use	Housing	Wastewater	Transit	Parks	Solid Waste	Environment/Water Resources	Arts/Culture/Aging/Other					
Atlanta: Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)	COG/MPO, membership based	39-member board: county commission chair from each member county, mayor and 1 council member from Atlanta, one mayor from each member county and 2 mayors from Fulton county, one member from the GA Dept of Community Affairs, 15 citizen members selected by the board's elected officials	P	P									P/O	Also serves as the Area Agency on Aging, providing services and policy guidance. Provides technical assistance to local governments to help them in developing local comprehensive plans (which are not required). Also reviews "developments of regional impact" - large scale developments and other projects that are likely to impact neighboring jurisdictions to ensure that all affected communities have the opportunity to voice concerns and make suggestions.	10 member counties, City of Atlanta	~4.6 million
Boston: Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Regional Planning Agency (Boston Region MPO is the MPO for this region), created in state law	Board and Council - 101 municipal representatives on the Council, 21 gubernatorial appointees, 9 state officials, and 3 City of Boston officials.	P	P	P	P	P						P	Works to develop regional and sub-regional plans. Contracts or grants to local governments to develop comprehensive plans. Plays a large advocacy role. Also covers areas like Arts & Culture and Public Safety.	101 municipalities	~4.5 million
Chicago: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)	Regional planning agency (political subdivision) with an MOU with the MPO. Created by the IL legislature in 2004.	15 voting members distributed among the counties proportionately, appointed by the mayors and chief elected official of the county, 5 members appointed by the mayor of Chicago. 2 non-voting gubernatorial appointees. Exec. Director from the MPO.	P	P	P	P	P						P	Integrating land use and transportation planning, responsible for forecasting regional and community growth, develops model ordinances and agreements that may be enacted by local governments. May comment on local plans and may provide technical assistance. Coordinated regional advocacy.	7 counties, 284 communities	~8.8 million
Denver: Denver Region Council of Governments (DRCOG)	MPO & Regional Planning Association; voluntary non-profit organization	One elected representative from each member jurisdiction in the Council; 58 jurisdictional members, 3 gubernatorial non-voting appointees, and 1 non-voting member representing the Regional Transportation District (transit agency)	P	P			P						P	Develops and adopts TIP, but otherwise creates a regional framework with voluntary actions for local governments. Does not have statutory authority to require local governments to be members or to follow its plans. Had previously been the regional water quality planning agency, but was removed from that role in 2011.	More than 50 local governments covering 10 counties	~3 million
Portland: Metro	Regional Planning Agency & MPO, created in state law	Elected across the region, represent geographic districts that do not coincide with political/jurisdictional boundaries. 6 councilors and 1 president serve 4-year terms. Metro Auditor is also elected and conducts performance audits of Metro's programs and oversight of annual financial statements.	P	P	P	P	P	P/O	P/O	P	P/O	P/O	P/O	Regional framework and functional plan guides compliance activities by local governments (city, county). Management of urban growth boundary. Guides growth to specific areas within the region (sub-city nodes, districts), and predicates investment on compliance with standards. Develops model ordinances related to its responsibilities which local governments must adopt/implement.	3 counties, 25 municipalities	~1.5 million
Seattle: Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)	Regional planning agency and MPO. Inter-jurisdictional agreement.	General Assembly comprised of more than 80 local governments and agencies, including 4 counties, cities and towns, ports, state and local transportation agencies, and tribal governments within the region. Elected officials of the General Assembly elect a 32-member Executive Board who is empowered to make decisions.	P	P									P	Focus on regional growth, transportation, and economic development. State law requires coordination and consistency among planning efforts where there are common borders or related regional issues, and sets the framework for regional review of local comprehensive plans, including certification of transportation elements in those plans.	4 counties, 73 cities and towns	~4.2 million
Twin Cities: Metropolitan Council	Regional planning agency & MPO, created in state law	16 member representing geographic districts, plus a chair at large - all gubernatorial appointees	P	P	P/O	P/O	P/O	P					P	Growth management, control of sprawl, coordination of local planning activities. Local plans must be sent to the Council for review and authorization before being placed into effect. Local sewer plans must be approved by the Council before implementation. Coordination and funding of the regional park system; parks implementing agencies must send master plans to the Council for review and approval prior to implementation.	7 counties, 181 cities and townships	~3.1 million

Legislative Reform Efforts

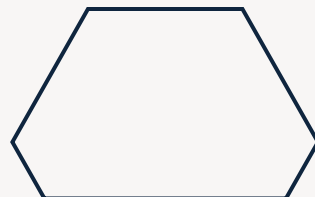
S.F. 1624 (2023)	S.F. 3497 & H.F. 3917 (2018)	S.F. 2809 (2018)	H.F. 423 (1997)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members elected from districts • 4-year staggered terms • Council elected by Council members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-year staggered terms • Nomination committee membership expanded • Publicly released info during selection • Council member qualifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded Council to 29 members • Membership amended: metro area county & city officials • Governor to appoint Chair • 4-year staggered terms • Eliminated TAB • Governor Dayton vetoed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members elected in special election • Chair elected by Council members • 4-year staggered terms • Creation of a Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee made up of local elected officials • Governor Carlson vetoed



Thank you

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Metropolitan Council Governance

September 13, 2023



Background

- 2011 OLA Report: *Governance of Transit in the Twin Cities Region*
- Focus on transit
- Governance a key issue

Key Governance Finding:

“The Metropolitan Council’s role as the regional transit planner has been hampered by how members are appointed; as a result of its structure, the Council lacks adequate credibility and accountability among stakeholders.”

Principles of Effective Governance

Accountability	Equity
Consensus Building	Flexibility
Credibility	Stability
Effectiveness	Strategic Vision
	Transparency

Governance Challenges

Challenge	Governance Principle
Complexity of system	Unclear accountability Reduced effectiveness
Distrust among parties	Hard to build consensus Lack of credibility
Time-consuming coordination	Lack of transparency Inefficient
Appointed, rather than elected	Limited accountability Reduced credibility

Governance Options

Status Quo	No Change
Option 1	Staggered terms; appointed members
Option 2	Staggered terms; mix of appointed and elected members
Option 3	Staggered terms; County Commissioners as members
Option 4	Members directly elected

Option 1: Staggered Terms; Appointed Members

Pro	Con
Some independence from Governor	Little accountability to the public
Council stability and continuity	Little credibility with key stakeholders
Regional perspective	

Option 2: Staggered Terms; Appointed and Elected Members

Pro	Con
Independence from Governor	Voting weights and representation TBD
Council stability and continuity	Possible increased workload for elected officials
Regional and local perspectives	
Increased accountability	
Increased credibility	

Option 3: Staggered Terms; County Commissioners as Members

Pro	Con
Independence from Governor	Voting weights and representation TBD
Council stability and continuity	Possible increased workload for elected officials
Increased accountability	Parochial considerations
Increased credibility	

Option 4: Members Directly Elected

Pro	Con
Independence from Governor	Representation decisions
Increased accountability	Parochial considerations
Increased credibility	

OLA Recommended Staggered Terms with Appointed and Elected Members

- Encourages consensus building
- Increases structural credibility
- Provides stability
- Offers some independence
- Promotes regional perspective
- Promotes local perspective

Other Regional Entities

- Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC)
- Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
- Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation

Other Regional Entities

Metropolitan Council

- Public corporation and political subdivision
- Chair on Governor's Cabinet
- 17 members:
 - 16 Governor appointees
 - Chair appointed by Governor
 - Subject to advice and consent of Senate

Airports Commission

- Public corporation
- Not on Governor's Cabinet
- 15 members:
 - 12 Governor appointees
 - Mayor of Minneapolis*
 - Mayor of St. Paul*
 - Chair appointed by Governor

*Mayors may appoint a qualified voter in their place

Mosquito Control

- District/Commission
- Not on Governor's Cabinet
- 18 members:
 - All county commissioners
 - Appointed by their respective boards

Other Regional Entities

Metropolitan Council

- **Public corporation and political subdivision**
- **Chair on Governor's Cabinet**
- **17 members:**
 - **16 Governor appointees**
 - **Chair appointed by Governor**
 - **All subject to advice and consent of Senate**

Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation

- **Executive branch agency**
- **Commissioner on Governor's Cabinet**
- **Subject to advice and consent of Senate**
- **IRRR Board:**
 - **State Senators (TA)**
 - **State Representatives (TA)**
 - **One other state senator**

(TA) = Taconite Assistance Area

Questions?

www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us