

Technical Advisory Committee

July 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

- Andover
 - Jason Law, Assistant City Engineer
 - Kameron Kytonen, Natural Resources Technician
- Anoka Conservation District
 - Chris Lord, Administrator
- Anoka County Highways
 - Rebecca Haug, Environmental Project Manager
 - Carter Rasmussen, Intern
- Blaine
 - Megan Hedstrom, Water Resources Coordinator
- Coon Creek Watershed District
 - Tim Kelly, Administrator
 - Tyler Thompson, Field Operations Manager
 - Jessica Lindemyer, Engagement Coordinator
 - Erin Margl, Watershed Development Coordinator
 - Abbey Lee, Watershed Development Manager
 - Justine Dauphinais, Water Quality Coordinator
 - Eileen Weigel, District Engineer (Stantec)
- Coon Rapids
 - Tim Himmer, Public Works Director
 - Brooke Schultz, Water Resource Specialist
- Department of Health
 - Danielle Luzinski, Hydrologist 3
 - Derek Richter, State Program Administrator Coordinator
- Department of Transportation
 - Katie Kowalczyk, Metro Water Resources Engineer
- Ham Lake
 - Dave Krugler, City Engineer (RFC)
- Fridley
 - Jim Kosluchar, City Engineer/Public Works Director
- Spring Lake Park
 - George Linngren, Public Works Director

Guest Attendees:

- Minnesota Department of Health
 - Danielle Luzinski, Surface Water Hydrologist
 - Derek Richter, Surface Water Principal Planner

Absent: Anoka Conservation District, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Columbus, Department of Transportation

1. Management Situation

Hydrology

Tim Kelly noted that water levels throughout the District are on the high end of normal but have not crested the banks.

Legislative Update

Tim Kelly shared that CCWD continues to meet with the DNR to discuss the topic of efficiencies in the permitting process. The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts will be introducing legislation on the same topic.

Rebecca Haug added that Anoka County is pursuing a general permit with the DNR to cover all threatened and engaged species typically encountered in the County such as Rubus. It would remove the requirement for Anoka County to obtain takings permits for those species every time they do a project. In exchange, the County will be allocating more funding for restoration activities in county parks where the species are known to thrive.

Rebecca confirmed that this general permit would only apply to the County, it would not apply to municipalities.

Water Quality Cost-Share RFP

Justine Dauphinais announced that there are still funds available through the District's Water Quality Cost-Share Program. The second application period closes July 25th.

Minneapolis/St. Paul Drinking Source Water Assessment Update

MDH is updating the source water assessment (SWA) for Minneapolis and St. Paul's surface water drinking water supply management areas (DWSMA).

MDH will reach out for any additional data requests and updates on the process over the next 6 months.

The next stakeholder meeting is expected to take place this winter.

Other

Dave Krugler announced that he is now the owner of RFC Engineering.

Megan Hedstrom shared that Blaine has appointed an Interim City Manager, Erik Thorvig, and is beginning a month-long application process.

Tim Kelly shared that Spring Lake Park is currently undergoing their MS4 audit.

2. Concerns

Clarification on Wasteload Allocation (WLA) Tracking

Justine Dauphinais confirmed that CCWD is tracking WLA numbers for all impaired waters within the watershed district and will be able to provide those numbers to all municipalities when it comes time to report to the MPCA.

3. Briefs

Findings from the completed Municipal Insight Survey

Jessica Lindemyer presented an overview of the completed Municipal Insight Survey, including key insights from the final research report. The objective of the Municipal Insight Survey was to determine the best methods for engaging with CCWD's municipal partners by identifying their needs, values, and priorities as they relate to water management with the goal of improving the District's Engagement and Public Information Strategy. Insights from the research report included key factors for justifying water management funding, trusted sources of information, and meaningful differences between audience groups.

There was general discussion about next steps and the need for coordination with municipal communications staff. Tim Kelly confirmed that Jessica will be reaching out to city communicators soon to start these discussions.

View the presentation and read the full research report on the [TAC Resource Webpage](#).

Demonstration Project – Raiko Icebreaker

Rebecca Haug shared that Anoka County is looking into purchasing a Raiko Icebreaker also known as a prickly plow. It is an attachment that breaks up compacted and icy roadways. Once the ice has been broken up, it is much easier for the plows to clear the roadways. The icebreaker also improves the effectiveness of salt and brine solutions by creating more surface area contact points in the ice.

The equipment is about \$41,000. The County is looking to apply for CCWD's Water Quality Cost Share Program to help offset some of the cost. She noted that the County would make the Icebreaker available to any city that may be interested in trying it out.

4. Other Water Management Concerns

Tim Kelly asked if anyone had received calls regarding flash flooding concerns. While no calls were received, Megan Hedstrom stated that Blaine has begun canvassing in Four Seasons and Blaine International Village. They have received a lot of interest and the conversations have been very productive, likely due to the recent devastating floods in other states.

5. Announcements

None.

All handouts, materials, and presentations for this meeting can be found on the TAC Resource Webpage: <https://www.cooncreekwd.org/tac/>