

**Kevin P. Watson**  
*City Administrator*

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**The City of Vadnais Heights**  
800 East County Road E  
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

## *Memorandum:*

TO: Mayor Krachmer and City Council

FROM: Kevin Watson, City Administrator

DATE: July 18, 2023

SUBJECT: White Bear Lake Work Group

### **Background**

One of the directives from the court order from the White Bear Lake litigation was to explore surface water opportunities for our water supply. Specifically the order said:

“A revised Water Supply Plan must be submitted to the DNR, by August 29, 2018, that includes a contingency plan to fully or partially convert the source water that is authorized under this permit from groundwater to surface water source(s). This contingency plan must include a schedule for funding design, construction and conversion to a surface water supply. Whether any conversion would occur shall be determined by the DNR and the holder of this permit.”

Following the most recent legislative session, Met Council has been tasked with coordinating a work group to discuss and identify potential surface water opportunities. See attached letter.

I put this forward to the City Council to see if there's interest by the City Council to be our representative on this work group. If not, I will appoint staff. Either myself or our new Public Works Director.

Please advise.



June 23, 2023

Kevin Watson  
 City Administrator  
 City of Vadnais Heights  
 800 East County Road East  
 Vadnais Heights, MN 55127



Dear Administrator Watson:

As a result of the 2023 legislative session, the Metropolitan Council has been tasked with establishing a work group to partner with the Metropolitan Council in developing a comprehensive plan to ensure communities in the White Bear Lake area have access to sufficient safe drinking water to allow for municipal growth while simultaneously ensuring the sustainability of surface water and groundwater resources to supply the needs of future generations. The plan is required to be completed by June 30, 2027.

The work group consists of the Commissioners of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, and Health or their designees, representatives from the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee, St. Paul Regional Water Services and the cities of Stillwater, Mahtomedi, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Lino Lakes, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights, Shoreview, Woodbury, New Brighton, North Oaks, and White Bear Lake and the town of White Bear.

The Metropolitan Council is currently gathering information from the listed organizations as well as other stakeholders to collaboratively design the planning process. This letter is intended to start the process of setting up the work group. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Judy Sventek, Water Resources Manager, at [judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us) or at 651-602-1156.

Also, we ask that you let Shannon Skally of our Environmental Services staff know who will be representing your agency **by Friday, July 21, 2023**. She can be reached at [shannon.skally@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:shannon.skally@metc.state.mn.us) or at 651-602-1011.

Thank you ahead of time for your support and interest in working with us on the development of a comprehensive plan to ensure sustainable water resources in this part of the metropolitan area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Zelle".

Charles Zelle  
 Chair, Metropolitan Council