

CITY OF LAKE ELMO
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-018

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO LAKE ELMO CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS ON
THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL DRAFT WATER RESOURCES PLAN

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is considering a draft update of their Water Resource Policy Plan, which covers Regional Policy regarding Waste Water (sewers), Storm/Surface Water and Water Supply, as is required every 10 years by State Statute.

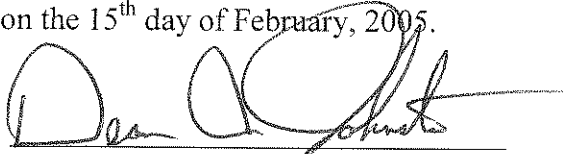
WHEREAS, at its February 8, 2005 meeting, the Public Works Council Committee reviewed the proposed City comments on the final draft plan that had been prepared by staff and directed that those comments be incorporated into a Resolution for City Council consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lake Elmo City Council has reviewed the Metropolitan Council Draft Water Resources Plan and offers the following comments:

1. The City requests the Met Council to be specific with respect to the draft Plan concept of “promoting” water conservation efforts by cities. What does “promoting” mean?
2. The draft Plan (Page 24) refers to the Council “...maintaining storm water runoff rates and volumes at or below predevelopment conditions.” Since most storm water crosses political boundaries, and since municipalities have historically addressed storm water with differing policy, does this mean that a downstream municipality could be required to retain less than predevelopment rates and volume of inter-community storm water to accommodate excess rates and volumes from an upstream municipality?
3. The draft Plan appears to link municipal nonpoint source surface water management with the Wastewater System Plan in an effort to establish a basis for an “inconsistency” with Regional Systems finding should a community not address such nonpoint surface water management in a manner demanded by the Council. Is that linkage intended; and, if so, does such a linkage overreach the Council’s System Plan authority? There is no Storm/Surface Water System Plan by legislative design.
4. The stated policy of 2030 Regional Blueprint is to encourage/mandate more efficient utilization of in-place regional infrastructure in the Central Cities and First/Second Ring suburbs by increases in land use intensity. The provision of the draft Plan that places a 500,000 gallon per day minimum threshold for Council funded wastewater improvements where redevelopment to support that stated


2030 Framework Policy is proposed by a municipality appears to suggest either an "unfunded mandate" by the Council, or a contradiction between the framework and the draft wastewater plan.

ADOPTED by the Lake Elmo City Council on the 15th day of February, 2005.



Dean Johnston, Mayor

ATTEST:



Martin J. Rafferty, City Administrator