

Northeast Metro Water Supply

Save 600 Million Tax Dollars

None of the approaches being sought by the Met Council addresses replenishing the depleting aquifer .

It simply plans to draw water from the Mississippi River through the Rice Creek Water Shed send it to the St. Paul Water Treatment Plant. than pump it into the cities water supply. After the water is used it will be pumped to the Pigs Eye SewageTreatment Plant in St Paul to be cleaned up than sent back into the Mississippi River.

Estimates show that pumping from the St Croix would cost around 20,million dollars. and the water users could be charged for the water being used which could make it self sufficient. Met Council has been aware of this proposal for several years, but it does not fit their plan to expand.

The Met Council covers 7 counties.

As legislators representing the entire state ask if your county could better use the 600 million dollar savings or have project which need funding.

Larry Lanoux
9711 Keswick Ave
Stillwater Mn 55082
651-485-7574

Northeast Metro Water Supply

Save 600 million tax dollars

Review of Approach # 1 shows Met Council will be asking for 623 million dollars in financing.

Approach # not listed in the plan Cost 23 million dollars.

For 23 million dollars the met council could install a pumping station that would draw water from the St Croix River and pump it into White Bear Lake to solve the depleting aquifer. By installing two 16 inch pressure lines . these lines could be installed on the DNR trail which is already owned by the state. It is the former Zephyr Dinner Train Line. It is at a 3 to 7 % grade which makes installation easy.

Along the path it will cross 6 golf courses and agriculture fields that currently pump out of the aquifer for its water supply. These properties could have an outlet installed thus reducing the strain on the depleting water supply.

Using these properties and providing water from the St Croix River for irrigation purposes serve to filter the water and replenish the aquifer naturally.

This could solve the White Bear Lake issue by annually restoring the level perhaps in the spring when the run off water is flooding the City of Stillwater.

Grant Comprehensive Plan

Sewer and Water

B. FUTURE LAND USE THROUGH 2030

1. *Overall Growth Strategy*

The intent of Grant for the next 20 years is to continue its commitment to rural character and maintain maximum densities of one unit per ten acres with no public sewer or water facilities. In addition, the City of Grant will encourage the use of open space development where appropriate to preserve and enhance the rural character of the community through the preservation of open space and by attempting to minimize land use conflicts between agricultural and residential land uses.

B. HOUSING POLICIES AND GOALS

Since the early 1970's the Metropolitan Council has identified Grant as a permanently rural area. This designation attempted to ensure the City remains a dominantly rural community by establishing an average residential density of one unit per ten acres of land. This strategy of low residential densities attempts to balance residential development with the preservation of agriculture and open space.

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Since the late 1970's, Grant has enforced a one per ten rural density requirement and the use of private on-site septic systems in an effort to preserve its rural character and minimize public expenditures.

The intent of Grant for the next 20 years is to continue its commitment to rural character and maintain maximum densities of one unit per ten acres with no public sewer or water facilities.

B. PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CONTRACTED SERVICES

1. *Local Sewer Policy Plan*

2. Grant is currently located in the Diversified Rural and Agricultural Area in the 2030 Regional Development Framework. No publicly owned sewer or water facilities are present and no such services are planned.

C. GOALS AND POLICY STATEMENTS

Goal 1: Preserve the rural character of Grant by carefully regulating future development.

Key Policies:

1. Agree with current Metropolitan Council system statement to prevent extension of public sewer

Goal 2: Protect and enhance the natural resources of the community and the natural environment.

2. Install septic systems to meet all current or subsequent County and City Codes.

Goal 5: Provide a level of government necessary to maintain rural services and a rural quality of life.

Grant has a long-standing history of individual privacy, responsibility, and low tax burdens. To maintain these values and quality of life the residents of Grant choose to limit the level of public services provided by the City. This is evident in the City's exclusive reliance on on-site septic systems and contracting out many of the individual public services provided to residents. Residents of Grant have come to expect this type of service delivery and do not desire a change in this policy.

Key Policies:

1. Maintain the minimum necessary level of community services appropriate to a permanently rural community.
2. Prevent the extension of city sewer and water into any part of the City through at least the year 2030.

3. Provide services to citizens at a minimal cost to the City.
4. Continue to maintain a neutral policy on the upgrading of local roads from gravel to asphalt to allow locally affected residents the opportunity to make their own choices.

XI. Comprehensive Development Plan

A. OVERALL GROWTH STRATEGY

1. Regional Land Use Context and Challenges

Since the late 1970's the City of Grant has enforced a one per ten rural density requirement and the use of private on-site septic systems in an effort to preserve its rural character and minimize public expenditure.

The intent of Grant for the next 20 years is to continue its commitment to rural character and maintain maximum densities of one unit per ten acres with no public sewer or water facilities.

2. City Water, Sewer and Other Utilities

Goal 1: Maintain the rural character of the community, including densities appropriate to diversified rural and agricultural areas, and the use of private on-site sewer and water supply services.

Key Policy

1. The City of Grant has no plans to provide city water or sewer in any manner. As a permanently rural community this policy will continue to be the guiding framework through at least the year 2030 and the City will not provide these services. Domestic waste will be treated on-site and water supply will also be the responsibility of the individual homeowner.

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E. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Water Management Plan

Goal 1: Ensure the long term future quantity and quality of water supplies.

Key Policies:

1. Continue the existing policy of allowing appropriately designed, located, and constructed on-site sanitary treatment facilities, including individual, shared, and wetland type as the primary treatment devices of domesticated waste provided they conform to all City, County, State, and Federal guidelines.
2. Continue to enforce the Washington County On-Site Sanitary Sewer Ordinance as part of the requirements for development within Grant. Washington County administers maintenance inspections of all septic systems in Grant pursuant to State law.

Goal 6: Enhance and maintain the rural residential quality of life.

Maintaining a rural residential quality of life goes hand in hand with protecting the physical elements that form visual rural character. Limiting public utilities, enforcing one lot per ten acres residential density, providing access to community recreational opportunities, and encouraging and enhancing agricultural business opportunities are ways the City of Grant can build a strong commitment to a rural lifestyle.

Key Policies:

1. Actively promote the preservation and continued use of existing agricultural lands by informing citizens, landowners, and developers about appropriate tools and means available to make this possible, such as, Green Acres, Agricultural Preserve, Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), conservation easements, open space subdivision, and estate/tax laws.
2. Restrict general business to its current boundary.

1. Limit expansion within the existing general business zone to only those commercial activities identified as compatible with a rural lifestyle.
2. Home businesses will be permitted if they are compatible with the rural character of Grant and are consistent with the ordinances.
3. Encourage developers to voluntarily use design elements and subdivision layouts that maximize the visual use of open space, adhere to the elements of rural character, and create a rural sense of place. Grant currently has a cluster development concept which requires one unit per ten acre density with a five acre minimum lot size for each new development.
4. Encourage the possibility of recreational opportunities where appropriate by dedicating community open space and connecting new development to existing trails.
5. Conditional uses will only be allowed if they maintain the overall rural character of Grant and are consistent with the nature of the immediate neighborhood. No new conditional use shall be permitted that has the potential of significantly changing the character, the quality of life, or jeopardizing the general health, welfare, and safety within the immediate neighborhood.

Goal 7: Conduct open communication with the residents of Grant.

The City of Grant will communicate information to the citizens of Grant for their improved understanding of relevant issues and the development of a more participative community.

Key Policies:

1. Regularly publish a newsletter that contains meaningful information about the community.

John D. Smith <jdsmith175@comcast.net>

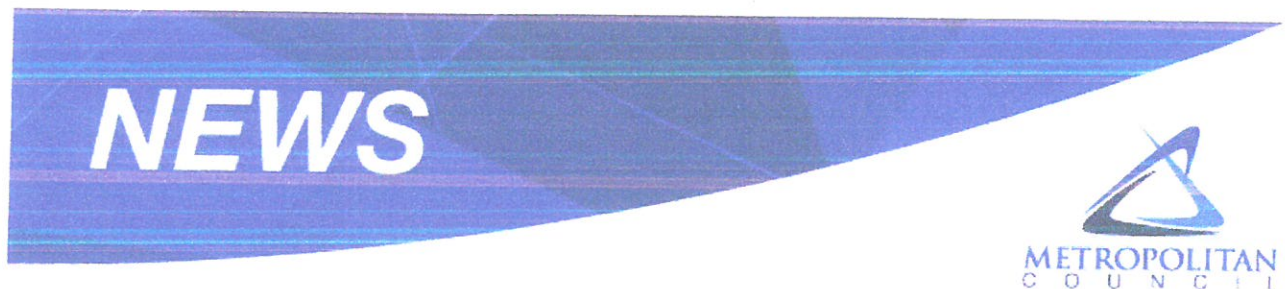
To: Larry Lanoux and 2 more...

Fwd: Release: Northeast Metro Water Supply Study

December 31, 2014 1:33 PM

This is the Met Council program Larry talked about on the last 'All Around Grant' show. People need to know how this will effect their tax burden; next to will be Metro sewer service. Good bye Grant 10 acre density.

From: METC@public.govdelivery.com



Metropolitan Council Releases Final Report on Northeast Metro Water Supply

Analysis evaluates options for using surface water to supplement/replace groundwater use

Saint Paul—Dec. 29, 2014--The Metropolitan Council has [released a report](#) that evaluates approaches to preserve and protect water supply in the northeast metro. The report assesses the feasibility and costs of several alternatives designed to help restore the aquifer that supplies groundwater to northeast metro communities.

The report studies three approaches that focus on water supply. Two identify alternatives for using surface water from the Mississippi River as a way to decrease reliance on groundwater and relieve pressure on the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer, which provides much of the metro area with drinking water. The approaches are:

1. Connect northeast metro communities with Saint Paul Regional Water Services to supply them with drinking water.
2. Convey surface water from the Mississippi to the northeast metro for local treatment and distribution.
3. Continue to develop groundwater sources.

In addition, the Council evaluated the feasibility of augmenting White Bear Lake with water from the Mississippi River. This option was dealt with separately because it does not involve drinking water and would likely have a different ownership and operations structure.

Best outcome may be a combination of approaches and strategies

"We know that any of the options studied is feasible," said Keith Buttleman, an assistant general manager in the Environmental Services Division. "We have a better idea of associated costs. And, we know pros and cons of each. That information and analysis will lend significant value as legislators and local officials work to identify a course of action."

Since release of the draft report in July, Council staff and consultants added more cost information and evaluated the option of continuing to rely exclusively on groundwater. [The final report](#) also adds a variation on the second approach, which would move

northeast metro communities to surface water, but use supplemental groundwater from existing wells to meet peak demand. Council staff are quick to say the options are not mutually exclusive, and the best outcome may be a combination of various approaches and strategies. The alternatives evaluated should be viewed as examples.

"The best option for moving forward may be a hybrid of the examples considered in this study, and could involve approaches that were not considered in this study," said Buttleman.

For example, communities in the northeast metro could pursue less expensive approaches, which could include conservation or stormwater reuse to reduce groundwater pumping, before making large-scale investments in alternative infrastructure solutions. Such a plan could combine these less expensive options with aggressive monitoring of groundwater and surface water, and establish triggers for further action in the event these less expensive approaches are not effective.

"The goal is to identify solutions that balance effectiveness against reasonable costs," said Buttleman.

Laying the foundation for a plan of action

"We have a lot more information for legislators and local officials today on which to base decision making than when we started this study," said Buttleman.

"What will take further work is the analysis that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is conducting on the impact of the various options on the lake and aquifer," said Buttleman. The USGS study is expected in 2016.

The approaches in the study were developed in collaboration with various partners, including the USGS, White Bear Lake Conservation District, White Bear Lake Level Resolution Committee, Saint Paul Regional Water Services, communities, and other stakeholders in the northeast metro.

The study is funded by a 2013 Minnesota Legislature appropriation of \$2 million from the Clean Water Legacy Fund. It is one of several studies that are under way to address water supply needs in the seven-county metro area.

Approaches:

#1. Saint Paul System Expansion: Connect northeast communities with Saint Paul Regional Water Services to supply treated drinking water. Water would be conveyed through a chain of lakes--Charley, Pleasant, Vadnais--to McCarrons Water Treatment Plant.

The study identifies three alternatives under this option. Each option assumes water mains from the water treatment plant to a centralized location in each community served.

1A. Serve North Saint Paul. Capital cost: \$5 million. Annual operating cost: \$1.4 million.

1B. Serve the five study-area communities closest to Saint Paul (Mahtomedi, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township), as well as North Saint Paul. Capital cost: \$155 million. Annual operating cost: \$11 million.

1C. Serve the five study-area communities nearest Saint Paul, and Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbus, Forest Lake, Hugo, Lexington, and Lino Lakes. North Saint Paul would also be served. Capital cost: \$623 million. Annual operating cost: \$20 million.

Considerations:

- Serving North Saint Paul only would have a very modest benefit.
- The McCarrons Water Treatment Plant currently has excess capacity of 30 million-gallons per day, which could serve the communities nearest to Saint Paul's system without a major expansion of supply and treatment infrastructure.
- Expanding service beyond the six closest communities would help to achieve regional water supply goals of reliability and sustainability, but require additional large-scale infrastructure and significantly increase capital costs.

#2: New Surface Water Treatment Plant: Convey water from the Mississippi River to the northeast metro for local treatment and distribution.

Using this approach, the study evaluates scenarios that involve construction of a new surface water treatment plant, preferably at Vadnais Lake, to serve northeast communities.

2B. Serve the study-area communities nearest Saint Paul (Mahtomedi, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township) with a new surface water treatment plant with a capacity of 40 million gallons per day. Capital cost: \$227 million. Annual operating cost: \$9 million.

2C. Serve the study-area communities nearest Saint Paul, as well as Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbus, Forest Lake, Hugo, Lexington, and Lino Lakes, with a new, larger surface water treatment plant with a capacity of up to 60 million gallons per day. Capital cost: \$609 million. Annual operating cost: \$16 million.

2D. Serve the study-area communities closest to St. Paul, and North St. Paul, with a combination of a smaller surface water

treatment plant, with capacity of up to 15 million gallons a day to meet average daily demand, combined with using existing groundwater wells to meet peak demand. Capital cost: \$164 million. Annual operating cost: \$7.5 million.

Considerations:

- Continues local participation in supply and treatment of drinking water.
- Saint Paul Regional Water Services owns land on Vadnais Lake. The water quality and location of Vadnais Lake make it the preferred site for a new water treatment plant.
- Expanding service beyond the six closest communities would help to achieve regional water supply goals of reliability and sustainability, but require additional large-scale infrastructure and significantly increase capital costs.
- Combining a surface water approach for daily water usage, while relying on groundwater in peak situations, would significantly reduce costs, though it would present engineering challenges.

#3: Continued Development of Groundwater Sources

Under this approach, existing community water supply systems would continue to be maintained. New wells would be drilled as additional supply is needed. Groundwater treatment facilities that are currently planned would be built. Capital cost: \$91 million.

Considerations:

- Lowest capital costs of all options.
- Study area communities retain control over operations of water supply and treatment systems.
- Potential for continued decline in aquifer and lake levels.

Lake Augmentation: Pump filtered water from the Mississippi River into White Bear Lake via the chain of lakes that includes Charley, Pleasant, and Vadnais lakes.

This approach would draw and convey two billion gallons of water a year from the Mississippi River through the chain of lakes to augment White Bear Lake.

- A pumping station would be built near Vadnais Lake to convey water to White Bear Lake. Capital cost: \$50 million. Annual operating cost: \$300,000.

Considerations:

- The Mississippi River is impaired with zebra mussels, as is Vadnais Lake. Augmentation would require filtration.
- With filtration, augmentation should not degrade water quality in White Bear Lake.
- Saint Paul Regional Water Services has sufficient capacity to draw and convey two billion gallons a year for augmentation.
- It is not certain that augmentation of two billion gallons a year will maintain the water level of White Bear Lake at the ordinary high water level, though the water level would likely improve.
- It is unlikely that augmenting White Bear Lake will benefit other area lakes.

A balanced approach

"A more balanced use of groundwater and surface water could go a long way toward addressing the region's long-term water supply," said Buttleman.

"As a region, we have room for improvement in managing our water resources wisely. We need to develop a better understanding of how to recharge our aquifers through water conservation efforts such as the reuse of stormwater and wastewater to offset groundwater use for non-potable purposes. Ultimately, a combination of strategies including groundwater, surface water, stormwater, reclaiming wastewater, enhanced aquifer recharge, and conservation efforts will likely get us to the most sustainable solution at the least cost. The feasibility of utilizing these strategies depends on where you are in the metropolitan area."

"In the northeast metro, understanding impacts to lakes from groundwater use particularly is important. This report gives us an understanding of the potential to use surface water from the Mississippi River to reduce groundwater use. Other ongoing work in the northeast metro is evaluating the potential to use some of the other tools in our toolbox, and seeks to better understand the underlying causes of lake level declines."

Ongoing study

Four ongoing activities will provide additional key information to decision makers in the coming years about northeast metro water supply:

1. The USGS is conducting a study that will provide critical information on the interaction between groundwater and surface water in the area. It is expected to be complete in 2016.
2. A Metropolitan Council feasibility assessment of the potential for enhancing aquifer recharge and reusing stormwater in the North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area. The results of this study, expected in 2015, will evaluate the potential of using alternative approaches to reduce impacts to lakes and to address other identified water sustainability issues within the Groundwater Management Area.
3. The University of Minnesota Technical Assistance Program will identify opportunities for industrial water users in the North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area to reduce their water consumption. This work is expected to be completed in mid-2015.
4. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is completing a management plan for the North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area. The plan is in development and could impact future groundwater appropriations and monitoring.

The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities metro area. It runs the regional bus and light rail system and Northstar Commuter rail. The Council collects and treats wastewater, manages regional water resources, plans regional parks, and administers funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The Council is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

The report summary is available [here](#). The complete report is available [here](#).

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Current Version - as introduced

A bill for an act
relating to capital investment; requiring a study and proposals for
augmenting

White Bear Lake water levels.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF
MINNESOTA:

Section 1.

WHITE BEAR LAKE AUGMENTATION STUDY AND PROPOSALS.

(a) The commissioner of natural resources, in cooperation with the
commissioners

of the Pollution Control Agency and health, the Public Facilities
Authority, and local

units of government shall conduct a study and report to the
legislature on the feasibility

of constructing a wastewater treatment facility for communities
surrounding White Bear

Lake that will provide treated wastewater to be used to augment
water levels in White

Bear Lake. The commissioner shall submit the report to the chairs
and ranking minority

members of the committees and divisions with jurisdiction over
environment and natural

resources policy and finance no later than January 15, 2016.

(b) The Metropolitan Council must request and receive no less than
three proposals

for the design and construction of an augmentation supply from
Sucker Lake to White

Bear Lake. Proposals must be received no later than January 15,
2016.

House bill asks for study to augment lake level

Debra Neutkens/Regional Editor | Posted: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:00 am

ST. PAUL — Rep. Matt Dean (R-Dellwood) figures White Bear Lake needs about 5 billion gallons of water. He also thinks it could come from the Mississippi River by way of Sucker Lake.

In a hearing last week before the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee, Dean promoted HF1557, a bill that asks for funding to study augmentation and the feasibility of constructing a wastewater treatment facility for communities surrounding White Bear Lake.

“Everyone realizes it’s a big problem that I believe, and most believe, requires a two-prong approach: conservation and augmentation,” Dean said. “I have been unashamedly parochial about this. For decades, groundwater was pumped into the lake. That is no longer legal. I am looking for new sources, including Sucker Lake, as well as treated wastewater.”

The government affairs director for the Metropolitan Council said the agency shares the same concerns about White Bear Lake, but prefers to wait until the U.S. Geological Survey study is completed before making a decision on how to fix the lake.

“We are also concerned about a portion of the bill that relates to the council taking proposals for said the t Council’s Judd Schetnan. “We have a facility in that area today. To construct one to just augment White Bear Lake; I’m not sure how we would pay for that.”

Rep. Denny McNamara, committee chairman, told Schetnan that “people in White Bear are sick of waiting.”

Schetnan agreed. “We know people are anxious to get something moving. We are too. We did a Northeast metro feasibility study. This bill asks to look at augmentation from Sucker Lake. That was excluded (from that study) because of water quality issues. Obviously, the Legislature can ask Met Council to look at it again.”

Rep. Rick Hansen asked how Dean’s bill would interact with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lawsuit agreement. Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier took the question, telling the committee the DNR shares concerns about lake level.

“Part of the mediated agreement is for us to introduce a bill and get it passed by next year that would fund Phase One feasibility and design. A finance bill was introduced today in the Senate,” Meier said.

“This bill (Dean’s bill) as drafted does not meet requirements of the settlement agreement. If the DNR re directed by HF1557 to pursue that course of action, the agency could be in default of the lawsuit

agreement and probably find itself back in court.”

The Senate bill introduced by Sen. Chuck Wiger (DFL-Maplewood) March 19 does satisfy the terms of the settlement. It requests \$1.5 million for the DNR and stakeholders to evaluate long-term water supply sustainability in the North and East Metro, identify options to address any challenges and assess feasibility of those options.

Meier explained it was a general fund request that was delayed in getting introduced while language was being crafted. The delay in introducing the bill (SF1910) means it probably won't be heard this year, he added, but that just means it can sit for “fine tuning.” Meier reminded the legislators that the deadline for appropriation funds under the agreement is August 2016 so it gives the DNR one more session.

Language in Wiger's bill specifically identifies Alternatives 1B and 2B from the Met Council's report “Feasibility Assessment of Approaches to Water Sustainability in the Northeast Metro” released in December. Those options involve converting municipal water supplies from six cities that use groundwater, including White Bear Lake and White Bear Township, to a surface water source — the McCarrons Water Treatment Plant (1B) or a surface water connection to a new sub-regional surface water treatment plant (2B).

According to the bill, a report from the commissioner would be due no later than Dec. 31, 2016 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over environmental and natural resource finance and policy.

Dean's bill directs the Met Council to request and receive no less than three proposals for the design and construction of an augmentation supply from Sucker Lake to White Bear Lake no later than Jan. 15, 2016. It also requires the DNR commissioner and other agencies, including local units of government and the Met Council, to study the treatment facility idea.

Even though augmentation was not included in the settlement agreement, Meier said the agency understands people's desire to continue that discussion.

“Our bill does not discuss augmentation, but we would be willing to include that in this proposal,” he said, adding that a companion bill is still needed in the House.

Chairman McNamara said a fiscal bill could be incorporated in the omnibus spending bill, which would meet the deadline for this session. Bill 1557 was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. It is co-authored by Rep. Peter Fischer.

White Bear Lake Conservation District agrees to leadership role on lake level

by Debra Neutkens/Regional Editor | Posted: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 8:00 am

WHITE BEAR LAKE — Local legislators are getting the help they requested to move toward a lake level solution.

At a special meeting April 1 with the White Bear Lake Conservation District (WBLCD), Sen. Roger Chamberlain, Rep. Peter Fischer and Rep. Linda Runbeck pitched the idea to the board of becoming a "fiscal agent" on behalf of the lake.

"We thought it wise to involve the WBLCD in a levy process," Chamberlain told the board members. "We need a way to raise money to pay for some of the lake level solutions and it seemed logical to use the conservation district. You already represent the five communities around the lake."

Runbeck called White Bear Lake the "epicenter" to what is happening in regard to water management in the metro area. "What happens here will be precedent setting," she said.

It's too early to know just what role the WBLCD will play, but Runbeck said she sees the district lobbying area communities to form a joint powers board to administer a levy or the state bonding money to build a water treatment plant to augment the lake.

"There hasn't been an entity to take care of things," Fischer noted. "People are talking solutions to the lake problem but there is no vehicle to help run it. Does one community take the lead, does this organization take the lead or do we have a joint powers board to help facilitate communities coming together? We're missing the part of who will take it by the horns and make sure these things happen."

Mahtomedi's board representative, Gene Altstatt, said he would support taking on a role as fiscal agent.

Dellwood representative Pat McCann called it "a leap of faith."

"We don't know what is going to happen but someone has to lead this," McCann said. "In my opinion, it's complete malaise. No one is in charge of anything."

That sentiment is exactly what the legislators want to change. "We are trying to get someone to take charge; to provide guidance to what will happen first," iterated Fischer.

Chamberlain feels the state will offer financial support if there is local leadership. "We know there are a lot of unknowns. We are here to build relationships. But you are right, there is malaise. I think all the (surrounding) cities know the importance of this."

Aitstatt made a motion to take on the responsibility of fiscal agent with the additional responsibility of helping form a joint powers board with the five communities "and any others that might express interest" to work toward solving the lake issue. The motion passed 7-0. Three members were absent from the meeting at White Bear Lake City Hall: Jane Harper, Diane Longville and Mark Genz.

Conservation district attorney Alan Kantrud said he wasn't sure the WBLCD had authority to create a joint powers board. "Would you entertain amendments to organizing legislation to allow these activities?" he asked the legislators. "Yes," Fischer replied, "if you need it. Give us the guidance and we'll make it happen."

Fischer said it makes sense for the district to facilitate lake level solutions approved by the Legislature. "You're the entity that crosses boundaries. No one else in the region covers that common area."

Runbeck reminded the group the DNR wants to implement its groundwater management plan in May without considering any other solutions.

"They're putting policy ahead of the science," Chamberlain maintained. "The groundwater management plans are almost arbitrary. Cities that use the aquifer are asked to change while Minneapolis is left to drill big, fat wells."

"Anything we do has to be paid for," added the senator. "Augmentation is one solution that will be debated later. There is not a lot of desire to use state money to augment lakes in any area."

When asked if there was a deadline to forming a joint powers board, Runbeck said January is a good target. "Next year is a bonding year at the Legislature," she noted. "We could all be ready to introduce a bill to augment, or whatever, then."

"We're here to help push things along," Fischer told the members. "If not, the malaise will continue. We want you to know your delegation is ready and set, we just need a push to help it go."

Chamberlain said the area legislators are committed to finding a solution to the lake problem. "We have to stop talking and start doing. I think people will be on board with that. But someone has to pay for it. The WBLCD needs to take a leadership role and others will follow. If we don't do something at the local level, the DNR and Met Council will and it will be stuff we won't like. If we take the lead, we will short circuit all that nonsense."

(05/12/2015 Version)

Charter of the City of Grant
State of Minnesota

Article 1. Name and Boundaries

Article 2. Civic Engagement

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Article 16. City-Owned Land

Charter of the City of Grant
State of Minnesota

Article 1. Name and Boundaries

Upon the effective date of this Charter, the City of Grant (herein “the City”), located in Washington County, Minnesota, shall continue to be a municipality officially known as the City of Grant. The City shall have the same boundaries as currently exist or which may be hereafter established. No City Council shall willingly annex, agree to split off, or give away City of Grant land to any surrounding community.

Article 2. Civic Engagement

In order to enhance the sustainability of the community, the City Council shall engage the residents in all aspects of its work, including appointments, planning, and visioning, through its community website, newsletter, mailings, public hearings, and other media available to it on a timely and regular basis; and at all of its meetings, the City Council shall provide for public input, response, and dialogue. The Planning Commission, the Charter Commission, and any other governmental bodies appointed by the City Council shall carry out their respective duties in a similar manner so as to promote the civic engagement of the residents of the city. All public meetings of the City Council, the Planning Commission, the Charter Commission, and any other governmental bodies appointed by the City Council shall be recorded in audio visual in their entirety. At all such public meetings, public comment shall be one of the first items after the approval of the agenda. In maintaining the City of Grant, the Council shall keep, preserve, and protect the right of every Grant citizen to stable, farm, fish, hunt and preserve the rural nature of their land and waterways.

Article 3. Powers of the City

The City shall have all powers which it may now or hereafter be possible for a municipal corporation in this state to exercise in harmony with the constitution of this state and the Constitution of the United States. It is the intention of this Charter to confer upon the City every power it would have as if it were specifically mentioned herein. The Charter shall be construed liberally in favor of the City, and the specific mention of a particular municipal power in other sections of this Charter does not limit the powers of the City to those thus mentioned. Unless granted to some other officer or body, all powers are vested in the City Council.

Article 4. Elective Officers

4.01 Council Composition and Elections.

The Council shall be composed of a Mayor, who shall be elected at large, and four Council members. The election of elective officers shall be staggered at the biennial city general elections so that two (2) council members are elected at the biennial city general election and the mayor and two (2) council members are elected at the next succeeding biennial city general election, and thereafter the elective officers shall be elected in that order and manner. Each

Councilmember shall be a resident and shall serve for a term of four (4) years and until a successor is elected and qualifies. The Mayor shall serve for a term of four (4) years and until a successor is elected and qualifies. Elective officers whose terms have not expired at the time of the first election following the adoption of this Charter provision shall continue to hold office until the expiration of the term for which originally elected.

4.02 Failing to Qualify and Vacancies.

If any person elected as Mayor or Council member shall resign the office, fail to qualify as required after the election, or shall neglect to perform the duties of the office, or be absent from the City without consent of the Council for a period of ninety (90) days, or be unable by reason of sickness or other cause to discharge the duties of office, the Council may declare the office vacant.

4.03 Filling Vacancies.

When a vacancy occurs on the Council, the Council shall post and publish the vacancy. After thirty (30) days, they shall appoint another person to fill the vacancy until the next general election when the successor can be elected and qualifies to fill the unexpired term of the vacancy. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the Deputy Mayor may fill the vacancy until the next general election and until the successor thereto is elected and qualifies. When the Deputy Mayor takes the oath of office and assumes the office of Mayor, the Deputy Mayor's City Council seat and the office of Deputy Mayor become vacant. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Deputy Mayor, the Council must elect one of its members to fill the office.

4.04 Salaries.

The Mayor and Council members shall receive such lawful compensation as is fixed by City ordinance. City officers and all employees of the City shall receive compensation, salaries or wages as fixed by the Council.

Article 5. Elections

5.01 Regular Elections.

A regular municipal election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year. The City Clerk/Administrator (herein "the Clerk") shall give at least 60 days published notice of the time and place of holding the election and of the officers to be elected, but failure to give such notice shall not invalidate the election.

5.02 Special Elections.

The Council may order a special election and provide all means for holding it. The Clerk shall give at least 60 days published notice of a special election. The procedure at the election shall conform as nearly as possible to that prescribed for other City elections.

5.03 Filing for Office.

Any voters of the City qualified under the state constitution for elective office may, by filing an affidavit and paying a filing fee to the Clerk, have their names placed on the municipal primary ballot or, if there is not a primary election, the municipal election ballot. The Council shall set the fee and dates by ordinance.

5.04 Procedures.

Subject to this Charter and applicable State laws, the Council may, by ordinance, further regulate the conduct of municipal elections. Except as otherwise provided by this Charter and supplementary ordinances, general state laws on election shall apply to municipal elections.

5.05 Campaign Financial Reports.

Candidates for Mayor or City Council must abide by Minnesota State Law now codified as Minnesota Statute Chapter 211A, or as it is amended.

Article 6. The Council

6.01 Council Members.

The Council shall consist of the Mayor and four (4) Council members, and they shall be the governing body of the municipality and shall exercise the corporate power of the City. The Council shall be vested with all powers of legislation in municipal affairs adequate to a complete system of local government, consistent with the constitution and laws of the state of Minnesota.

6.02 President of Council.

The Mayor shall be president of the Council and shall preside at all meetings. The Mayor shall have a right to vote upon all propositions, matters, and questions coming before the Council but shall have no veto power. The City of Grant has a weak Mayor Council where each member has an equal vote with no one having more power than any other.

6.03 Ordinance Procedure.

Ordinances and resolutions shall be enacted, amended, and recorded under the following regulations:

- A. The ayes and nays shall be taken upon the passage of all ordinances and resolutions and entered upon the journal of the proceedings of the Council.
- B. The enactment clause of all ordinances passed by the Council shall be in these words:
“The Council of the City of Grant does ordain:”

- C. Prior to passage, an ordinance must receive two (2) readings, but shall not be read at any place other than regular sessions, and not twice at the same session. The second reading shall be by sections, at which time amendments may be offered. The reading of a section shall not preclude the offering of an amendment to a preceding section.
- D. When an ordinance is upon its final reading and fails to pass and a motion is made to reconsider, the vote upon such motion shall not be taken except at a meeting of the Council held not less than one (1) week after the meeting at which such motion was made. All ordinances shall be enacted by a majority vote of all members of the Council except where a larger number is required by law or this Charter. Each enacted ordinance shall be signed by the Mayor, attested to by the Clerk, and published once in the official newspapers.
- E. In the case of lengthy ordinances, if the City Council determines that publication of the title and summary of an ordinance would clearly inform the public of the intent and effect of the ordinance, the Council may by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the members, direct that only the title of the ordinance and a summary be published with notice that a copy of the ordinance is available for inspection by any person during regular office hours at the office of the Clerk and any other location which the Council designates. A copy of the entire text of the ordinance shall be made available in the Grant Town Hall.
- F. A true and correct copy of all ordinances shall be kept and certified to by the Clerk in accordance with requirements of statute.

6.04 Council Meeting Records.

The Mayor or, in case of the Mayor's absence or disability, the Deputy Mayor shall sign the Clerk's records of the proceedings of each meeting of the Council, when the record has been presented for signature.

6.05 Incompatible Offices.

No member of the Council shall hold any paid municipal office or employment under the City; and until one year after the expiration of his/her term as mayor or council member, no former member shall be appointed to any paid appointive office or employment under the City which was created or the compensation for which was increased during the member's term as Mayor or Council member.

6.06 Publication of Business.

The Council, within fifteen (15) working days after every regular or special meeting, shall publish the official Council proceedings or a summary conforming to Minnesota Statute Chapter 331A.01, subdivision 10. The summary of business must be attested to by the Mayor as an accurate account of the proceedings.

6.07 Revision and Codification of Ordinances.

The City may rearrange and codify its ordinances as may be deemed necessary. The ordinance code may be published in book, pamphlet, or continuously revised loose-leaf form or electronic/digital, and copies shall be made available to the public by the Council at the office of the City Clerk for free or at a reasonable charge.

6.08 Powers and Duties of the Council.

The Council shall act as the legislative body of the City. The Council may enact ordinances. The Council shall be responsible for the duties of the City imposed by law. The Council shall make and be responsible for all policy decisions. The Council may make investigations into the affairs of the City or the conduct of any department or office of the City. The Council may subpoena witnesses and take testimony. The Council shall appoint, suspend, or remove the City Attorney, the Clerk, and all other City Officials, Department Heads and Supervisory Employees. No official or employee shall contract debts to bind the City or make any improvements in the City, unless authorized by a majority vote of the Council.

- A. Whenever practicable, non-staff council appointed positions shall be filled from applications submitted by non-elected citizen volunteers.
- B. Citizens shall be allowed to use any City-owned facility for the conduct of business related to appointed positions or to recreational, neighborhood, community, Charter Commission or other civic activity, as well as that which may be required of the City by higher authority. Reasonable conditions for use shall be established by the City Council, which shall include a fee schedule.
- C. The Council shall cause to be published an Operations, Procedures and Duties Manual, which will include the job descriptions and duties of the offices for all officials, department heads, and employees.

6.09 Planning Commission.

The Council shall appoint a seven (7) member permanent standing and staffed planning committee with staggered three (3) year terms. The duties of the Planning Commission are to monitor and recommend to the Council action necessary to cause compliance with the City Comprehensive Plan, zoning, and conditional use permits. The initial appointments are to be three 2 year terms and four 3 year terms; thereafter all appointments will be 3 year terms.

6.10 Budget and Finance Responsibilities of the Council.

The Council shall adopt the City's annual budget and capital budget. The Council shall be responsible for appropriations and revenue ordinances and for auditing of accounts.

6.11 Growth Management.

- A. Definitions:

1. “Comprehensive Plan” means a compilation of policy statements, goals, standards, and maps for guiding the physical, social, and economic development of the City and its environs.
 2. “Official Controls” means zoning ordinances, subdivision controls, building codes, and official maps.
- B. Planning responsibility of the Council. The Council must adopt, with the advice and deliberation of the Planning Commission, periodic updates to the Comprehensive Plan and Official Controls needed to implement the Comprehensive Plan.
1. Interim Guiding Principle. To the extent permitted by law, the City Council, when considering and adopting a Comprehensive Plan and Official Controls, must further the core community values upon which the City was founded, including the preservation of the right of every Grant citizen to stable, farm, fish and hunt and to preserve the rural nature of the land and waterways of the City.
 2. Springing Growth Limitation. If, by act of the legislature of Minnesota, Amendment to the Constitution of Minnesota, or upon Order of the Supreme Court of Minnesota, growth control measures by Initiative, Referendum, Recall or Charter are permitted, then upon the effective date of the law or order, the remaining undeveloped land within the City shall maintain a density of one dwelling unit per ten acres, and a five acre minimum lot size, and no further extension of urban sewer and water systems into the City are permitted. Within 180 days of the effective date of this Charter, the City Council must amend the Comprehensive Plan and Official Controls to include these limitations.

Article 7. The Mayor

7.01 Duties of the Mayor.

The Mayor shall see that the laws of the State, the provisions of this Charter, and the ordinances, resolutions, regulations, bylaws, and orders of the City are all duly observed within the City and shall see that all contracts made with the City are faithfully performed. In addition to serving as President of the Council, the Mayor is the head of the City for ceremonial purposes and is recognized as the ambassador by the Governor for purposes of military law. The Mayor is the chief legislator and leader of the policy making team, the Council, and performs a facilitative leadership role in helping the Council and staff perform better. The Mayor shall be the liaison between the Council and the City staff. The Mayor shall promote communication among officials and with the public and provide focus and leadership in the development of policy. The Mayor shall exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by law

and ordinance. The Mayor shall not enter into any joint power agreements with other governments without the deliberation and consent of the Council.

7.02 Deputy Mayor.

After the election of its members, the Council must, at its first meeting, elect one of its members as Deputy Mayor, who will act as Mayor Pro Tempore during the temporary absence or disability of the Mayor.

Article 8. Administration of City Affairs

8.01 The Office Staff.

The Council shall appoint statutory and appropriate staff as needed.

8.02 Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the City shall commence upon the first (1) day of January and end upon the thirty-first (31) day of December in each year.

8.03 Bonds.

The Council shall fix the amount of the bonds to be required of elected and appointed officials and Charter Commission members.

8.04 Creating and Discontinuing Offices.

The Council shall have the power to create and discontinue offices, prescribe the duties pertaining thereto, as the needs of the City may require, and shall establish personnel policies and procedures.

8.05 Official Interest in Contracts.

Except as otherwise permitted by law, no officer of the City who is authorized to take part in any manner in any contract with the City shall voluntarily have a personal financial interest in or personally benefit from such contract.

Article 9. Police Department

The City Council of Grant will provide and contract for all police services.

Article 10. Fire Department

The City Council of Grant will provide and contract for all fire services.

Article 11. Taxation and Finances

11.01 Council to Control Finances.

The Council shall have full authority over the financial affairs of the city. It shall provide for the collection of all revenues and other assets, the auditing and settlement of accounts, and the safekeeping and disbursement of public monies.

11.02 Funds.

There shall be maintained in the City treasury a general fund and such other funds as may be required by statute, ordinance, or resolution. The Council may, by ordinance or resolution, make interfund loans, except from trust and agency funds, as it may deem necessary and appropriate.

11.03 City Budget.

The City Council will endeavor to have a balanced budget.

11.04 Power to Borrow Money or Incur Debt.

The City may issue bonds, certificates of indebtedness, or other evidences of indebtedness, as follows:

- A. To purchase, construct, extend, improve, or maintain any public utility, as defined by the state laws, and any property needed in connection therewith; and such bonds, certificates, or other evidences of indebtedness shall be a specific lien on the public utility, together with all property used in connection therewith for which such bonds, certificates, or other evidence of indebtedness are issued.
- B. For defraying the cost of making local improvements in intersections of the streets, alleys, and in front of property exempt by law from special assessments or which is not benefited by a local improvement, and property owned by the City.
- C. For the purpose of paying, funding or refunding any bonded indebtedness of the City, existing at the time this Charter goes into effect, or created at any time as authorized by this Charter.

11.05 Powers by Law.

The powers set forth in this article to issue any form of public indebtedness shall be in addition to any other power that a city may have at common law or that is set forth in any Minnesota statute that pertains to any city however organized.

11.06 Not Limiting.

The issuance of any bond, certificate of indebtedness, or other debt permitted by this article shall not be subject to any election requirements contained in Minnesota Statute Chapter 475.58.

Article 12. Public Improvements and Special Assessments

12.01 Power to Make Improvements and Levy Assessments.

The City may make any type of public improvement and levy special assessments to pay all or part of the cost of such improvements as are of a local character. The total assessment for any local improvement may not exceed the cost of the improvement, including all costs and expenses connected therewith, with interest. No assessment shall exceed the market value benefits to the property.

12.02 Local Improvements and Special Assessment Procedures.

When the City undertakes any local improvements and or special assessment, it must comply with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 429 and all other State laws.

12.03 Special Assessment Deferments.

The City Council shall by resolution establish and publish policies that defer special assessment payments for reason of hardship for senior citizens, disabled persons, members of the National Guard or military, Green Acres and unimproved land.

12.04. Sewer and Water.

The City of Grant shall not allow any form of public (e.g., municipal) sewer and water except for existing services to School District 832.

12.05 Road Maintenance.

The City Council shall establish and implement a perpetual gravel and hard surface road maintenance program that includes a written policy to maintain and extend the life cycle performance of local roads.

12.06 Storm Water Management.

The City Council shall establish and implement a perpetual storm water management program that includes a written policy to address identified problem areas.

Article 13. Eminent Domain

13.01 Authority of City.

The City is hereby empowered to take, destroy or damage by proceedings in condemnation any real or personal property or interest therein, wherever situated, which may be needed by the City for any public use or purpose. The necessity for taking, destroying or damaging any property for public use or purpose shall be first determined by resolution of the Council, which resolution shall in a general way describe the property so to be taken, destroyed or damaged.

13.02 Procedure.

The procedure for any condemnation proceeding shall be that prescribed in Minnesota Statute Chapter 117 as it now exists or is from time to time amended.

Article 14. General Provisions

14.01 Robert's Rules of Order.

The City Council, Planning Commission, Charter Commission, and any other government body requiring a quorum shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, as most recently revised, to govern meeting procedure.

14.02 City to Succeed to Rights and Obligations of the Former Statutory City.

The City shall succeed to all the property, rights and privileges, and shall be subject to all legal obligations that the City had prior to when this Charter takes effect.

14.03 Existing Ordinances Continued.

All ordinances and regulations of the City in force when this Charter takes effect and not inconsistent with this Charter are continued in full force and effect until amended or repealed.

14.04 Pending Condemnations, Improvements and Assessments.

Any condemnation, improvement, or assessment proceeding in progress when this Charter takes effect shall be continued and completed under the laws under which such proceeding was begun. All assessments made by the City prior to the time when this Charter takes effect shall be collected as if this Charter had not been adopted.

14.05 Ordinances to Make Charter Effective.

The City Council shall by ordinance, resolution, or other appropriate action, take such action as may be necessary to make effective the provisions of this Charter.

14.06 Present Officers to Continue.

The present officers of the City shall continue in their respective offices and functions and shall continue to govern the City under the laws previously in effect until the officers provided for by this Charter have been elected and qualified.

14.07 Effective Date.

This Charter becomes effective when it is adopted by the citizens of Grant.

14.08 Appointment of Charter Commission Members.

Notice of vacancies on the Charter Commission must be published in the City's official publication and mailed to all Charter Commission members a minimum of ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of a Charter Commission member's term or upon a vacancy occurring on the Commission. The vacancy must be filled by appointment by the Chief Judge of the Tenth Judicial District pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 410.05, and if the Chief Judge fails to appoint new commission members within thirty (30) days, then thereafter the City Council may appoint new members unless, within the thirty (30) day period, the Chief Judge indicates in writing to the City Council an intention to appoint new members, in which case the Chief Judge will have an additional sixty (60) days to make the appointment. Members of the City Council of the City of Grant may not be appointed or re-appointed to serve as members of the Charter Commission.

14.09 Appointment to and Removal from all other Boards and Commissions.

Except for the Charter Commission or where the method of appointment is controlled by State law, appointment to Boards and Commissions must be made by majority vote of the Council; however, removal must be by a four-fifths (4/5th) vote of the Council.

14.10 Notice of Vacancies.

Notice of vacancies on Boards and Commissions must be published in the City's official publication a minimum of thirty (30) days before a vacancy is filled.

Article 15. Initiative, Referendum and Recall

15.01 General Voter Authority.

The voters of the City shall have the right, in accordance with this Chapter, to propose Ordinances and to require Ordinances to be submitted to a vote by processes known respectively as initiative and referendum.

15.02 Petition.

An initiative or referendum shall be initiated by a petition signed by registered voters of the City equal in number to twenty (20) percent of those who voted in the last preceding biennial City general election. Each petition shall be sponsored by a committee of five (5) voters whose

names and addresses shall appear on the petition. A petition may consist of one (1) or more papers, but each paper circulated separately shall contain at its head or attached to it the statement required by Section 15.04 or 15.05 as the case may be. Each signer shall sign his or her name and street address. Each separate page of the petition shall have appended to it a certificate, verified by oath, that each signature is a genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. The person making the certificate shall be a resident of the City. Any person whose name appears on a petition may withdraw his or her name by a statement in writing filed with the City before the Council is advised of the sufficiency of the petition. A petition for initiative may be filed at any time, except that if an Ordinance has been presented by initiative, and has failed to have been voted for by the majority of those voting on the Ordinance, then the same Ordinance cannot be submitted by petition for initiative prior to six (6) months after the election at which it was voted down. A petition for referendum must be filed at the City Hall with the Clerk prior to the Ordinance's effective date as determined under Section 6.03 of this Charter.

15.03 Determination of Sufficiency and Disposition.

The petition for initiative or referendum shall be filed at the City Hall, and the Clerk shall examine the petition and place it on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting. At such meeting, the Clerk shall report to the Council the number of voters equal to twenty (20) percent of the total numbers of voters who voted on the date of the last preceding biennial City general election, the Clerk shall also report to the Council the number of signers of the petition who are registered voters of the City. If the Council determines that the petition is insufficient or irregular, it shall order a copy of the petition, together with a written statement of its defects, returned to the sponsoring committee. The committee shall have thirty (30) days in which to file additional signature papers and to correct the petition in all other particulars. If, at the end of that period, the Council finds that the petition is still insufficient or irregular, it shall order the petition filed and notify the sponsoring committee of the defects. The final finding that the petition is insufficient or irregular shall not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose, nor shall it prevent the Council from referring the ordinance to the voters at the next regular or special election at its option.

15.04 Initiative.

Any Ordinance, except an emergency Ordinance relating to the budget or capital program, the appropriation of money, the levy of taxes, or the salaries of the City officers or employees, may be proposed by a petition that shall state at the head of each page or on a paper attached thereto the exact text of the proposed Ordinance. If the Council passes the proposed Ordinance with amendments and if a majority of the sponsoring committee does not disapprove the amended form by a statement filed with the City within thirty (30) days of its adoption by the Council, the Ordinance need not be submitted to the voters. If the Council fails to enact the Ordinance in an acceptable form within sixty (60) days after the final determination of sufficiency of the petition, the Ordinance shall be placed on the ballot at the next election occurring in the City. If no election is to occur within one hundred eighty (180) days after the filing of the petition, the Council shall call a special election on the Ordinance to be held within

such period. If a majority of those voting on the Ordinance vote in favor, it shall become effective immediately, or on a later date specified therein.

15.05 Referendum.

Any Ordinance subject to initiative may be subject to a referendum by a petition that shall state, at the head of each page or on an attached paper, a description of the Ordinance. Any Ordinance upon which a petition is filed, other than emergency Ordinance, shall be suspended in its operation as soon as the petition is found sufficient. If the Ordinance is not thereafter entirely repealed, it shall be placed on the ballot at the next regular City election or at a special election called for that purpose, as the Council determines. If a majority of the voters vote in favor the Ordinance, it shall go into effect immediately or on the date specified in the Ordinance. If a majority of the voters vote against the Ordinance, it shall be considered repealed upon certification of the election results. If no petition is filed against an emergency Ordinance, the Ordinance shall remain in effect but shall be repealed if a majority of the voters voting on the Ordinance vote against it.

15.06 Recall.

Any five (5) electors may form themselves into a committee for the purpose of bringing about the recall of any elected officer in the City. The committee shall certify to the City Clerk the name of the officer whose removal is sought, a statement of the grounds for removal in not more two hundred fifty (250) words, and their intention to bring his or her recall. A copy of this certificate shall be part of each signature paper, and no signature paper shall be put into circulation previous to such certification.

15.07 Recall Petition

The petition for the recall of any official shall consist of a certificate identical to that filed with the City Clerk together with all the signature papers and affidavits thereto attached. Such petition shall not be complete unless signed by registered voters of the City equal to at least twenty (20) percent of the total number of voters who voted in the preceding biennial City general election. All signatures need not be on one signature paper, but the circulator of every paper shall make an affidavit that each signature appended to the paper is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. Each signature paper shall be in substantially the following form:

Recall Petition

Proposing the recall of _____ from his/her office as _____ which recall is sought for the reasons set forth in the attached certificate. This movement is sponsored by the following committee of electors:

Name	Address
1.	
2.	

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The undersigned electors, understanding the nature of the charges against the officer herein sought to be recalled, desire the holding of a recall election for that purpose.

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- Etc.

At the end of the list of signatures shall be appended the affidavit of the circulator.

15.08 Filing of Recall Petition.

Within thirty (30) days after the filing of the original certificate, the committee shall file the complete petition in the office of the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall examine the petition within the next five (5) days, and if the City Clerk finds it irregular in any way, or finds that the number of signers is less than a number of voters equal to twenty (20) percent of the total number of voters who voted in the last preceding biennial City general election, the City Clerk shall so notify the sponsoring committee in writing by registered or certified mail to the last known address of the members of the committee. The committee shall then be given ten (10) days in which to file additional signature papers and to correct the petition in all other respects, but they may not change the statement of the grounds upon which the recall is sought. If at the end of that time the City Clerk finds the petition still insufficient or irregular, the City Clerk shall notify, in writing, all members of the committee to that effect and shall file the petition in the City Clerk's office. No further action shall be taken thereon.

15.09 Recall Election.

If the petition or amended petition is found sufficient, the City Clerk shall transmit it to the Council without delay, and shall notify in writing the person sought to be recalled of both the sufficiency of the petition and the pending action. The Council shall at its next meeting, by resolution, provide for the holding of a special recall election not less than thirty (30) no more than forty five (45) days after such meeting, but if any other election is to occur within sixty (60) days after such meeting, the Council may in its discretion provide for the holding of the recall election at that time.

15.10 Procedure at Recall Election.

The City Clerk shall include with the published and posted notice of the election, the statement of the grounds for the recall and also, in not more than five hundred (500) words, the answer the officer concerned in justification of his/her course in office. Candidates to succeed the officer to be recalled shall be nominated in the usual way, and the election shall be conducted as fairly as possible, in accordance the usual procedures in municipal elections.

15.11. Form of Recall Ballot.

Unless the officer whose removal is sought resigns within ten (10) days after the receipt by the Council of the completed recall petition, the form of the ballot at such election shall be as near as may be:

“Shall _____ be recalled?” The name of the officer whose recall is sought shall be inserted in the blank, and the electors shall be permitted to vote separately “YES” or “NO” upon this question.

Article 16. City-Owned Land

16.01 Application of Article.

All land now or hereafter owned by the City:

- A. Shall not be sold, leased, or disposed of, developed or have its character substantially changed or altered unless done in compliance with this chapter or,
- B. That has been dedicated or devoted to park, recreational, open space or natural use, including the ravines of the city, shall not be sold, leased, disposed of or developed or used in any manner inconsistent with park, recreational, open space, natural use or have its character substantially changed or altered unless done in compliance with this chapter.

16.02 Sale, Use or Disposal of Property.

The Council shall prepare a summary setting forth in substance the nature of the proposed sale, use or disposal, including not by way of limitation, price, term, date of possession and intended use of the proposed sale, use or disposal. The summary, which shall include a plain English description and a map providing a visual description of the property, shall be published once each week for four successive weeks in the legal newspaper of the City, and thereafter the City Council shall conduct public hearings on the proposal.

Thereafter, the Council may, by affirmative vote of four-fifths (4/5th) of its members, adopt an ordinance authorizing the sale, use, change of character or disposal of the property. If the ordinance is passed, it shall not be effective until 30 days after its publication or at such later time as is fixed in the ordinance. Within the 30 day period, a petition requesting a referendum on the ordinance may be filed with the Clerk. The petition shall be signed by qualified voters equal in number to two (2) percent of the total number of voters who cast votes in the City at the last state general election.

If the required petition is filed within the 30 day period, the Ordinance shall not become effective until it is approved by the voters of the City at a general or special election. The form of the question shall be fixed by the Council. If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of its adoption, the Ordinance shall pass and shall take effect 30 days from the date of the election.

The Home Rule Charter City

I. Home rule in Minnesota

The Minnesota Constitution permits the Legislature to establish home rule charter cities, counties, and other units of local government. State statutes enacted under this constitutional authority authorize cities to adopt home rule charters. Any city may adopt a home rule charter. Of the 852 cities in the state, 107 are currently operating under a voter-approved home rule charter. *See* Minn. Const. art. XII, § 4; Minn. Stat. ch. 410.

Home rule charter cities can exercise any powers in their locally adopted charters as long as they do not conflict with state laws. Conversely, charter provisions can specifically restrict the powers of a city. As a result, voters in home rule cities have more control over their city's powers.

II. Distinction between home rule charter and statutory cities

The major difference between home rule cities and statutory cities in Minnesota is the kind of enabling legislation from which they gain their authority. Statutory cities derive their powers from Chapter 412 of Minnesota Statutes, commonly known as the statutory city code ("city code"). Home rule cities obtain their powers from a home rule charter. The distinction between home rule cities and statutory cities is one of organization and powers, not differences in population, size, location, or other physical features. *See* Minn. Stat. Ch. 412.

Despite this distinction, home rule charter cities are often interested in the statutory city code. For example, a charter commission will often review Chapter 412 when drafting amendments to the charter. In addition, when a charter is silent on a matter addressed in the statutory city code (or other general law), the home rule charter city can generally use that statutory authority as well. *See* Minn. Stat. § 410.33; Minn. Stat. Ch. 412.

Statutory cities are sometimes interested in home rule charters themselves. This may occur when problems arise that cannot be solved under the statutory city code. When a statutory city finds itself in such a situation, it can either request that the Legislature change the city code (or adopt a special law for that specific city), or it can become a home rule city with a charter provision that provides the necessary authority.

III. The home rule charter

Home rule charters are, in effect, local constitutions. State laws give cities a wide range of discretion to draft charters that will meet the specific needs of the community.

A. Forms of city organization

The charter may provide for any form of municipal government that is consistent with state laws that apply uniformly to all cities in Minnesota. Home rule charter cities in Minnesota have operated under the following four forms of city government. An individual charter may, however, alter some of these features. *See* Minn. Stat. § 410.16.

1. Weak mayor-council

The weak mayor-council plan is the most predominant form of city organization and is used by 74* of the 107 home rule charter cities. Under this plan, administrative and legislative authority is the council's ultimate responsibility. The powers of the mayor are generally no greater (or less) than those of any other member of the council. No individual councilmember holds any specific administrative powers.

[The Handbook then describes three other forms of city organization, which descriptions do not apply to Grant and which are therefore not included here.]

B. Advantages of a home rule charter

The home rule charter type of city government has advantages and disadvantages. Some of the advantages of home rule include:

- One of the principle virtues of the home rule charter is that it allows each city to tailor its charter to its own individual needs and desires (cities are encouraged to contact the League of Minnesota Cities Charter Assistance Program for model and sample charters, research memos, and advice that will assist in drafting, amending, or adopting a charter). City residents draft, adopt, and amend the city's charter.
- A home rule city, unlike a statutory city, has the power to make changes to fit its own needs by amending its charter. These changes can occur locally, rather than waiting (and hoping) for a new law to be passed when the Legislature is in session.
- The home rule process educates the voters of the city. Some work on charter commissions, while others will learn about the charter and any amendments when they vote on proposed changes.
- A city charter may cover many functions and procedures, or it may be very similar to the statutory form of city government.
- If general state laws are silent on a specific subject, local citizens may address them in their city's charter.
- A charter may provide for initiative and referendum, recall, and election of councilmembers by wards.
- City charters sometimes include limitations that are more stringent than those in the general state laws. For example, a few home rule charters contain tax and debt limitations.

- The cost of government under a city charter need not be greater or less than the cost of the statutory city form of government.

C. Disadvantages of a home rule charter

A home rule charter also has its disadvantages. Some of these can include:

- While the cost of preparing a home rule charter should be relatively minor, the smaller the community, the larger the cost in proportion to population.
- Poor charter drafting can be a problem. A charter city can minimize these concerns by relying on model charters and consulting competent professional advice.
- The process for amending a charter is often time-consuming and cumbersome.
- Charter amendments can be difficult to pass (particularly when the subject matter is controversial). Sometimes, city advocates will go directly to the Legislature for a solution, in order to bypass local opposition or to avoid dividing the community. This tends to defeat the original purpose of home rule: local control.
- If the city charter provides for special elections, election expenses may be overly burdensome to city budgets.
- Anyone looking for the applicable law relating to a home rule charter city must consult not only the state statutes, but the particular home rule charter. Only a few collections of the home rule charters exist. An up-to-date copy of a city charter is of utmost importance to ensure the advice is accurate.
- The experiences of other cities may be of little help to a home rule charter city. For example, when the Supreme Court or the attorney general gives a ruling that concerns a statutory city, that opinion will, in most instances, be equally applicable to all other statutory cities in the state. Rulings affecting a home rule charter may, however, only be relevant to those cities that have very similar charter provisions.
- The procedure for abandoning the charter form of city government may be similarly complicated.

D. Essentials of a good home rule charter

Effective charters maximize the advantages while minimizing the potential disadvantages. In addition, a good home rule charter will also address the following:

1. Comprehensive grant of power

The most essential element of a good charter is a comprehensive grant of power that allows the city to exercise all powers legally available under state law and the state constitution.

Because cities are organized to promote the welfare of the people, and city residents are in control through their elected representatives and charter commission members, citizens should not be afraid of entrusting their city government with a wide range of powers. If the citizens feel it necessary, the charter can include initiative, referendum, and possibly recall provisions as additional checks to prevent the abuse of power.

2. Simplicity and brevity

Simplicity and brevity are also essential to a good charter. Provisions should be simple and clear, avoiding the possibility of more than one interpretation. A charter should also be brief enough to be read in a reasonable amount of time.

3. Governance fundamentals

Because of the difficulty in amending and abandoning a home rule charter, the charter should only deal with governance fundamentals and give the city council the authority to provide more detailed regulations through city ordinances.

4. Responsive organization

A good city charter provides for a workable, responsive governmental organization. Its design should eliminate unnecessary “red tape” and makes city government more effective by reducing the number of working parts.

5. Centralize administration

Whenever possible, the charter should centralize responsibility for administration in one person: a chief administrative officer. This encourages and rewards expertise and efficiency in the administration of the city.

6. Representative democracy

A charter should emphasize representative democracy. A city should limit the number of elective offices so voters will be able to intelligently cast their ballots. The charter should never ask voters to elect non-policy-making administrative officers. The city should have only a single body elected by voters to legislate and determine policies for the city. This single legislative body, the city council, should be composed of between five and nine members. Councilmember terms should be long enough (up to four years) to gain experience. State law mandates that most council terms be four years, although a two-year mayoral term is allowed.

7. Advisory boards

All advisory boards should report directly to the city council.

CITY OF GRANT



Rules of Procedure

City of Grant

Planning Commission

CITY OF GRANT
RULES OF PROCEDURE
FOR CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Section 1	Roles and Responsibilities.....
Section 2	Terms.....
Section 3	Meetings.....
Section 4	Agendas.....
Section 5	Meeting Minutes.....
Section 6	Public Hearings.....
Section 7	City Consultants

Section 1

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

State statutes prescribe several mandatory duties for the City Planning Commission. A City Ordinance should be drafted to include these duties. In addition, state statute permits some optional duties to be assigned to the planning commission in the Council's discretion. In most instances, unless noted in statute or ordinance, the planning commission serves in an advisory capacity.

State statute vests planning commissions with mandatory duties related to:

- Reviewing amendments to the comprehensive plan
- Reviewing purchase and sale of public property and capital improvement projects
- Reviewing zoning ordinance amendments

Additionally duties are to include:

- Review of all Land Use applications
- Conduct Public Hearings in relation to Land Use applications
- Provide recommendations to the City Council relating to Land Use applications

Section 2

TERMS

City Council Report for May 2015

May 17, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council Members

From: Jack Kramer Building & code Enforcement O official

Zoning Enforcement:

No new Zoning Violations to report at this time.

Abated Zoning Violation:


Penfield, Inc. 10010-60th. St. N. Violation of Conditional Use Permit # G-35-CC-85-034.

Houle's Feed Store was storing two semis - trailers at the front loading dock due to the limited interior storage space. The conditional use permit does not allow for temporary or permanent storage at the front of the loading area. Mr. Houle and the owner of Penfield, Inc. are exploring the idea of a building addition in the future.

Building Permit Activity:

Twenty-Four (24) Building Permits were issued for this time period for a total valuation of \$ 482,694.00.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Kramer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jack Kramer

Building & Code Enforcement Official

Grant Master Form						
Permit	Permit Type	Name	Project Address	Date Issued	Valuation:	City Fee:
					75%	Plan CK Fe
					Surcharge	Paid

2015-47	Pole Bldg.	Scholl	10650 Ideal Ave. N.	4/15/2015	\$ 37,986.00	\$ 523.05	\$ 392.28	\$ 339.98	\$ 18.99	
2015-48	Patio Door	Renewal	10533 Ideal Ave. N.	4/15/2015	\$ 3,683.00	\$ 83.25	\$ 62.43	\$ -	\$ 1.84	
2015-49	Solar Panels	Griese	10510-188th. St. N.	4/15/2015	\$ 8,200.00	\$ 167.25	\$ 125.43	\$ -	\$ 4.11	
2015-50	Garage	Reichel	8177 Kimbro Ave. N.	4/20/2015	\$ 24,750.00	\$ 391.75	\$ 293.81	\$ 254.63	\$ 12.37	
2015-51	HVAC	Simmet	11660 Irish Ave. N.	4/20/2015	N/A	\$ 80.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00	
2015-52	Base Finish	Johns	7420 Lake Elmo Ave.	4/20/2015	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 671.75	\$ 503.81	\$ 436.63	\$ 27.00	
2015-53	Demo	Nitti Roll-O	6990-117th. St. N.	4/21/2015	N/A	\$ 100.00	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ -	
2015-54	Swim pool	Johns	7420 Lake Elmop Ave.	4/23/2015	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 251.25	\$ 188.43	\$ -	\$ 7.50	
2015-55	Windows	Farris	10280 Kismet lane N.	4/24/2015	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 111.25	\$ 83.43	\$ -	\$ 2.42	
2015-56	Garage	S&D Real	10591-69th. St. N.	4/27/2015	\$ 18,300.00	\$ 307.25	\$ 230.43	\$ 100.71	\$ 9.15	
2015-57	HVAC	Thorager	11937 July Ave. N.	4/29/2015	N/A	\$ 80.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00	
2015-58	Windows	Ramsden	8350 Lofton Ave. N.	4/30/2015	N/A	\$ 167.25	\$ 125.43	\$ -	\$ 4.49	
2015-59	Re-Roof	Savnoe	11260- 110th. St. N.	5/1/2015	\$ 7,600.00	\$ 153.25	\$ 114.93	\$ -	\$ 3.80	
2015-60	Deck	Erichson	8910 kimbro Ave. N.	5/1/2015	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 111.25	\$ 83.43	\$ 72.31	\$ 2.50	
2015-61	HVAC	Olson	11958 Isleton Ave. N.	5/1/2015	N/A	\$ 80.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00	
2015-62	Plumbing	Johns	7420 Lake Elmo Ave.	5/2/2015	N/A	\$ 80.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00	
2015-63	HVAC	Olson	11958 Isleton Ave. Ct.	5/4/2015	N/A	\$ 80.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00	
2015-64	HVAC	Meyer	10656-83rd. St. N.	5/4/2015	N/N	\$ 240.00	\$ 180.00	\$ -	\$ 15.00	
2015-65	Swim Pool	Tschope	9370 Manning Trl. N.	5/4/2015	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 442.25	\$ 331.68	\$ -	\$ 15.00	
2015-66	Gar. Footings	Sass	6463-117th. St. N.	5/4/2015	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 97.25	\$ 72.93	\$ -	\$ 1.83	
2015-67	Windows	Kuzi	10800-66th. St. N.	5/6/2015	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 125.25	\$ 93.93	\$ -	\$ 2.75	
2015-68	Re-Roof	Kolby	10511-62nd. St. N.	5/7/2015	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 175.72	\$ 158.14	\$ -	\$ 5.40	
2015-69	Addition	Jones	10270 Kismet Ave. N.	5/12/2015	\$ 219,900.00	\$ 1,655.75	\$ 1,249.31	\$ 1,082.73	\$ 109.95	
2015-70	Windows	Volin	9950-83rd. St. N.	5/15/2015	\$ 33,300.00	\$ 482.65	\$ 361.98	\$ -	\$ 16.65	
Monthly total					\$ 482,694.00	\$ 6,657.42	\$ 5,026.81	\$ 2,286.99	\$ 285.75	