

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Utilities"

Policy Letter 503: Metropolitan Water Authority

BACKGROUND:

Residents throughout the metropolitan area rely on both groundwater and surface water to provide adequate potable water for drinking, washing, and watering. At least two factors are important to consider when addressing water management. First, residents must have the assurance that an adequate source of water is available and can be provided. And secondly, residents must have access to potable water to meet their needs and the overall needs of the Metropolitan Area.

A finite, or limited amount of water is available from the Red River, Sheyenne River, and the aquifers of this region. Additionally, surface and groundwater drastically fluctuates in water volume and are at constant risk to contaminants.

Growth in the metropolitan area has placed greater demands on our water resources. Water requirements for the commercial and residential areas have the potential to double or triple in demand. Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo, Dilworth, and the many other communities and residential developments in the rural area should be involved in meeting the community water needs. Actions should be taken to ensure the water resources of this area are managed in a manner that is fair and equitable for all metropolitan residents.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo, in coordinated effort with entities represented through the Metropolitan Council of Governments, should ensure a professional investigation is conducted as to the feasibility of a Metropolitan Water Authority.

CONCLUSION:

Residents of this area want low taxes and adequate services. The fair and equitable use and conservation of our natural resources are the responsibilities of all residents, whether urban or rural, Minnesotan or North Dakotan. Mayors from each community and representatives from rural areas should meet to ensure agreements over the management of the region's water resources are made. The Water Authority must serve the base infrastructure and ensure equity. A balance of costs and benefits of all services provided to each community is needed. The water resources of this area can be managed best through the collective voice of all residents in the metropolitan area.