



**LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS**

**February 2009  
Quarterly Newsletter**

# Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

Serving LWVs in the seven-county Twin City Metropolitan Area

## **CMAL March Quarterly Meeting**

### **Clean and Sustainable Water for the Metropolitan Area**

**Saturday, March 21, 2009**

9:30 – 10:00 Coffee  
10:00 – 11:00 Program  
11:00 – 11:30 Q/A

Southdale Library, Edina  
7001 York Avenue South  
Edina, MN 55435

For our discussion of clean water resources in the Greater Metropolitan Area we are pleased to welcome two speakers who will describe what two of our local government agencies are doing to provide clean and safe water for the use of our citizens.

Our first speaker is Lanya Ross who joined the Metropolitan Council Water Supply Planning staff as Senior Environmental Scientist in 2006. Her focus is the development and implementation of The Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan which was initiated in 2005 in response to the Minnesota Legislature's mandate to the Metropolitan Council. As required under Minnesota Statute 473.1565, the goal of these efforts is to

guide sustainable water use in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Water supply planning becomes an integral component of long-term regional and local comprehensive planning. She believes improving water literacy among our residents and decision-makers is critical for success.

Continued on page 2

### **Nominations Committee**

The Nominating Committee is hard at work finding dedicated LWV members to fill positions on the 2009-2011 CMAL Board.

Positions open include:

- Chair – 2 year term
- Secretary – 2 year term
- Treasurer – 1 year term
- 2 Board members – 2 year terms
- Nominating Chair – 1 year term
- Nominating member – 1 year term

If you have a suggestion of someone in your local LWV you would like to nominate, or if you would be willing to serve, please contact Aggie Leitheiser, Nominations Chair at [aggiel@mninter.net](mailto:aggiel@mninter.net) or (952) 938-6255.

The board has usually been meeting the first Thursday of each month and do things such as plan our meetings, organize observers, create the newsletter, coordinate Lively Issues, maintain our records, and set policy.

We hope you will consider serving!

Continued from page 1

Ms. Ross will provide the following:

- How water supply has been incorporated into Metropolitan Council Activities
- A summary of existing and projected regional water demand
- Brief discussion of analytical tools (such as groundwater flow modeling and resource mapping)
- A summary of anticipated water availability issues (such as well interference, impacts to surface water features, excessive aquifer drawdown, risk of contamination, etc)
- A summary of responses to water availability issues

Our second speaker is Geoffrey Nash, P.G., Groundwater Specialist/Geologist who joined the Ramsey Conservation District in June of 2008. He has 29 years of geological experience mostly in environmental consulting.

Mr. Nash will highlight details of the DRAFT Ramsey County Groundwater Protection Plan. This revised plan will be out for public comment soon. It recommends programs to:

- Monitor groundwater quality and elevation in Ramsey County
- Expand a program to seal abandoned wells
- Map known groundwater contaminant plumes

Mr. Nash will also address funding for this type of program.

Each of us takes clean water from the faucet for granted. Do come and learn how this is achieved and prospects for the future. For those with computers, go to [www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org) and <http://co.ramsey.mn.us/cd/projects.htm> for background information. Investigate what your community is doing.

Geneva MacMillan

## CMAL Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2009.

May is a busy month with the LWVMN Convention, Mother's Day, the Fishing Opener, Memorial Day and the start of Graduation season. Be sure to put the CMAL Annual Meeting in your calendar now!

The workbook with details on the meeting will be published late March or early April.

Please give thought to what you would like CMAL to study or focus on for the next year.

If you have any suggestions for CMAL Bylaw Changes, please submit them to the board by March 1, 2009

### Updates Needed!

Please check that your contact information on the right side of the Member Resources page at [www.lwvmn.org](http://www.lwvmn.org) is correct. Email corrections to [webmaster@lwvmn.org](mailto:webmaster@lwvmn.org).

Also, check your "**Local LWV Info**" page to make sure we have accurate information on your local LWV, especially for Officers, Board and CMAL Delegate and Alternates.

## Message from the Chair



Continuing with our focus on current CMAL positions, our March meeting will be on something many of us take for granted, but is essential in our daily lives – water.

Our 1995 position supports the Met Council as the agency to plan and coordinate the water supply needs of the region.

A couple weeks ago, I saw “Grand Canyon Adventure” at the IMax Theater in the Science Museum. In addition to the spectacular scenery, the movie showed the effects that humans have had on the Colorado River. Water levels in the lakes created by the dams are declining, water is used along the way to supply cities and irrigate fields. By the time the river reaches the Gulf of California in Mexico, it is nearly bone dry.

The chilling conclusion – experts estimate that the Colorado River will dry up within 25 years. What will that mean to the people who rely on it for their source of water?

If you haven’t seen this film, I strongly recommend doing so.

Here in the Twin City Metro Area we have two major sources of water – the Mississippi River and ground water. No matter which is your source of water, this is an important issue for the future of our region. Let’s hope it is not as dire as the situation with the Colorado River.

Come to our March Quarterly meeting to learn about what is being done to insure that we have an adequate supply of water long into the future. I look forward to seeing you there!

*Ady*

## Annual Meeting Resolutions

Last year a resolution was made our Annual Meeting on Fiscal Disparities and the Mall of America.

By that time, there were only a few days left in the legislative session and by Saturday when we researched it, the bill was virtually dead. Once we realized this, there was no point in writing and sending a letter that would not be received until after the session closed on Monday.

We intended to do additional research and send a letter to legislators this session, but as of now there are no plans to do the MOA expansion and to divert Fiscal Disparities dollars to do it.

The board discussed the resolution process and are making the following recommendation:

All proposed resolutions must be submitted to the membership at least 4 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The resolution should contain background information as well as any action requested of the board.

Notification may be made by cmal-share or by mailing to each local LWV in the metro area and to the CMAL board.

Because resolutions are considered binding, the board would like the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons and to make a recommendation to the delegates before a vote.

This process will be added to the “Rules of Convention” for approval by the delegates at our Annual Meeting in May. We hope you will concur with the board’s recommendation to make this change.

## CMAL Observer Reports

The New Year has begun and I'd like to start with a review of observing the Met Council. I just did mine in about 35 minutes from the comfort of my home. I went to [www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org) and on the right side of the page I clicked on online videos: meetings and features. Now you have 2 choices: first I went to Met Council for videos and did my report. The other option is to click on meetings, agendas and minutes on the right, click the most recent agenda for the group you want to see, look for approval of minutes on the agenda and click on the date. There you'll find the information for your report.

You can file your report by going to [lwvmn.org](http://lwvmn.org), click on CMAL, click on Observer Reports on the right side and the form is at the top. You only have 15 minutes to put it in so if you type slowly like me it is best to do a word document and cut and paste. It is pretty easy to do observer reports without having to worry about traffic, parking, or when you will get home.

Have a question or a problem you can call me at 651-264-9291.

Kathy Klein  
CMAL Director

## Observer Schedule

You are welcome to switch weeks or report on a meeting in another week if you contact the LWV who has that week to make sure they are not covering that meeting.

Week	Local LWV
Feb. 2-6	Eastern Carver County
Feb. 9-13	Edina
Feb. 16-20	St. Croix Valley
Feb. 23-27	St. Louis Park
Mar. 2-6	Crystal/New Hope/East Plymouth
Mar. 9-13	Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins
Mar. 16-20	White Bear/North Oaks/Mahtomedi Area

Mar. 23-27	Crystal/New Hope/East Plymouth
Mar. 30-Apr. 3	Minneapolis
Apr. 6-10	Roseville/Maplewood/Falcon Heights
Apr. 13-17	New Brighton
Apr. 20-24	Woodbury/Cottage Grove
Apr. 27-May 1	St. Paul
May 4-8	Wayzata/Plymouth
May 11-15	White Bear/North Oaks/Mahtomedi Area

Observer Reports are on our CMAL website at [www.lwvmn.org/cmал](http://www.lwvmn.org/cmал). Click on "Observer Reports".

## Met Council Meeting October 22, 2008

Observer: Kathy Klein, LWV  
Woodbury/Cottage Grove



UPWP Unified Planning Work Program falls in the area of transportation. It is necessary to obtain Federal funds. Agencies involved include DOT, Met Council, Metropolitan Airports, and the MN Pollution Control Agency

Decisions Made: OK the UPWP and OK the operating budget for 2009

Other Comments: Discussion of central corridor art contract came in at .4% of the overall budget of 3.5 million dollars

# Metropolitan Council Community Development Committee

**Oct. 6, 2008**

**Observer: Claire Olson, LWV Minneapolis**



2009-2014 Parks Capital Improvement Program, balancing state funds of about 60% with Council funds of about 40%; projects must fit in with Council's master plans for regional parks.

Reviewed Section 8 project Based Assistance Program, converting public housing units to section 8.

Approved City of Chanhassen's 2030 Comprehensive Plan, including plans for regional parks, transportation and water resources management.

Approved City of Bloomington Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) permitting a development of senior cooperative housing at Applewood Pointe near Southtown.

Adopted the 2008-2009 utility allowance schedule for tenant-based and public housing programs, increasing the allowance.

Adopted payment standards for Section 8 housing choice voucher program, authorizing increased payments (subsidies) to landlords while households continue to pay 30% of their income toward rent.

## Keep up with the Met Council

Are you CMAL delegates and alternates subscribing to the Metropolitan Council monthly newsletter? If not I recommend that you do so. You will be updated on the Met Council activities throughout the seven county area from your very own living room.

The address is:

**[mc-newsletter@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:mc-newsletter@metc.state.mn.us)**

### The January edition:

**General:** State of the Region event is set for Monday Feb. 2. It could be an event you would want to attend and report on.

**Parks:** Survey profiles regional park and trail visitors

**Planning:** about new census data in smaller metro area cities

**Transportation:** Urban Partnership Agreement and more

**Water Resources:** Rosemount wastewater plant closes after 35 years service

Do consider subscribing. I believe you will find the information quite beneficial to our purpose of learning more about the Met Council activities.

Geneva MacMillan,  
Vice Chair, CMAL





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Published four times a year by CMAL

Emailed to cmal-share to LWV Members or  
emailed or mailed on request to non-members.

Editor: Barb Person  
Address: CMAL  
550 Rice Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55103  
Website: [www.lwvmn.org/cmал](http://www.lwvmn.org/cmал)  
Email: [cmал@lwvmn.org](mailto:cmал@lwvmn.org)  
Email List: [cmал-share@lwvmn.org](mailto:cmал-share@lwvmn.org)

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CMAL  
550 Rice Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55103