



MEETING NOTES

SE Metro Long-Term Wastewater Planning – Vermillion Township

Date: 12/01/2025

Time: 5:00 p.m. – Vermillion Town Hall

Attendees

- Jeramy Ladzun – Town Chair, Vermillion Township
 - Jason Anderson – Town Supervisor, Vermillion Township
 - Lyle Fritz – Town Supervisor, Vermillion Township
 - Cindy Ladzun – Town Clerk
 - John Chlebeck – Assistant Manager, Met Council
 - Emily Schon – Principal Engineer, Met Council
 - Merritt Clapp-Smith – Local Planning Assistance, Met Council
 - 2 members of the public
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Meeting purpose

Introduction to the Southeast Metro Long-Term Wastewater Planning Study - a multi-year, phased effort focused on ensuring reliable and cost-effective wastewater service for the southeast for the next 100 years.

Website: <http://metro council.org/semetroplanning>

Meeting notes

1. Presentation, Study Goals, and Timeline

Met Council gave an overview of the project and highlighted the growth areas in the southeast region on the Long-term Service Area Map.

The study aims to plan for infrastructure with a 100-year outlook, focusing on sustainability, resilience, and cost-effectiveness.

Phase 1: Community engagement and outreach (current phase) – 2025 to 2026

Phase 2: Technical studies based on community input – 2026 to 2027

Phase 3: Project planning and construction – 2027 and beyond

2. Discussion Highlights

Development Concerns:

- Met Council shared that the new plan for Hastings wastewater service could involve a sewer pipe from Hastings to Empire; the route is yet to be determined.
- Township asked why the Met Council long-term service area divides the township in half, and whether that was related to mailing addresses (there is a divide in postal address in the Township). Met Council staff explained that the long-term service area is illustrative of what land area could be served by the Empire plant, and not necessarily that service will be extended to those areas. Service is extended when requested by a community through the comprehensive planning process. There needs to be a minimum of 1000 acres designated for suburban density development to make the extension of regional wastewater service economical. The actual location of that service area boundary was just based on how much land could be served by the Empire plant's ultimate capacity.
- Township has a concern about potential future commercial development along Highway 52. It was asked if Met Council would extend regional service if requested by commercial development. Met Council staff explained that service would need to be requested through a comprehensive planning process.
- Township discussed annexation concerns and how to preempt annexation. Merritt (sector representation from the Met Council) has seen other townships incorporate to prevent annexations.

Who else needs to be included?

- Current group covers the necessary stakeholders for now.

Next Steps

- Met Council will begin technical studies in 2026.
- Met Council will have continued engagement with communities in the SE metro.
- Potential future large-group meeting to share findings and gather feedback from all communities.
- Project information sheet can be shared with others.