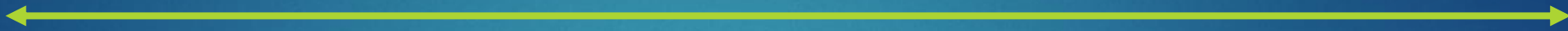




LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA



Meeting Agenda

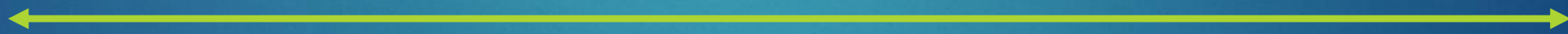
February 14, 2022, 6:30 PM via Zoom

- 1. Call to Order, Welcome, Program Introduction, President Gretchen Sabel**
- 2. Approval of outstanding minutes**
- 3. Overview of CMAL County Study & Consensus Question Discussion led by Vice President Julie Trude with member votes, Yes or No on each Q, to be recorded by President for tally sheet**
- 4. Other business**
- 5. Meeting adjournment**



**COUNCIL OF
METROPOLITAN
AREA LEAGUES**

Metro County Government



STUDY OVERVIEW

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

Timeline



- ▶ **January 15, 2022 - County Government Report presented**
 - ▶ **February thru March 2022 - Metro area LWV members vote on Consensus Questions**
 - ▶ **April 9 - CMAL Board adopts revised positions**
 - ▶ **April 11 – Our Annual Meeting**
 - ▶ **May 14, 2022 - CMAL Annual Meeting adopts new positions**
- 

CMAL Study



- ▶ **Updates 1975 County Government Positions**
- ▶ **Planned, conducted & completed in 2021**
- ▶ **Focus on transparency, accountability, communication with other levels of government**

Current CMAL Positions Support



- ▶ **Accountability, visibility of county government**
- ▶ **Communication with residents, cities, Met Council**
- ▶ **Public access to board and advisory meetings**
- ▶ **Ample & timely publication of location, time, date, agendas and background information**

Process



- ▶ January 2020, study adopted
- ▶ Committee developed questionnaire
- ▶ Information found on county websites
- ▶ County officials/staff interviewed
- ▶ Committee members contributed

Executive Summary



- ▶ **Substantial progress with transparency & accountability**
- ▶ **Websites and virtual meetings improve transparency, communication**

County Similarities



- ▶ All counties post agendas, commissioner meetings, minutes
- ▶ Public can subscribe to meeting notices, agendas and minutes through their websites
- ▶ County advisory committees are generally quite transparent and accessible

One County Alone



- ▶ Carver County posts commissioner salaries
- ▶ Anoka County, not adopted Code of Ethics

County Differences

Board & Workshop Meetings



- ▶ Only Anoka County disallows public comment
- ▶ Ramsey County generally disallows public comment
- ▶ Only Dakota County allows public comments

More County Differences



- ▶ **Mixed approach for workshops and work sessions**
- ▶ **Only Anoka County does not involve the public in budgeting or setting policies**

Metropolitan Council

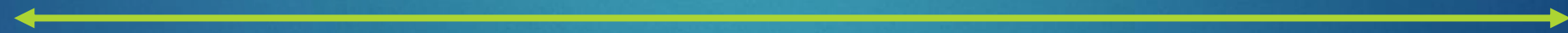


Differences exist in the relationships with urban, exurban and suburban counties




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PROPOSED CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

Question 1



County government should provide ample and easily accessible notice of and background information regarding county board meetings, county board committee meetings, county board work sessions/workshops, and advisory committee/commission meetings.

YES or NO

Study Tables Re: Notices

COUNTY BOARD WORK SESSIONS/BRIEFINGS	ANOKA	CARVER	DAKOTA	HENNEPIN	RAMSEY	SCOTT	WASHINGTON
Are County Board work sessions or workshops posted on the website	MOST OF THEM ARE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Are County Board work sessions or workshops agendas posted on the website	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Can the public subscribe to work session or workshop information on the website	MEETING NOTICES ONLY	NO Can call county and asked to be notified.	YES	NO But can be asked to be on notification list	YES	YES	YES

Question 2



County government should post on its website minutes or discussion notes from

- ▶ a. county board meetings YES or NO
- ▶ b. county board committee meetings YES or NO
- ▶ c. county board work sessions/workshops YES or NO
- ▶ d. advisory committee/commission meetings YES or NO

Study Tables Re: Minutes

COUNTY BOARD WORK SESSIONS/BRIEFINGS	ANOKA	CARVER	DAKOTA	HENNEPIN	RAMSEY	SCOTT	WASHINGTON
Are County Board work sessions or workshops minutes posted on website?	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO Minutes are not taken, as there are no votes
Are the minutes of County Advisory Meetings posted on the website	YES	YES Each committee has a web page for agendas & minutes	YES	VARIES among the committees	VARIES among the committees	YES	YES
Can the public subscribe to County Advisory Meetings, Agenda, Minutes on the website	ONLY LIBRARY BOARD	YES But not on the website	SOME	YES Public can contact the Chairs to get on list	YES	SOME	YES

Question 3



County government should video record and post on its website

- ▶ a. county board meetings YES or NO
- ▶ b. county board committee meetings YES or NO
- ▶ c. county board work sessions/workshops YES or NO
- ▶ d. advisory committee/commission meetings YES or NO

Study Tables Re: Video Records

COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS	ANOKA	CARVER	DAKOTA	HENNEPIN	RAMSEY	SCOTT	WASHINGTON
Are County Board Meetings Recorded?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Are County Board work sessions or workshops recorded	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Are County Advisory Meetings recorded	NOT ALL	NO	YES	VARIABLES	NO	SOME	NO

Question 4



County government should post on its website the number of members for each advisory committee/commission and list the current appointees.

YES or NO

Report Data

Posting re Advisory Committees



Number

Dakota

Hennepin

Ramsey

Scott (some)

Washington
(nearly all)

Members

Dakota

Neither

Anoka

Carver

Question 5



County government should offer the opportunity for public comment at

- a. county board meetings YES or NO
- b. county board committee meetings YES or NO
- c. county board work sessions/workshops YES or NO
- d. advisory committee/commission meetings YES or NO

Study Tables Re: Public Comment

COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS	ANOKA	CARVER	DAKOTA	HENNEPIN	RAMSEY	SCOTT	WASHINGTON
Are public comments permitted during County Board Meetings	NO	YES	YES	YES	NOT GENERALLY	YES But only on topics that are not the agenda	YES

COUNTY BOARD WORK SESSIONS/BRIEFINGS	ANOKA	CARVER	DAKOTA	HENNEPIN	RAMSEY	SCOTT	WASHINGTON
Are public comments permitted during County work session or workshops?	NO	NO Sessions are for informational purposes only. No votes are taken.	YES	NO Sessions are for informational purposes only. No votes are taken.	NO	NO Sessions are for informational purposes only. No votes are taken.	YES Chair may allow public to speak, but it is not set in policy

Question 6



County government should offer members of the public opportunities to give timely and meaningful input into the county budget, policy development, county initiatives, and capital projects. Options could include one-on-one meetings with county commissioners, virtual and in-person town meetings, open houses, etc.

YES or NO

Study Tables Re: Public Engagement in Budgets

BUDGET PLANNING	ANOKA	CARVER	DAKOTA	HENNEPIN	RAMSEY	SCOTT	WASHINGTON
Is the public involved in the budget planning process	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Are budget planning documents available to the public on the website	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Are public comments permitted during budget planning sessions	LIMITED	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Study Tables Re: Public Engagement in Policy Changes

POLICY INITIATIVES	ANOKA	CARVER	DAKOTA	HENNEPIN	RAMSEY	SCOTT	WASHINGTON
Is the public involved in the development of policy initiatives	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Are policy initiatives planning documents available on the website	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Are public comments permitted during the development of policy initiatives	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Study Tables Re: Public Engagement in Select Capital Projects

ROADS & BRIDGES TRANSIT PARKS & RECREATION	ANOKA	CARVER	DAKOTA	HENNEPIN	RAMSEY	SCOTT	WASHINGTON
Is the public involved in determining roads and bridges strategy	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES Through CIP process	YES	YES
Are planning documents available on the website	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Are public comments permitted during the planning phase of roads & bridges	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES At community meetings and online surveys	YES	YES

Question 7



County government should post general information on its website about funds received from or through the Metropolitan Council and how such funds are used.

YES or NO

Study Data on Met Council Funding



- ▶ Found in 2040 Comprehensive Plan details
- ▶ Scattered website references
- ▶ Interviews revealed funds received for transportation, transit, housing, parks

Consider Local Positions



- ▶ How does our county fare in this study?
 - ▶ Public comments at meetings, meeting information
 - ▶ Advisory committee information
 - ▶ Engaging the public - policies, budget, capital projects
 - ▶ Ethics code, publishing salaries
 - ▶ Working with area cities, Met Council
- ▶ Do other counties provide model of better practices?



Thank you study team leaders!

Study Chair: Mindy Greiling, LWV Roseville Area

CMAL Chair: Karen Schaffer, LWV Roseville Area

Thank you study committee members!

LWV Anoka/Blaine/Coon Rapids Area members:
Dee Ann Christensen, Wes Volkenant, Julie Trude

LWV Bloomington member: Nikki Marie Coler

LWV Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove Area member: Linda Kreffing

LWV Dakota County members: Holly Jenkins, Thana Ross

LWV Golden Valley member: Marti Micks

LWV Richfield member: Maureen Scaglia

LWV Roseville members: Lisa Scribner, Karen Schaffer, Mindy Greiling

LWV St. Paul member: Joann Ellis

LWV South Tonka member: Peg DuBord

LWV Woodbury/Cottage Grove Area members: Heather Mockler, Amy Mino

Thank you researchers!

Anoka County: Wes Volkenant, Dee Ann Christensen, Julie Trude

Carver County: Peg DuBord, Susan Carlson (LWV Eastern Carver County)

Dakota County: Thana Ross, Lisa Scribner

Hennepin County: Linda Krefting, Nikki Marie Coler, Maureen Scaglia

Ramsey County: Joann Ellis, Karen Schaffer

Scott County: Thana Ross, Lesley Hauser (LWV Dakota County)

Washington County: Marti Micks, Heather Mockler, Amy Mino