



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

**Date:** November 10, 2014  
**To:** Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** **Sustainable Water Utility Management Award**

**Recommendation:**

Receive and file.

**Department Information:**

Prepared by: Glen Gerads, Director, Water Treatment and Distribution, 673.2191

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Glen Gerads, Director, Water Treatment and Distribution

**Financial Impact**

- None

**Supporting Information**

Minneapolis Water Treatment and Distribution Services is among just nine public drinking water systems in the nation to receive the Sustainable Water Utility Management Award from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. This is the first year the association has presented the award, which recognizes water utilities that have made a commitment to management that achieves a balance of innovative and successful efforts in economic, social and environmental endeavors.

Minneapolis was recognized for incorporating strategies and financial procedures such as requiring the water division to maintain a minimum cash balance equal to approximately three months of operating expenses to keep cash flow available and implementing a five-year capital improvement program that details each construction project, its estimated cost and the source of funding. The association also noted the addition of a fixed rate in utility billing that helps stabilize revenues from fluctuations in water use due to weather and the declining water demand by customers. Minneapolis was also recognized for encouraging its customers to use water wisely and being engaged in other environmental stewardship initiatives, including sustainable design in capital projects, efficient vehicles, collaboration on

source water protection, supporting urban farms and community gardens, promoting the value of drinking water and reducing the use of disposable water bottles.

This is not the first time Minneapolis has received an award from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. The City received the organization's Platinum Award for Utility Excellence in 2011 and the Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance in 2002.

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies is an organization of the largest publicly owned water utilities in the country. It serves as the voice of metropolitan water systems on federal water policy issues, and its programs foster sustainable, innovative utility management. Minneapolis has been a member since 1996.