

**E** Environment Committee  
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 22, 2007

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date Prepared:** August 15, 2007

**Subject:** Adoption of Amendment to Water Resources Management Policy Plan

**Summary of Committee Discussion:**

The Committee asked about the city's reaction to this recommendation. Staff will discuss with the City of Oak Grove prior to the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Committee asked what happens if the Community Development Committee does not approve the change from diversified rural to rural residential. The City's request constitutes a change to the 2030 Regional Development Framework, which could potentially be addressed when the City submits its Comprehensive Plan Update. The Water Policy Plan amendment is a separate issue, upon which the Council can act separately.

The Committee inquired as to Council Member Steffen's reaction to this issue. Staff responded that Council Member Steffen supports this Policy Plan amendment and, at a meeting with the city on May 18, told the Mayor that the city's anticipated request for a change from diversified rural to rural residential would require discussion by the full Council.

**Recommendation:**

That the Metropolitan Council: (1) adopts the proposed amendment to the 2030 Water Resources Management Policy Plan, as revised to include only areas south and east of Cedar Creek in the long-term wastewater service area, and (2) refers to its Community Development Committee the City of Oak Grove's request to change the geographic planning area designation for the remainder of the City from Diversified Rural to Rural Residential.



# Environment Committee

Item: 2007 – 275

**Meeting date:** August 14, 2007

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting on August 22, 2007

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

**Date:** August 8, 2007

**Subject:** Adoption of Amendment to Water Resources Management Policy Plan

**District(s), Member(s):** 9, Natalie Steffen

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Council Policy 1-2-1a

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Bryce Pickart, 651-602-1091

**Division/Department:** MCES c/o William G. Moore, 651-602-1162

### Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council: (1) adopts the proposed amendment to the 2030 Water Resources Management Policy Plan, as revised to include only areas south and east of Cedar Creek in the long-term wastewater service area, and (2) refers to its Community Development Committee the City of Oak Grove's request to change the geographic planning area designation for the remainder of the City from Diversified Rural to Rural Residential.

### Issue(s)

- The long-term wastewater service area map in the regional wastewater system plan designates Oak Grove as an area with potential for sewer development. The proposed amendment designates the portion of Oak Grove which is most feasible for future sewer development with wastewater service provided by the proposed East Bethel Water Reclamation Facilities.
- The City of Oak Grove has submitted two Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPA) for which the Metropolitan Council has found that: (1) the Swan Lake Preserve CPA substantially departs from the 2030 Water Resources Management Policy Plan, and (2) the Gardas Grove CPA review is extended until October 13, 2007, pending action on the proposed amendment to the 2030 Water Resources Management Policy Plan.
- The City of Oak Grove has commented on the proposed amendment and requested that: (1) the proposed long-term wastewater service area be limited to the area south and east of Cedar Creek; and (2) the 2030 Regional Development Framework geographic planning area designation for the remainder of Oak Grove be changed from Diversified Rural to Rural Residential.

### Overview and Funding

In December 2006, the Council amended the 2030 Water Resources Management Policy Plan to designate a portion of East Bethel as a Rural Growth Center and to delineate a long-term wastewater service area in East Bethel. Further, the proposed wastewater treatment plant will be located in southwest East Bethel, approximately one mile from Oak Grove, and has been designated as a potential regional plant which could serve communities beyond East Bethel.

Criteria used to determine the potential area of future sewer development include:

1. potential capacity of proposed East Bethel water reclamation plant and groundwater recharge system;
2. transportation system, including Hwy 65 (north-south), Viking Boulevard (east-west), and Hanson Boulevard (south);
3. preservation of major natural resources, including surface waters, wetlands, and parks/wildlife areas;
4. proximity to proposed East Bethel water reclamation plant; and
5. reasonably contiguous undeveloped land parcels of  $\geq 10$ -acre size.

The proposed amendment to the Policy Plan defines a long-term wastewater service area in southeast Oak Grove (see attached map) with approximately 1,300 acres of developable land located one to two miles from the proposed East Bethel WWTP site.

A public hearing was held at Oak Grove City Hall at 7 p.m. on July 31, 2007. Testimony was presented by several residents of southeast Oak Grove, expressing opposition to sewer development. Several residents have also called and/or sent emails with similar comments.

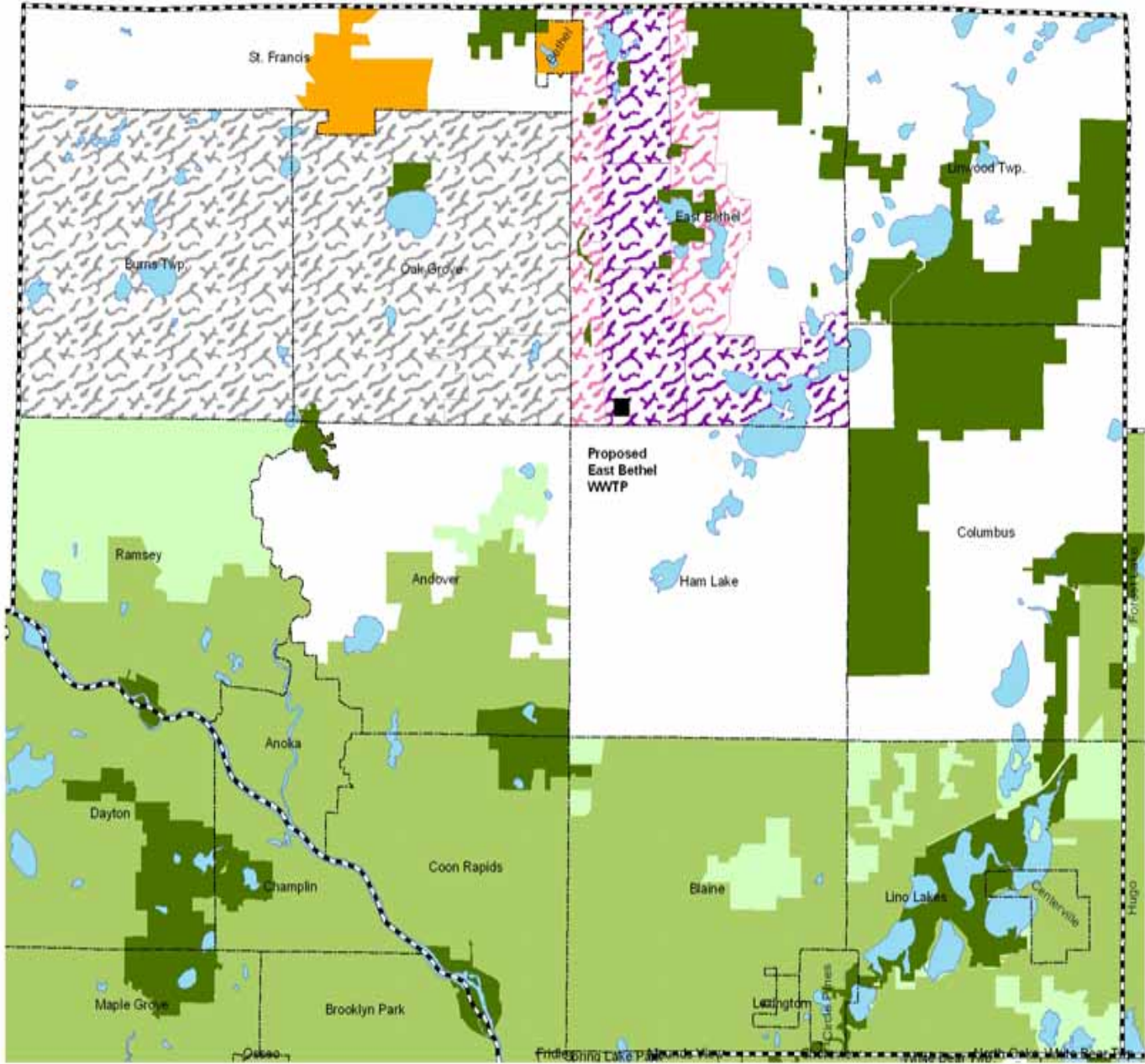
The City of Oak Grove submitted a letter signed by the Mayor and three of four City Council members (attached). Their first request is to limit the long-term wastewater service area to areas south and east of Cedar Creek to avoid disruption of this sensitive environmental corridor. MCES staff concur (see modified service area map attached). Their second request is to change the geographical planning area designation for the rest of the City from Diversified Rural to Rural Residential. This raises the following questions:

1. Should the request be handled as an amendment to the 2030 Regional Development Framework or when the Council acts on its Comprehensive Plan Update?
2. If the Council has no long-term regional wastewater service plan for an area, does that area need to be preserved at 1 unit per 10 acres density? and
3. If the Council will allow higher density in an area that has no long-term regional wastewater service plan, how should the principles of the 2030 Regional Development Framework be applied?

# North Anoka County Existing Long-Term Service Areas



1 inch equals 2 miles

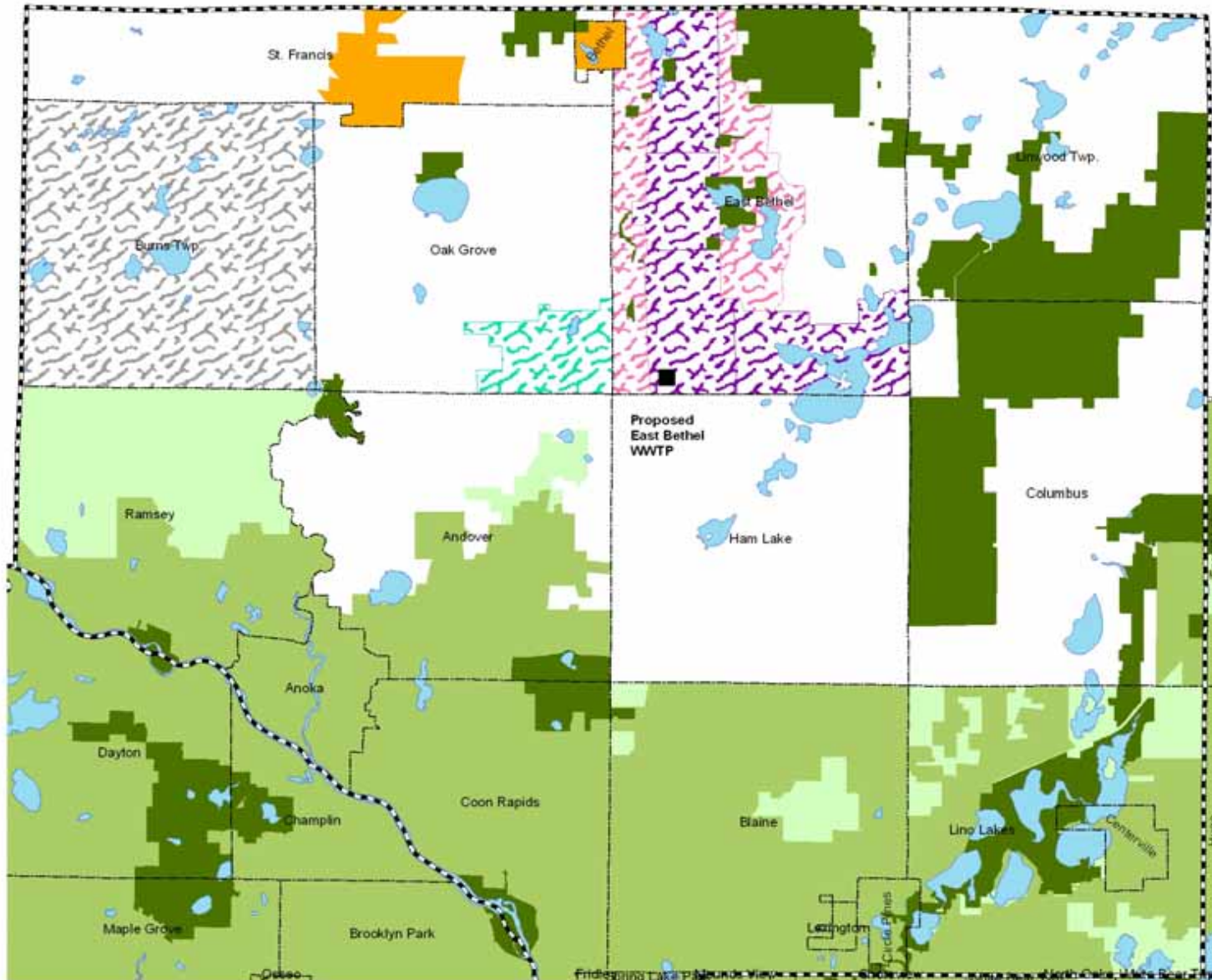


- County Boundary
- Community Boundary
- MCES Treatment Plant
- Regional Parks
- Lakes and Rivers
- Rural Center
- Metro
- Potential Metro
- Wastewater Treatment and Rapid Infiltration**
- Proposed East Bethel
- Potential East Bethel
- Potential Treatment with RIB

# North Anoka County Proposed Long-Term Service Areas



1 inch equals 2 miles



- County Boundary
- Community Boundary
- MCES Treatment Plant
- Regional Parks
- Lakes and Rivers
- Rural Center
- Metro
- Potential Metro
- Wastewater Treatment and Rapid Infiltration**
- Proposed East Bethel
- Potential East Bethel
- Potential Oak Grove
- Potential Burns Twp.





July 30, 2007

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Cedar, Minnesota 55011  
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Fax (763) 753-6271

Mr. Patrick Boylan  
Metropolitan Council Data Center  
390 North Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Oak Grove Comprehensive Plan – Regional Geographic Planning Areas

Dear Mr. Boylan:

On May 18, 2007, Oak Grove City staff met with Metropolitan Council staff and Metropolitan Council Member Natalie Steffan to discuss the appropriate regional planning classification for the City of Oak Grove. Currently, the 2030 Regional Development Framework designates Oak Grove as a Diversified Rural Designation.

At our meeting, Metropolitan Council staff presented the City with a proposal to bring MUSA into southeastern Oak Grove. This area of Oak Grove would have the potential for sanitary sewer service from the East Bethel Wastewater Treatment Plant.

At this meeting, and at a previous City Council/Planning Commission workshop attended by Metropolitan Council staff, the City expressed the desire to have the regional planning designation for Oak Grove changed from "Diversified Rural" to "Rural Residential." The Rural Residential description more closely describes Oak Grove's development patterns over the majority of the City. Metropolitan Council staff stated that there is potential for compromise if the City would accept some area for urban services and urban densities.

Upon evaluating the existing physical conditions of Oak Grove against general criteria used by the Metropolitan Council for introducing sanitary sewer to a community, the City has identified a future MUSA area that is generally consistent with Metropolitan Council staff recommendations. The only difference is that the City of Oak Grove would limit the MUSA to areas south and east of Cedar Creek to avoid disruption of the extremely sensitive environmental corridor. The City's evaluation of the MUSA is presented to the Metropolitan Council as Attachment A of this letter.

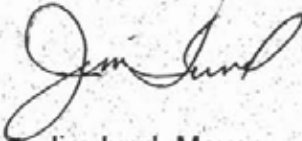
Mr. Patrick Boylan  
July 30, 2007  
Page Two

The City's evaluation of potential MUSA in Oak Grove was conducted with the understanding that there is opportunity to compromise on the regional planning area designation. I anticipate that the City of Oak Grove can be supportive of bringing MUSA within its boundaries, but only if the Metropolitan Council will simultaneously designate the balance of the community as Rural Residential. This compromise will further the regional goals of accommodating future urban growth, as well as Oak Grove's goal of preserving its rural identity over the balance of the community. We believe that the compromise reflected in Attachment A will be consistent with Oak Grove's land use patterns, natural resources, and avoid financially impractical extension of utilities.

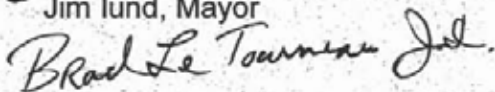
Without mutual agreement to both regional planning designations, however, I anticipate that Oak Grove will not support the introduction of MUSA into the City. Please give consideration to both changes simultaneously.

Sincerely,

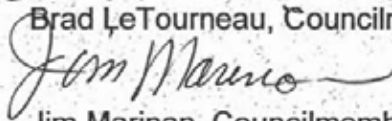
CITY OF OAK GROVE



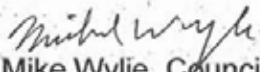
Jim Lund, Mayor



Brad LeTourneau, Councilmember



Jim Marinan, Councilmember



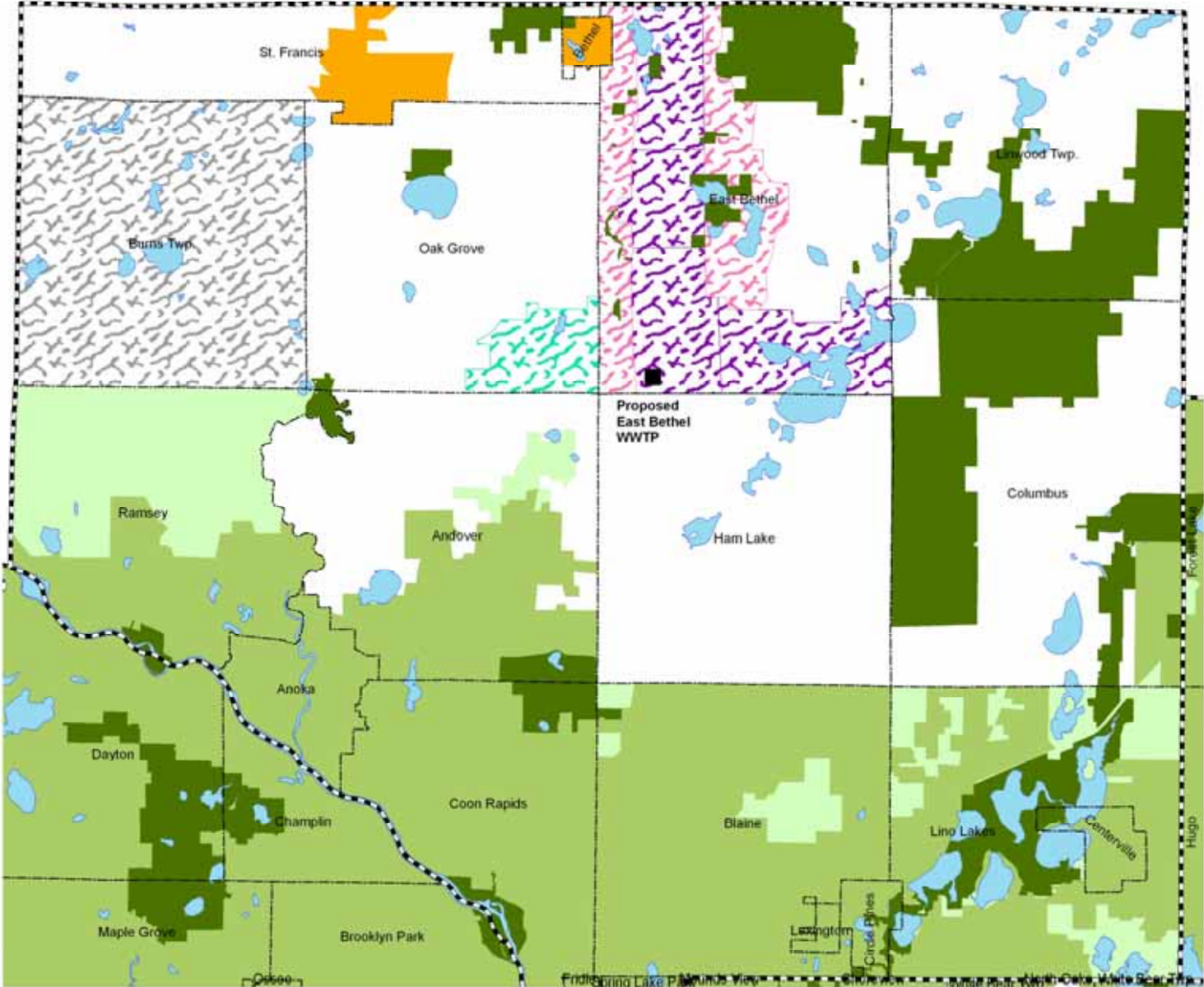
Mike Wylie, Councilmember

cc: Natalie Steffan  
Guy Peterson  
William Moore  
Bryce Pickart  
Alan Brixius

# North Anoka County Recommended Long-Term Service Areas



1 inch equals 2 miles



- County Boundary
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