



Regionalization Overview

Board of Water Commissioners

November 18, 2025



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Two Issues at Hand

- **White Bear Lake Lawsuit**
 - Suit is still ongoing. State and communities implicated. Has been to MN Supreme Court.
 - Very political. Groundwater communities unable to obtain additional permitted capacity.
- **PFAS**
 - 14 communities impacted. 3M lawsuit of \$850M
 - 2021 Conceptual Plan -> Communities generally remaining independent
- **White Bear Lake lawsuit is driving conversation currently.**
 - PFAS plays a background role.

Stakeholders

- Hugo
- Lake Elmo
- Lino Lakes
- Mahtomedi
- New Brighton
- North Oaks
- North St. Paul
- Oakdale
- Shoreview
- Stillwater
- Vadnais Heights
- White Bear Lake
- Woodbury
- White Bear Township

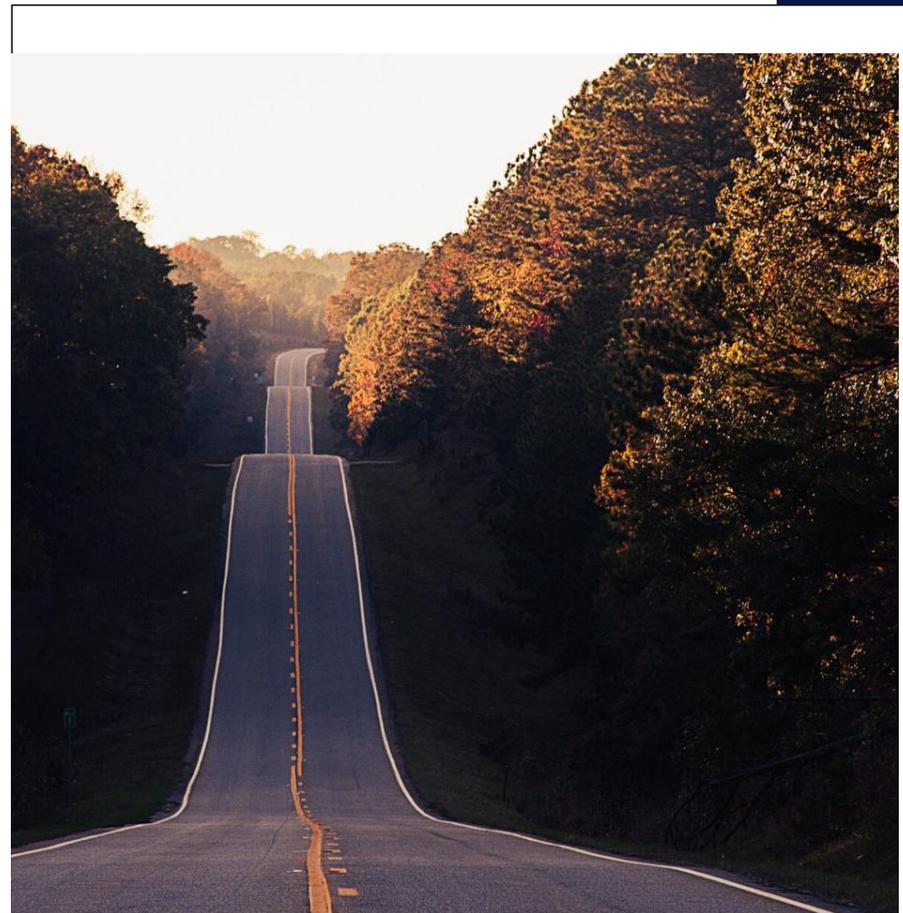
- MDH
- DNR
- Met Council
- SPRWS

Collectively form a working group that meets quarterly



Goal and Studies Underway

- Goal: Maintain White Bear Lake surface elevation above a certain threshold
 - Many potential paths
 - Lake Augmentation
 - Wastewater treatment and injection
 - Stormwater redirection
 - **From SPRWS chain of lakes**
 - Demand Reduction
 - Non-potable water use for irrigation and other purposes
 - **Move communities to surface water**
 - **Communities receive raw water**
 - **Communities receive treated water**
 - Watering restrictions, low input turf grasses, tiered rate structures
 - Other approaches
 - Raise outlet elevation in White Bear Lake
 - Many options being investigated
 - Not all options are similarly likely/realistic.
 - Not all are similarly attractive
- Met Council Goal: Recommendation by Mid-2027

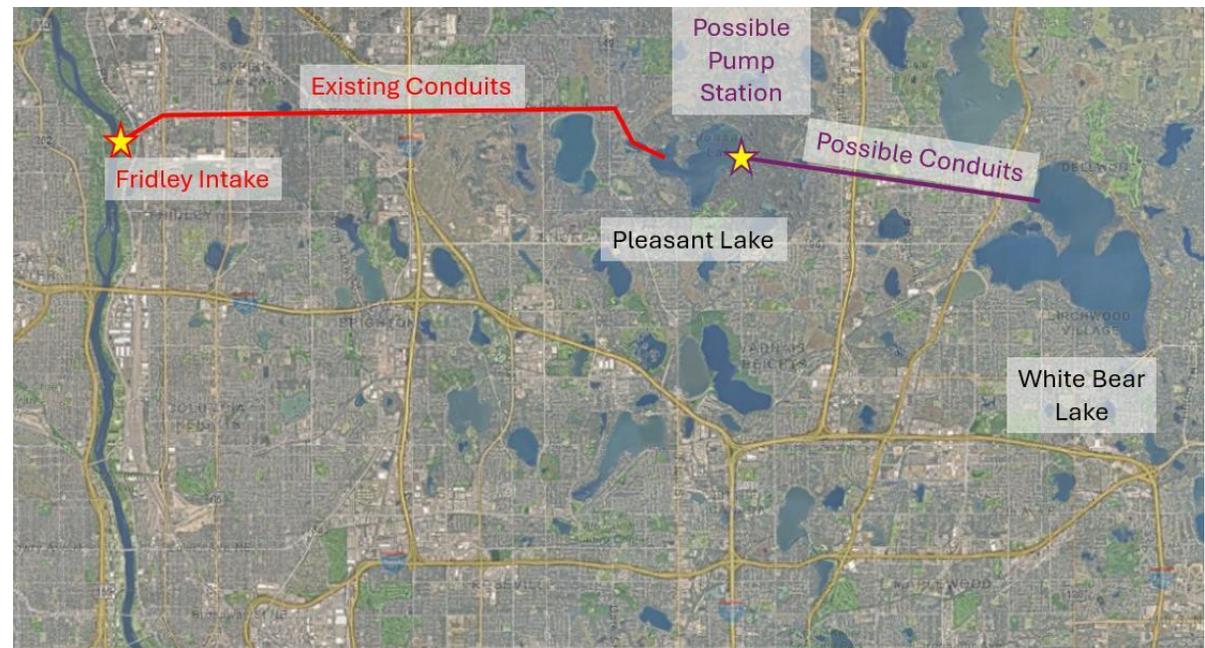


The path ahead is not straightforward; it has many potential branches

SPRWS AS LAKE AUGMENTER

Open Questions

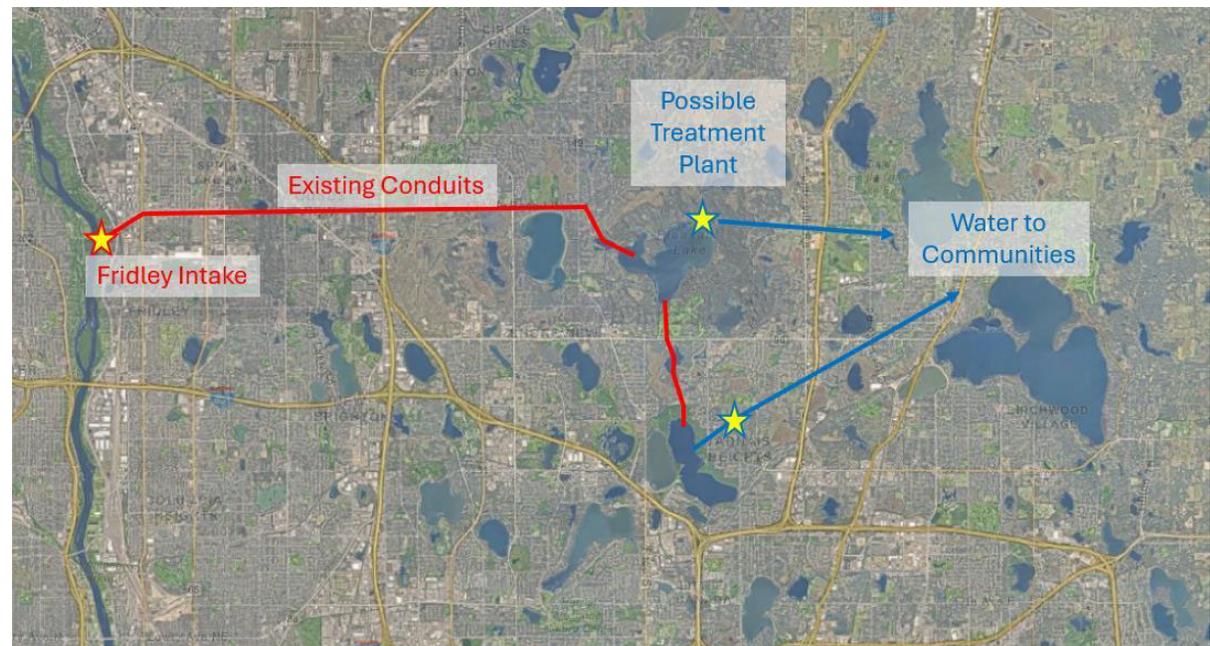
- Amount of raw water needed
- Treatment needed
- Routing of conduit
- Who owns & operates
- Political factors
- SPRWS ROI



SPRWS AS RAW WATER SUPPLIER

Open Questions

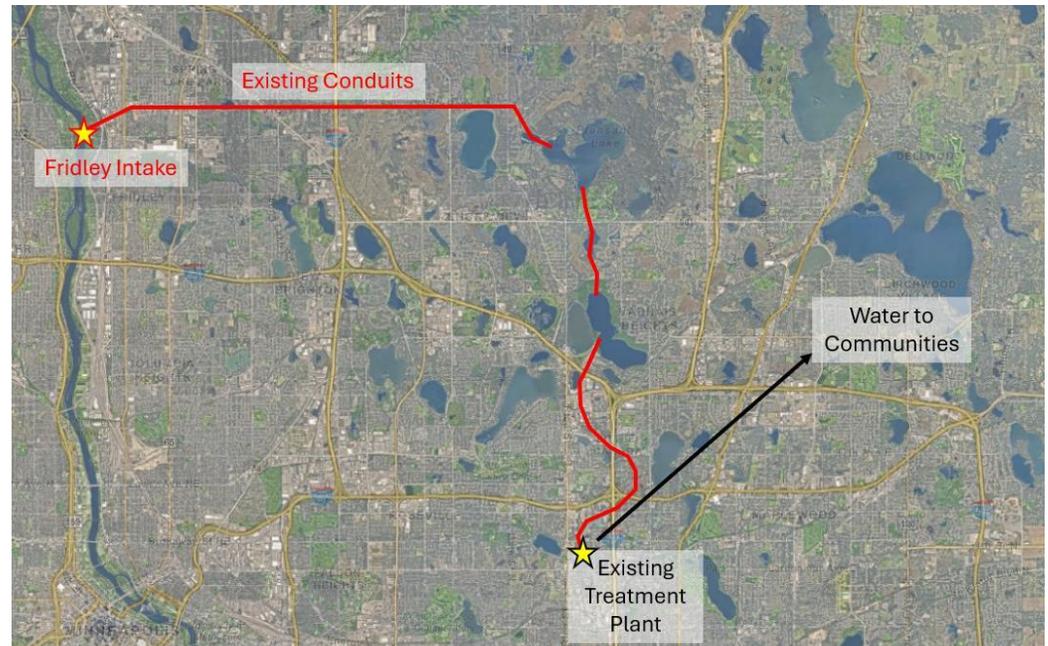
- Amount of raw water needed
- Treatment facility costs/ownership
- Routing of conduits
- Political factors
- SPRWS ROI



SPRWS AS FINISHED WATER PROVIDER

Open Questions

- Amount of finished water needed
- Expansion of treatment facilities needed
- Routing of conduits to connect systems
- Ownership of systems
- Political factors
- SPRWS ROI



What's Next?

- Early-stage exploration of all options
- SPRWS involvement – obligation vs. opportunity
 - No share in the problem but may be part of the solution
- Forming a subcommittee
 - Engage deeply with the Board
 - Define Board goals and objectives
 - Determine how best to invest staff resources
 - Bring ideas/conclusions back to the full board for action
 - Close doors that are not of interest to us
 - Expected commitment approx. 10 hours over next 6 months

