

DRAFT

CITIZEN'S GUIDE
to the
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
1991

Whether the topic is transit, recycling, sewers or airports, the Metropolitan Council is the Metropolitan Area's planning agency--an overall "umbrella agency" that makes recommendations to the legislature to improve life for residents of the Metro Area.

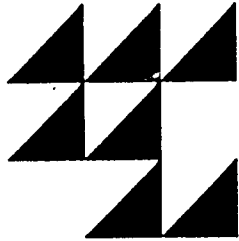
--State Sen. Don Frank

Local governments often don't have time or money to look very far into the future. The Metropolitan Council, with its broad view of the whole region, is a good tool for providing that information to local governments.

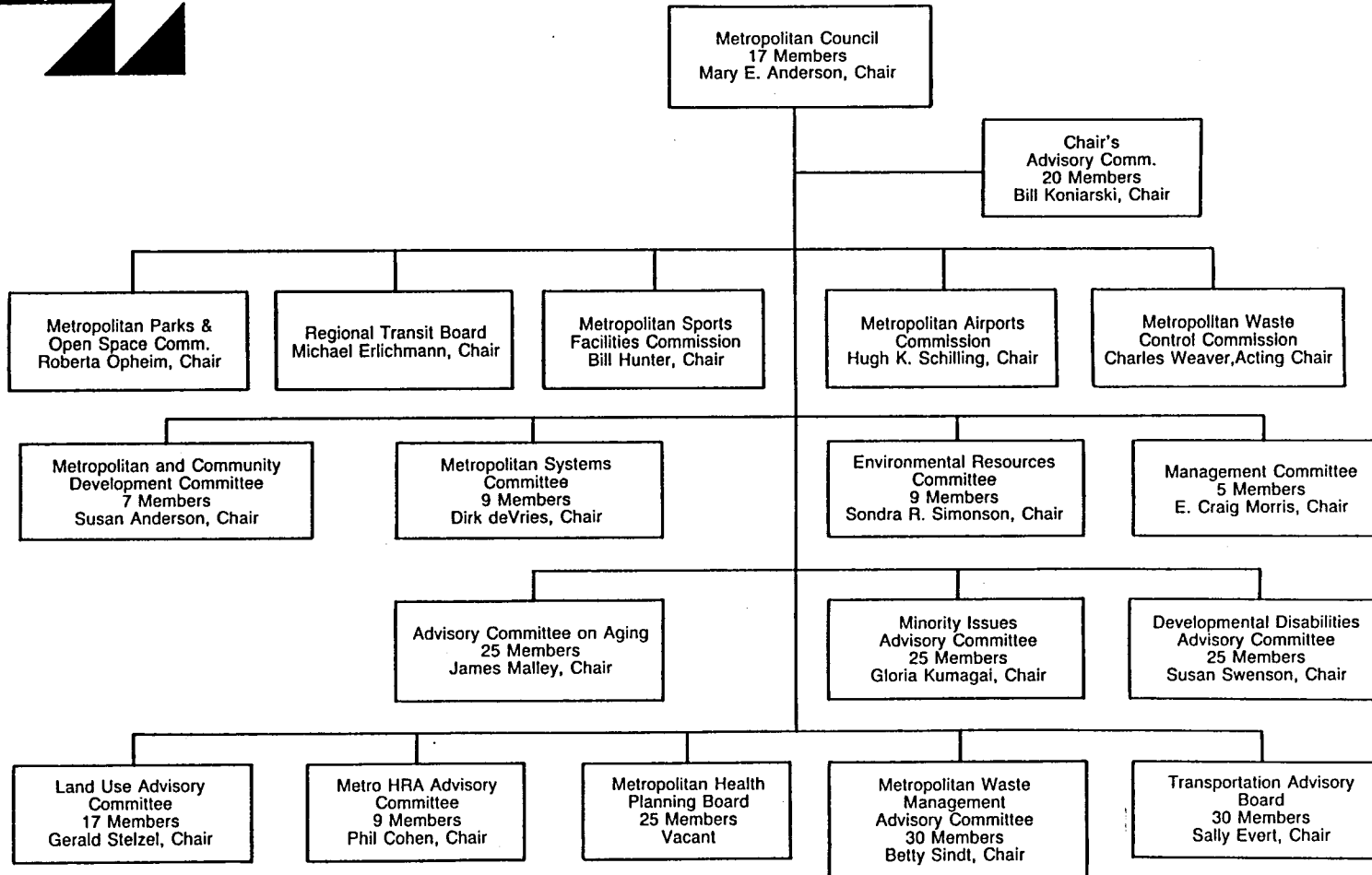
--William Koniarski, chair, Scott County Board of Commissioners

The Metropolitan Council is a policymaking body that promotes a regional perspective--a perspective that may sometimes differ from those of local and state government. The Council is an agent of change, rooted in a strong policy foundation, and does not make decisions based on day-to-day expediencies.

--Mary E. Anderson, Metropolitan Council chair



Metropolitan Council Policymaking Structure

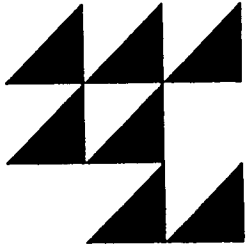


Metropolitan Council

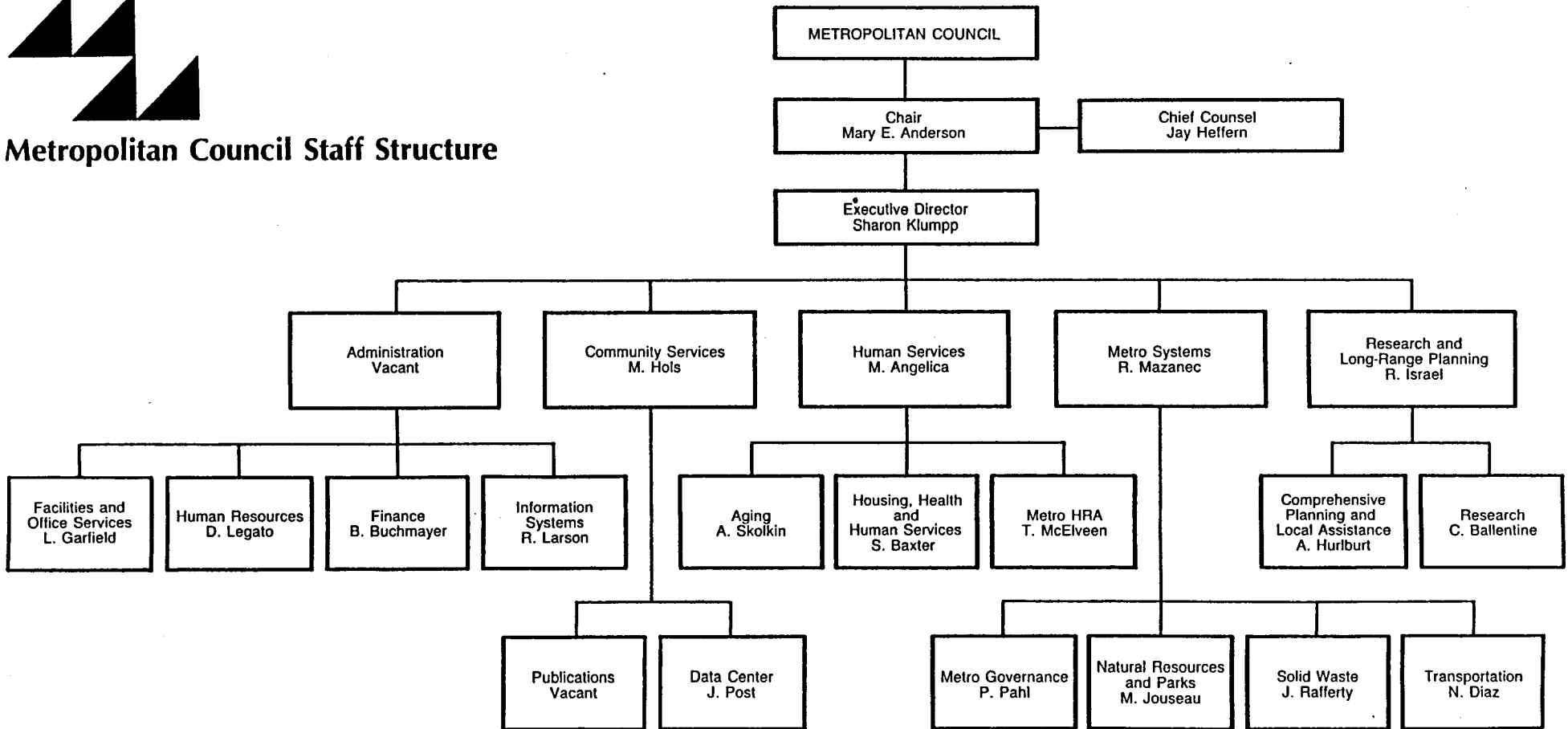
Mears Park Centre
230 East Fifth Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
Tel. 612 291-6359
TDD 291-0904

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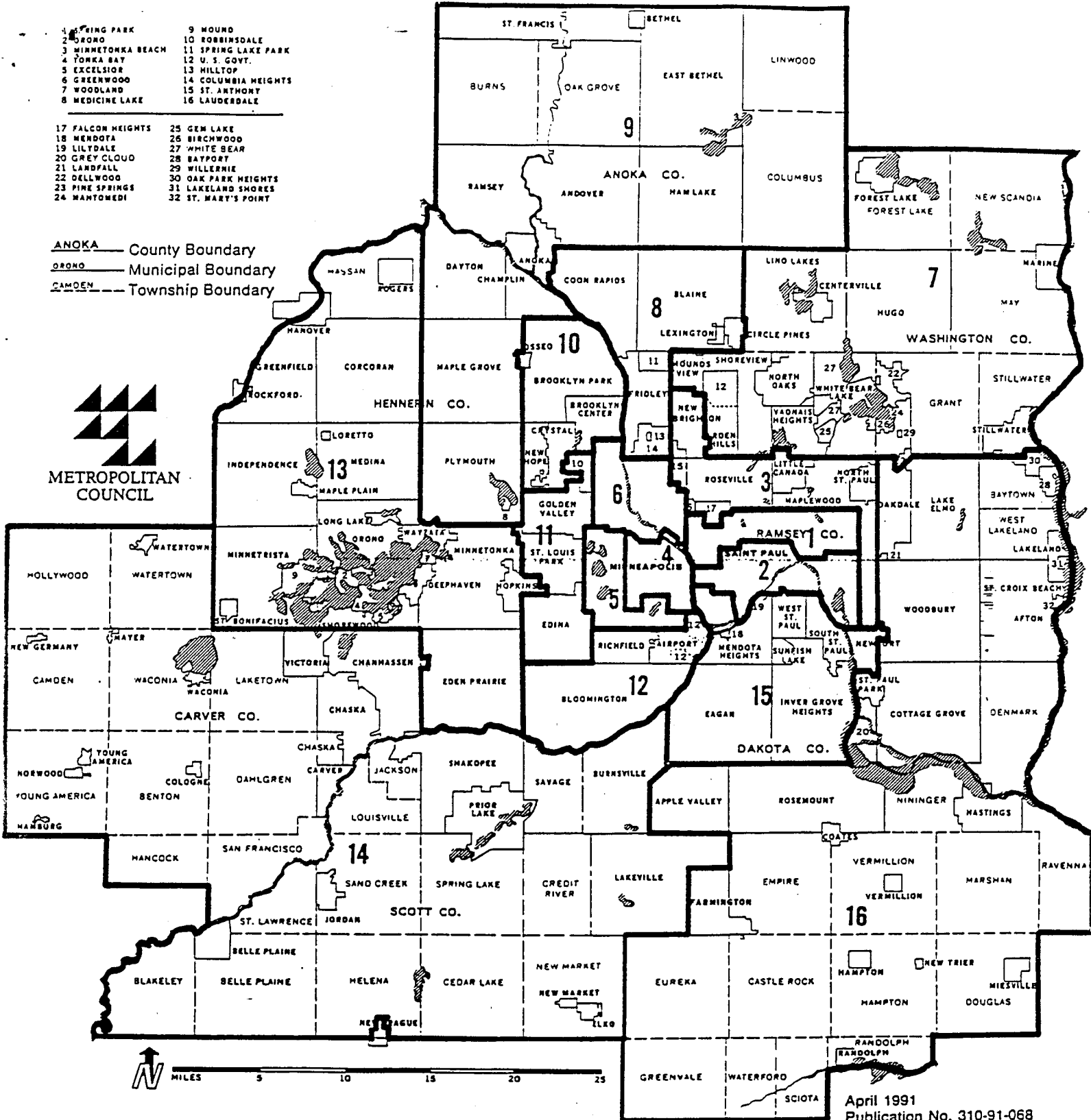
Metropolitan Council Staff Structure



- 1 SPRING PARK
- 2 OROHO
- 3 WINNETONKA BEACH
- 4 YONKA BAY
- 5 EXCELSIOR
- 6 GREENWOOD
- 7 WOODLAND
- 8 MEDICINE LAKE
- 9 WOUND
- 10 ROBINSDALE
- 11 SPRING LAKE PARK
- 12 U. S. GOVT.
- 13 HILLTOP
- 14 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
- 15 ST. ANTHONY
- 16 LAUDERDALE

- 17 FALCON HEIGHTS
- 18 MENDOTA
- 19 LILYDALE
- 20 GREY CLOUD
- 21 LANDFALL
- 22 DELLWOOD
- 23 PINE SPRINGS
- 24 MAHTOMEDI
- 25 GEM LAKE
- 26 BIRCHWOOD
- 27 WHITE BEAR
- 28 BATPORT
- 29 WILLERNIE
- 30 OAK PARK HEIGHTS
- 31 LAKELAND SHORES
- 32 ST. MARY'S POINT

ANOKA — County Boundary
ORONO — Municipal Boundary
CAMOEN — Township Boundary



April 1991
 Publication No. 310-91-068

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA

The Council members and their districts are as follows: Chair— Mary E. Anderson

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 —Liz Anderson,
St. Paul | 5 —David F. Fisher,
Minneapolis | 9 —Kenneth Kunzman,
Ham Lake | 13 —Dirk deVries,
Minnetonka |
| 2 —Dede Wolfson,
St. Paul | 6 —Donald B. Riley,
Minneapolis | 10 —Jim Krautkremer,
Brooklyn Park | 14 —Bonnie D. Featherstone,
Burnsville |
| 3 —James W.(Jim) Senden,
New Brighton | 7 —Esther Newcome,
White Bear Lake | 11 —Vacant | 15 —Margaret Schreiner,
Eagan |
| 4 —Carol Kummer,
Minneapolis | 8 —Susan Anderson,
Blaine | 12 —Sondra R. Simonson,
Bloomington | 16 —E. Craig Morris,
Lakeland |

District 11 Vacant. Term expires January 1993.

District 12 Sondra R. Simonson. President of Simonson Realty, Inc., and member of Fairview Southdale Hospital board of trustees. 2815 Overlook Dr., Bloomington, MN 55431. Tel. 884-7152 (o); 881-5975 (h); 291-6487. Term expires January 1995.

District 13 Dirk devries. Self-employed. Former member of the Minnetonka Zoning Appeals Board. 18600 Woolman Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55435. Tel. 473-6711 (o); 474-7527 (h); 291-6488. Term expires January 1993.

District 14 Bonnie D. Featherstone. Partner in Featherstone-Reilly, educational consultants; coauthor of *College Comes Sooner Than You Think*, a planning guide for students and families. Board member of Interstate Hwy. 35W Alliance. 908 Woodlawn Ct., Burnsville, MN 55337. Tel. 890-0889 (o and h); 291-6489. Term expires January 1995.

District 15 Margaret Schreiner. Self-employed. Chair, St. Paul South Corridor Light Rail Transit Advisory Committee; member, Dakota County Human Services Advisory Committee. 1795 Monterey Lane, Eagan, MN 55122. Tel. 454-1744 (o and h); 291-6524. Term expires January 1993.

District 16 E. Craig Morris. Former mayor of Lakeland. Technical development manager, US WEST. 16412 Seventh St. Lanes, Lakeland, MN 55043. Tel. 663-3166 (o); 436-5789 (h); 291-6506. Term expires January 1995.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL DISTRICTS

(See Council district map)

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
Mears Park Centre, 230 East Fifth Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1634
612 291-6359
FAX 612 291-6550
TTY 612 291-0904

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COUNCIL MEMBERS

(Voice-mail phone numbers at the Council are in boldface.)

Chair Mary E. Anderson. Former mayor of Golden Valley. Former president of Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, League of Minnesota Cities and Minnesota Mayors' Association. 3030 Scott Av. N., Golden Valley, MN 55422. Tel. 588-8578 (h); **291-6453.**

District 1 Liz Anderson. Former assistant to the commissioner of the state Department of Employee Relations. 914 Parkview Av., St. Paul, MN 55117. Tel. 488-9494 (h); **291-6527.** Term expires January 1993.

District 2 Dede Wolfson. Legislative coordinator at Minnesota Women's Consortium. State public affairs chair for National Council of Jewish Women. 1117 Goodrich Av., St. Paul 55105. 221-0558 (h); **291-6326.** Term expires January 1995.

District 3 James W. (Jim) Senden. President and owner, James Brothers Furniture, Inc. 507 17th Av. NW., New Brighton, MN 55112. Tel. 535-5534 (o); 633-6837 (home office); 633-3934 (h); **291-6336.** Term expires January 1993.

District 4 Carol A. Kummer. Appropriations committee administrator, Minnesota House of Representatives and former Metropolitan Waste Control Commission member, 1983-91. 4818 30th Av. S., Mpls., MN 55417. Tel. 296-4281 (o); 722-0370 (h); **291-6508.** Term expires January 1995.

District 5 David F. Fisher. Vice president and associate general counsel, The Pillsbury Co., Minneapolis, and former commissioner of Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights. 5047 Gladstone Av. S., Minneapolis, MN 55419. Tel. 330-5017 (o); 822-2389 (h); **291-6509.** Term expires January 1993.

District 6 Donald B. Riley. Interim director of Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, and former administrative manager at Hennepin Energy Resource Co. 1338 Washburn Av. N., Minneapolis, MN 55411. Tel. 374-4342 (o); 522-6736 (h); **291-6395.** Term expires January 1995.

District 7 Esther Newcome. Member of the Health Resources Foundation Board and Health East Foundation Grants Review Committee. 2374 Joy Av., White Bear Lake, MN 55110. Tel. 429-2714 (h); **291-6399.** Term expires January 1993.

District 8 Susan Anderson. Former board member, Anoka-Hennepin School District No. 11, and former chair of Blaine Charter Commission. 11031 President Dr., NE. Blaine, MN 55434. Tel. 757-4968 (h); **291-6523.** Term expires January 1995.

District 9 Ken Kunzman. Executive vice president and general manager, Counselor Realty. 15449 Ham Lake Dr., Ham Lake, MN 55304. Tel. 786-0600 (o); 434-9888 (h); **291-6482.** Term expires January 1993.

District 10 Jim Krautkremer. Former mayor of Brooklyn Park and former president of Association of Metropolitan Municipalities. Executive director of Intergovernmental Information Systems Advisory Council for the State of Minnesota. 6425 Shingle Creek Dr., Brooklyn Park, MN 55445. Tel. 297-5530 (o); 560-8022 (h); **291-6485.** Term expires January 1995.

(7 percent) and other sources (14 percent).

In addition, the Council assisted the metropolitan agencies by helping them acquire about \$100 million in capital bond funds in 1991.

CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Definitely. Hundreds of area citizens take time to help the Council define and solve complex metro problems. They do this by serving on Council advisory committees, boards and task forces. Citizens and representatives of interest groups work together to form plans in areas including aging, airports, disabilities, health, housing, land use, minority issues, solid waste and transportation.

Individuals and organizations also can make their voices heard on important regional issues by attending Council-sponsored public meetings.

To find out more about committee openings, watch your local newspaper and call the Council for more information. You can also call for information about public meetings. The number to call is 291-6390.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Call or visit the Council's **Data Center**. It has a broad variety of information about the region on subjects the Council deals with. It also has demographic and economic data about the seven-county area, and consumer information, such as a directory of nursing homes and supportive living arrangements. You can pick up reports at the data center or ask to have them mailed. If you have questions that aren't answered in publications, data center staff can help you find the information you need either at the Council or elsewhere. The data center's phone number is 291-8140. Its FAX number is 291-6464.

A good source of regional news is the *Metro Monitor*, the Council's free newsletter. To get on its mailing list, call 291-6465.

WHO'S ON THE COUNCIL?

The Council has 17 members. Sixteen are appointed by the governor to four-year, part-time terms from districts within the region that are roughly equal in population. See map below. The 17th member is a full-time chair, appointed by the governor and serving at the governor's pleasure. The Council's work is supported by a professional staff of about 200. Most are urban planners who are experts in metro issues such as transportation, natural resources or housing.

HOW DO COUNCIL PLANS BECOME REALITY?

It's a two-step process. First, the Council sets broad regional policies based on its research and consultation with local officials and many others in the Metro Area. The policies must conform to the Council's "development framework" plan. The framework encourages residential and commercial growth within Minneapolis and St. Paul, the older suburbs, and portions of the developing suburbs. Urban services such as sewers, commuter highways and transit are to be provided within this area, but not beyond it in rural parts of the region. This protects the public from having to spend money to build sewers and highways prematurely. It also helps protect agricultural land from development.

Second, the policies are put into action by the metropolitan agencies (see chart below), metro counties and cities, and groups in the private sector. These organizations also use the "development framework" to make decisions about services they provide.

Here's an example of how it works. The Council's metro sewer policies say that the region's sewers and treatment plants should serve only land within the metro urban services area. The Metropolitan Waste Control Commission must follow this policy as it operates the metro sewer system. The Council won't approve the construction of sewer interceptors to serve the rural area.

The Council also coordinates planning among various levels of government. For example, it works with the Minnesota Department of Transportation in planning for the region's major highways. It also reviews each community's long-range plan to make sure it conforms with region-wide plans for sewers, airports, transit and highways, and parks.

The metropolitan agencies:

- **Metropolitan Airports Commission** Owns and operates the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport plus six satellite airports.
- **Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission** Advises the Council in overseeing 45,000 acres of regional parks, park reserves and trails.
- **Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission** Owns and operates the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome sports stadium in downtown Minneapolis, and owns the Met Center in Bloomington.
- **Regional Transit Board** Plans and administers the area's transit services, including planning for a possible light rail system.
- **Metropolitan Waste Control Commission** Owns and operates the area's sewer system and 11 sewage treatment plants.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

In 1991, the Council had an operating budget of about \$14 million. The bulk of the Council's revenue came from a seven-county property tax levy that yielded about \$8.3 million, or 59 percent of its budget. That comes to an average tax of about \$5.35 on a Metro Area household valued at \$88,000. The rest of the Council's budget came from federal sources (20 percent), state sources

- Worked to provide affordable housing, including subsidized housing, throughout the region rather than just in the central cities. As a result, the Minneapolis and St. Paul shares of the region's subsidized rental housing have changed from 90 percent to 57 percent. The suburbs' share of subsidized housing has increased to 43 percent.

- Oversaw the expansion of a regional highway system and a region-wide transit service. Development of transit includes creating opportunities for cities to develop their own service, creating a "Metro Mobility" service for people with physical disabilities, and planning the corridors of a possible regional light-rail transit system.

- Led the region through a health services planning process that contributed to the closing of five unneeded hospitals and the merger or consolidation of several high-cost hospital specialty services.

- Led a planning process that helped the region become the first metro area of its size and complexity to establish the 911 Emergency Telephone Service.

WHAT ARE ITS PRIORITIES TODAY?

The Council has six priorities for 1991:

- **Airports.** Identifying a search area for a possible new major airport, and monitoring economic trends to see if we should build one. This is one part of a "dual-track" approach to increasing airport capacity. At the same time, the Metropolitan Airports Commission is developing a plan to increase capacity of the MSP Airport.

- **Housing.** Considering a region-wide plan to improve the region's housing stock. The plan would respond to a long-range weakening trend in home ownership in parts of the region, and address the housing needs of people with low incomes or other special needs.

- **Human Investment Framework.** Analyzing the region's investments in housing, health and other human resources, to find ways to help public officials and human service providers do the most with their investments.

- **Solid waste.** Developing a region-wide approach to handling solid waste in a way that reduces our dependence on landfills, and increases recycling and processing of solid waste.

- **Transportation.** Reducing highway congestion by increasing the people-carrying capacity of the area's roadways.

- **Water quality and supply.** Preparing a region-wide approach to protect the quality and supply of the region's surface water and groundwater.

WHERE IS THE COUNCIL?

It's located in Mears Park Centre at 230 E. Fifth St. in the Lowertown area of downtown St. Paul, Minnesota.

WHAT IS THE METROPOLITAN AREA?

Step back and picture Minneapolis, St. Paul, the surrounding suburbs and rural areas as one large Metropolitan Area. You can see busy downtowns, sedate older neighborhoods, rapidly growing suburbs, rural towns and rolling farmland. This is the seven-county Metropolitan Area--diverse, yet interdependent. The region includes the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington. It contains 137 cities and 50 towns, 3,000 square miles and 2.3 million people--a little more than half the state's population.

The area is an economically interdependent community. Many people live in one city, work in a second, shop and seek recreation in a third. Recognition of this "metro community" led civic and governmental leaders to create a metro governmental agency--the Metropolitan Council--to plan for the whole region.

WHAT DOES THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL DO?

The Council makes long-range plans for the region's highways, transit, airports, sewers and regional parks. It also plans for other region-wide needs: in land use, water supply and quality, solid-waste management, housing, health services, aging and air quality. Authority for the Council's work comes from the state legislature and federal laws.

WHAT HAS IT ACCOMPLISHED?

In its 24-year history, the Council:

- Established a plan in the 1970s that has curtailed costly urban sprawl into rural areas. As a result, housing and business development has occurred in the urban area, while more than half of the region's farmland has been kept for agricultural use through an agricultural preserves program.
- Successfully advocated that the legislature create a single regional sewer system, which has helped clean lakes and streams and has brought the Mississippi River to its cleanest level in 50 years.
- Initiated a "dual-track" plan to ensure adequate airport facilities for the Twin Cities Area. One track focuses on a new airport option and the other focuses on improvements at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). The legislature will be in a position to make a choice by 1996.
- Recommended that the region end its dependence on landfills for disposal of solid waste, and turn to reduction and reuse, recycling and incineration of wastes instead.
- Successfully advocated that the legislature create a single regional park system. The system has grown from 29,000 acres in 1974 to 45,000 acres today. It has 28 parks, 11 park reserves, 4 trails and 3 other recreational features.