



METROPLAN

SMART PLANNING MAKES SMART PLACES.



METROPLAN

SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL

SMALL CITIES COUNCIL

January 24, 2024 • 9:00 AM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water Providers
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

SCC MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Alexander | 10. Keo |
| 2. Austin | 11. Lonoke |
| 3. Bauxite | 12. Mayflower |
| 4. Cammack
Village | 13. Mount Vernon |
| 5. England | 14. Shannon Hills |
| 6. Greenbrier | 15. Traskwood |
| 7. Guy | 16. Vilonia |
| 8. Haskell | 17. Ward |
| 9. HSVillage | 18. Wooster |
| | 19. Wrightsville |



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. **Introductions & Announcements**
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Projects
- Updates
- Successes
- Challenges
- *Volunteer for March 13th Community Spotlight*



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS MEETING

August 23, 2023



Small Cities Council Meeting Summary

Wednesday, August 23, 2023 | 9:00 AM
Pulaski County Regional Center | Little Rock
DRAFT

Meeting PowerPoint slides available at www.metroplan.org/small-cities-council

SCC Members Attending

1. Mayor Mike Kemp, Chair
2. Mayor Charles Gastineau, Vice Chair
3. Mayor Bernie Chamberlain
4. Mayor Sammy Hartwick
5. Mayor Danny Hester
6. Mayor Butch House
7. Mr. Keith Keck
8. Mayor Terry Don Robinson
9. Mr. Brady Zweifel

City of Shannon Hills
City of Ward
City of Austin
City of Greenbrier
City of Mayflower
City of England
Hot Springs Village
City of Wooster
City of Vilonia

Additional Attendees

10. Ms. Nicci Rummel
11. Mr. Brad McCaleb

City of Ward
ARDOT

Metroplan Staff

12. Ms. Lynn Bell
13. Mr. Casey Covington
14. Mr. Jonathan Lupton
15. Ms. Bernadette Rhodes

Graphics Specialist
Executive Director
Senior Planner for Publications
Senior Regional Planner for Partnerships

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. He welcomed participants and asked participants to introduce themselves.

2. Introductions & Announcements

Participants introduced themselves. Mr. Zweifel...



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

METROPLAN UPDATE

- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
- Arkansas Energy and Environment Innovation Plan
- **TODAY** after the board meeting:
TAP/CIE application workshop
- **TODAY** at noon:
Active Transportation Workshop and
& walk audit of downtown Little Rock



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

2024 SCC TOPICS

Ideas:

- Eclipse planning
- First amendment auditors
- Short-term rentals
- Solar tax credits & net metering
- Planning guidance
- *Add your own!*



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

ACT 605 OF 2021: OVERSIGHT OF RETAIL WATER PROVIDERS

- ❖ [Ark. Code Ann. § 14-234-801 et. seq.](#)
- ❖ [Rules and Guidance from Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division](#)

Key Goals

- Blueprint for water security
- Efficient service
- Fiscal stability

Fundamental Requirements

- Rate studies
- Water provider board training
- Advisory committee



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

RATE STUDIES § 14-234-802

- By July 1, 2024, then every 5 years for providers serving 500 or fewer customers.
- By July 1, 2025, then every 5 years for providers serving 501 to 1,000 customers.
- By July 1, 2026, then every 5 years for providers serving more than 1,000 customers.

Rates and other revenue dedicated to the support of the provider's water system shall adequately address:

- Operation and maintenance
- Debt service
- Required reserves
- Depreciation
- Future capital expenses
- Preparation of an annual audit or agreed-upon procedures and compilation report
- Other expenses as necessary.

Implement rate increase within 1 year of the receipt of the rate study. If recommended rates increase the provider's rates by 50% or more from the fiscal year before the rate study was completed, the provider may phase in the rate increase over a 2-year period.

[List of Approved Rate Study Providers](#)



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

MUNICIPAL PROVIDERS

§ 14-234-804

- ***Providing water outside city limits?***
Require application by property owner or agreement between municipal provider and property owner.
- ***Want to require properties to annex?***
Outline prerequisite clearly in application or agreement.

Advisory Committee

- If 20% or more of municipal provider's customers are outside city limits, must create nonvoting advisory committee to the municipal provider board.
- Advisory committee's makeup and duties determined by municipality's governing body.
- 2 customers residing outside city limits shall serve on committee.



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

**WATER PROVIDER
BOARD TRAINING**
§ 14-234-805

- Within 1 year of election or appointment, a majority of board members shall receive a minimum of 8 hours of provider training.
- Exempt: Members who have served on the board for 10 years or more.

Training Curriculum

Approved Board Training Providers



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

“THE STICK”: FISCAL DISTRESS

A provider found to be in fiscal distress:

- Shall file an **improvement plan** including specific action to be taken to correct financial, technical, and managerial deficiencies, within 90 days of the finding.
- Shall **not receive state financial assistance** for water operations until an improvement plan that has been approved by the commission is in place.
- Shall obtain **written authorization** from the commission to:
 - Incur additional debt;
 - Accept assistance for the refurbishment or replacement of facilities or construction of facilities not within the provider's improvement plan; or
 - Transfer assets to another entity.



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. Adjourn

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **TODAY:**
 - 10:00 AM – Board Meeting
 - ~11:00 AM – TAP/CIF Workshop
 - 12:00 PM – Active Transportation Workshop & Walk Audit
- **Wednesday, March 13, 2024**
 - 9:00 AM: SCC Meeting
 - 10:00 AM: Board Meeting
- **Location: Metroplan, Pulaski County Regional Building**



METROPLAN
**SMALL CITIES
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions & Announcements
3. Summary of Previous Meeting
4. Metroplan Update
5. Discussion of 2024 SCC Topics
6. Discussion of Act 605: Retail Water
7. Member Q&A
8. Preview of Upcoming Meetings
9. **Adjourn**

THANK YOU!

Contacts:

Mayor Mike Kemp, Chair

City of Shannon Hills

501-455-2003

shannonhillsmayor@aristotle.net

Mayor Charles Gastineau, Vice Chair

City of Ward

501-843-2226

mayor@cityofward.com

Bernadette Rhodes

Metroplan

501-372-3300 (office)

501-553-7295 (cell)

brhodes@metroplan.org