

CITIZENS LEAGUE REPORT

No. 77

**Prospectus for a Study
Metropolitan Problems in the
Twin Cities Metro Area**

June 1957

Citizens League
601 Syndicate Building
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

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CITY AND METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

PROSPECTUS FOR A STUDY OF METROPOLITAN PROBLEMS
IN THE TWIN CITY METROPOLITAN REGION

Syllabus:

1. Reason for study
2. Fields of activity to be studied
3. Form of organization of the study group
4. Mode of operation of the study group
5. What should be produced.

OUTLINE

1. Reason for this study:

- a. There has grown a great number of fields of inter-county, inter-city, and inter-community problems, common interests, and joint endeavors in the Twin City region.
- b. It has seemed absurd to severally pursue solutions that consider the boundary of Ramsey and Hennepin counties almost always a division across which only a bare minimum of common action is ever undertaken.
- c. There are now so many autonomous districts that future joint solutions to new problems are going to be harder to secure legislative or voter approval. There is already a feeling that there is a lack of public control over these special bodies. (Though few would want to see more politics, in the bad sense) Some people are wondering if a multi-purpose district might be the next step. Many wonder at the multiplication of little municipalities and question the wisdom of continuing the trend.
- d. Though a metropolitan planning commission is quite likely to be created by the 1957 legislature and it will probably study the government structure in due time; it will be necessary and useful to have a citizen study even as we now study every field now officially an activity of government.
- e. There is needed a master study and "blueprint" to help us evaluate proposals as they come up and help steer them into a logical pattern of overall development.

2. Scope of study:

- a. Metropolitan activities as presently apparent
 1. Existing metropolitan organizations
 - a) Metropolitan Sewerage Commission
 - b) Minneapolis - St. Paul Metropolitan Airports Commission
 2. Possible metropolitan organizations in the near future
 - a) Metropolitan Planning Commission
 3. Other current proposals
 - a) Metropolitan Transit Regulatory Commission or Authority
 - b) Hennepin - Ramsey TB Sanatorium District
 4. "Limited" metropolitan organization
 - a) Hennepin County Park District
 5. Inter-municipal arrangements now existing
 - a) Mutual fire agreements (S.W. Suburbs, W. Suburbs and others)

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- b) Sanitary sewer contracts
- e) Storm sewer easements
- d) Minneapolis - St. Paul emergency water supply tie-up
- e) Waste disposal - joint earth fill or incineration

6. Arrangements being organized or pushed

- a) Regional police agreement
- b) Minneapolis * Hennepin County Library joint use agreement
- c) Suburban utilities regulation effort
- d) Joint dog impounding and control

7. State agencies for the metropolitan area

- a) State Highway Dept. metropolitan district and planning unit

8. Metropolitan activities not yet considered

- a) Air pollution control
- b) Traffic planning (complete and all-out)
- c) Port development
- d) Purchasing cooperation (for selected items)
- e) Joint correctional and/or juvenile reformatory facilities.
- f) Joint general hospital facilities
- g) Common civil defense efforts
- h) Activities not yet apparent-mosquito abatement

b. Area covered

1. Five Counties:

- a) Hennepin b) Ramsey c) Anoka d) Dakota e) Washington

c. Study to include a look at

- a) State agencies
- b) Counties
- c) Cities
- d) Villages
- e) Townships
- f) School Districts
- g) Special Districts (such as drainage, and the like)
- h) The part played by the Federal government in local problems.

3. Form of organization:

a. This should be a federated study group such that the members from the orbit of the Citizens League of Minneapolis and Hennepin County and those from some comparable association or associations in Ramsey County and its environs can carry the various reports back to effective organizations in being which can provide backing, publicity and information dissemination to wide circles of civic-minded persons. This would increase the general consciousness of the basic problems being analyzed.

b. It is proposed that there be a joint committee of 15 members chosen as follows:

1. By the Citizens League of Minneapolis and Hennepin County:

8 members, approximately 3 from Minneapolis, 1 from the northern suburbs, 1 from the western, and 1 from the southern suburbs, 1 from Anoka County suburbs and one from Dakota County (possible in concert with St. Paul.)

2. By the St. Paul group:
7 members, approximately 2 from St. Paul, 1 from its southern suburbs, 1 from its northern Ramsey County Suburbs, 1 from northeastern Ramsey County, 1 from Washington County, and one from Anoka County.
3. As widely selective of occupations and interests as possible.
4. A steering committee of 6; 3 from Hennepin, 2 from Ramsey, and 1 from one of the other three counties.

4. Mode of operation:

- a. Present prospectus to the interested organizations.
- b. Acceptance of a prospectus, as revised, and then each group to appoint interested persons as committee members who should be given intra-organization status and a directive to meet with the others.
- c. A joint meeting.
 1. Explore the field.
 2. Assign study areas to individuals according to their interests and contacts.
 3. Propose helpful sources of information and give out names of persons willing to help the committee with data.
 4. Make public announcement to stimulate contributions of ideas from the general public.
- d. One or more meetings of the separate organizations' committee members, including a report to their parent organizations, either the committee of which they are a part, or the governing body.
- e. A second joint meeting to assess the work to date (3 to 4 months after the first joint meeting). Arrange for editing of the preliminary report (or digest). Assign clean-up tasks. More publicity.
- f. A third joint meeting in 2 to 3 months to complete preliminary report without recommendations.

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Re-form under task forces for field activities, such as public safety; utilities; water, sewage and drainage; health and welfare, management; education.

Fall,
Winter,
Spring,
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- g. One or more meetings with the separate parent committees or governing bodies to present the preliminary report and to receive reactions to that report.
- h. A fourth joint meeting within 2 months from the third, to discuss implications and to propose such recommendations as gleaned from the sponsoring organizations or the members' own reaction. To be followed by any adjourned meetings that might be needed to hammer out a set of "observations" or "conclusions" or "recommendations" as deemed wise.
- i. Submission of a final report about a year after beginning.
- j. Set up annual consultation meetings, with provocative programs using speakers' panels, or other means to move public opinion toward solutions proposed. Committee to arrange and sponsor various modes of public information on the sphere or regional problems.

5. What should be produced:

- a. Census of every governmental body in the metropolitan area.
 1. Number of each type of unit.
 2. Population within each jurisdiction and trends.
 3. Expenditures and activities carried out by each unit.
 4. Revenues by sources, including State and Federal grants.
 5. Number of elective positions.
 6. Number of subordinate boards and commissions.
 7. Number of employees.
 8. Assessed valuations, including estimated assessment ratio.
 9. Bonds outstanding, bond maturity schedules, and bonding limits, overlapping debt.
 10. State of zoning, powers used; state of subdivision control.
 11. Quality of services, including lack of services.
- b. Character of community; major problems, such as unsolved storm drainage, excessive run-down areas, bond limitations pinch; industrial, residential, etc.; need of planning or subdivision control, etc.
- c. Reports of other metropolitan regions, giving specific examples, how they are organized:
 - 1) Denver (city county) (also St. Louis)
 - 2) Toronto (federated metropolis)
 - 3) New York (borough government) (also London)
 - 4) Kansas City (Regional planning, citizens group)
 - 5) Some official regional planning group
 - 6) Allegheny County air pollution and other joint endeavors
 - 7) Some regional police network
 - 8) Some joint waste disposal example
 - 9) Other examples.
- d. Recommendations, observations, or conclusions as to solutions for the whole or parts of the complete problem.

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