



Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP)

Overview and Water Policy Research Project

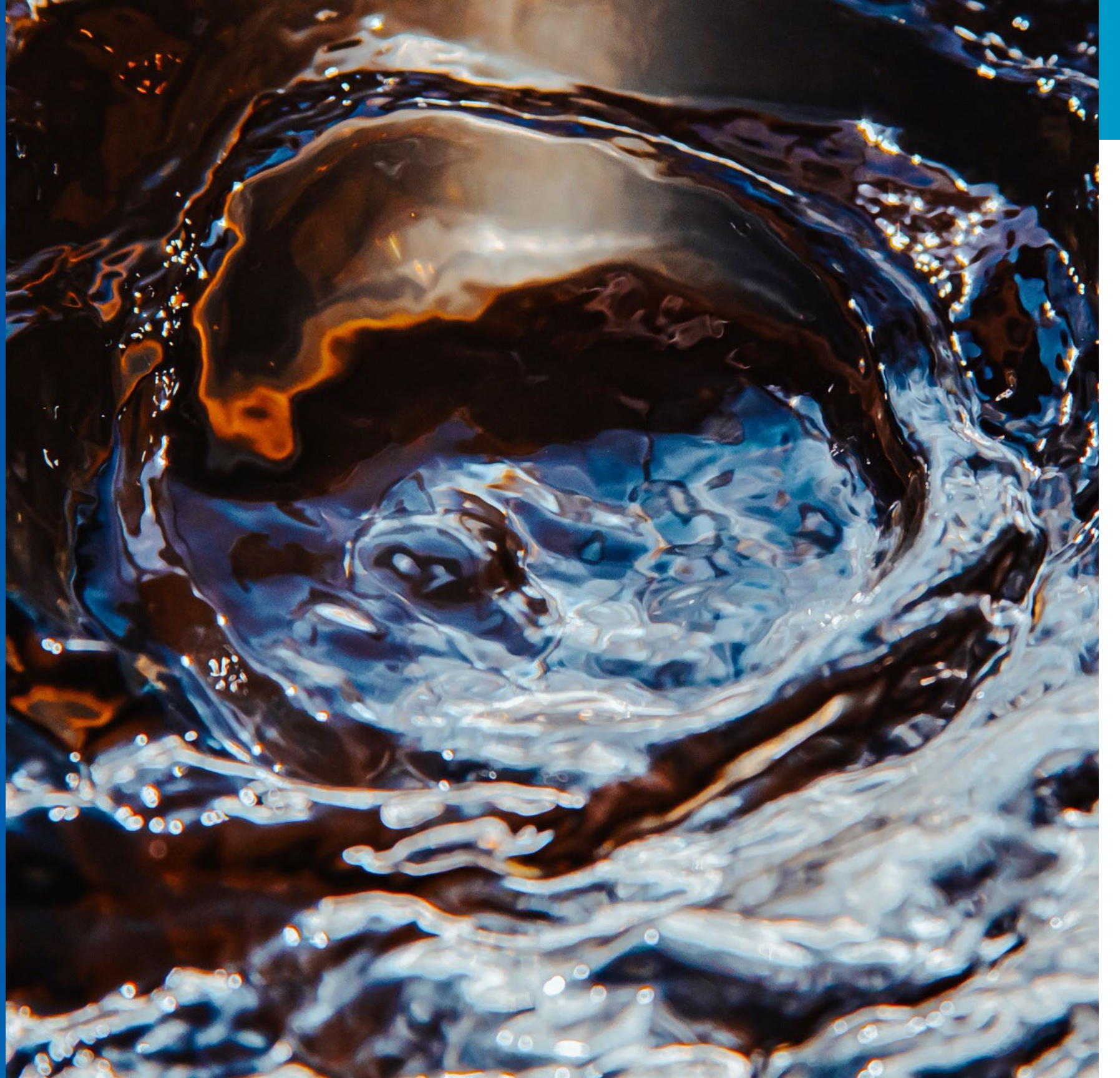




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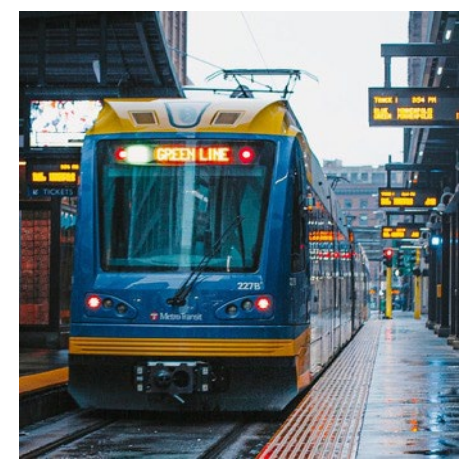
What is the Water Resources Policy Plan?



Water Resource Policy Plan (WRPP)

Plan Purpose

- Met Council is developing the 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan, which **focuses on ensuring sustainable water resources in the region**. It is a part of and informed by the Regional Development Guide.
- The WRPP provides a **framework for integrative water planning** (wastewater, water supply, and water resources) the Metro Area Water Supply Plan, and the Wastewater System Plan.
- It contains water **policies, strategies, and actions** for both the Met Council and our 180+ local governments within the seven-county region.
- WRPP policies **will commit the Council** to take action in the areas of long-range visioning and planning, regional system investments, facility management, technical assistance, research and assessment, and partnerships.



Metro Area Water Planning Framework



What is the Water Resources Policy Plan?

Plan for the Met Council

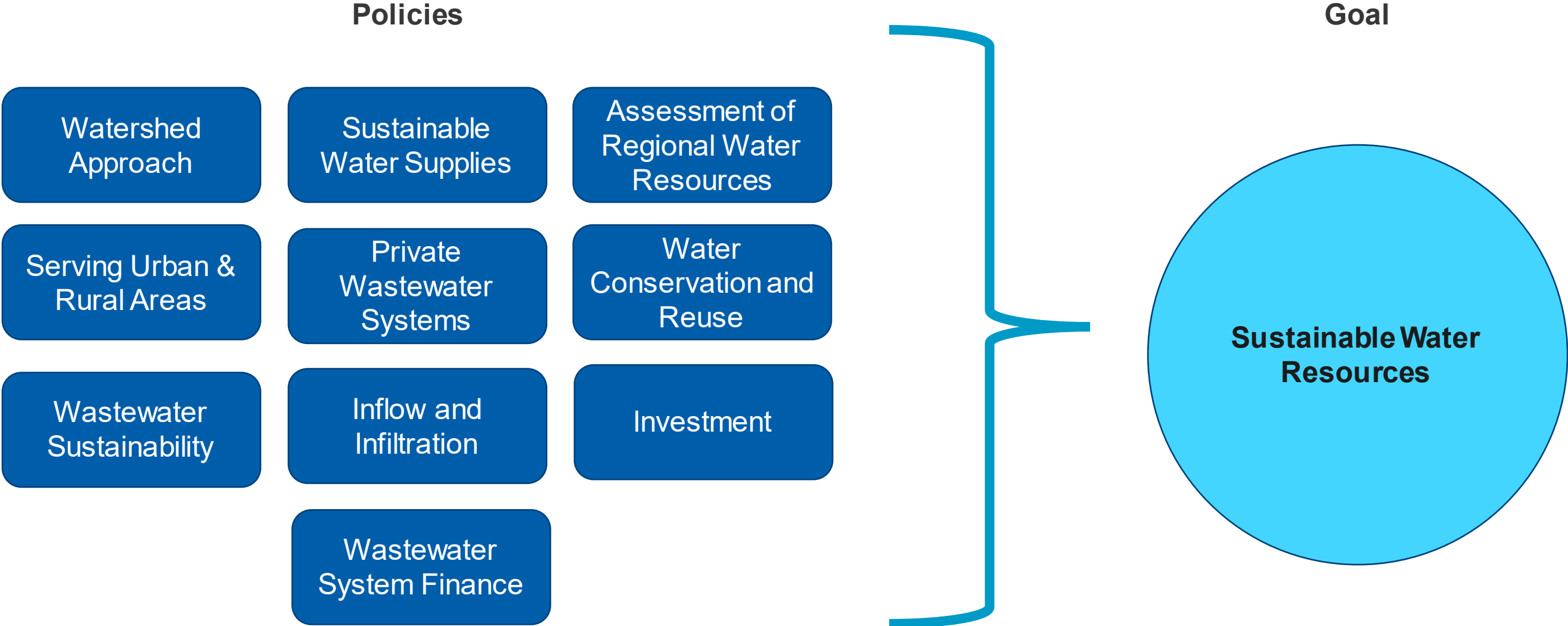
- Integrated Water Planning
- Monitoring and Assessment for Region
- Water Conservation and Reuse
- Investment Policies
- Climate Planning
- Metro Area Water Supply Plan
- Regional Wastewater System Plan

A guide for local planning

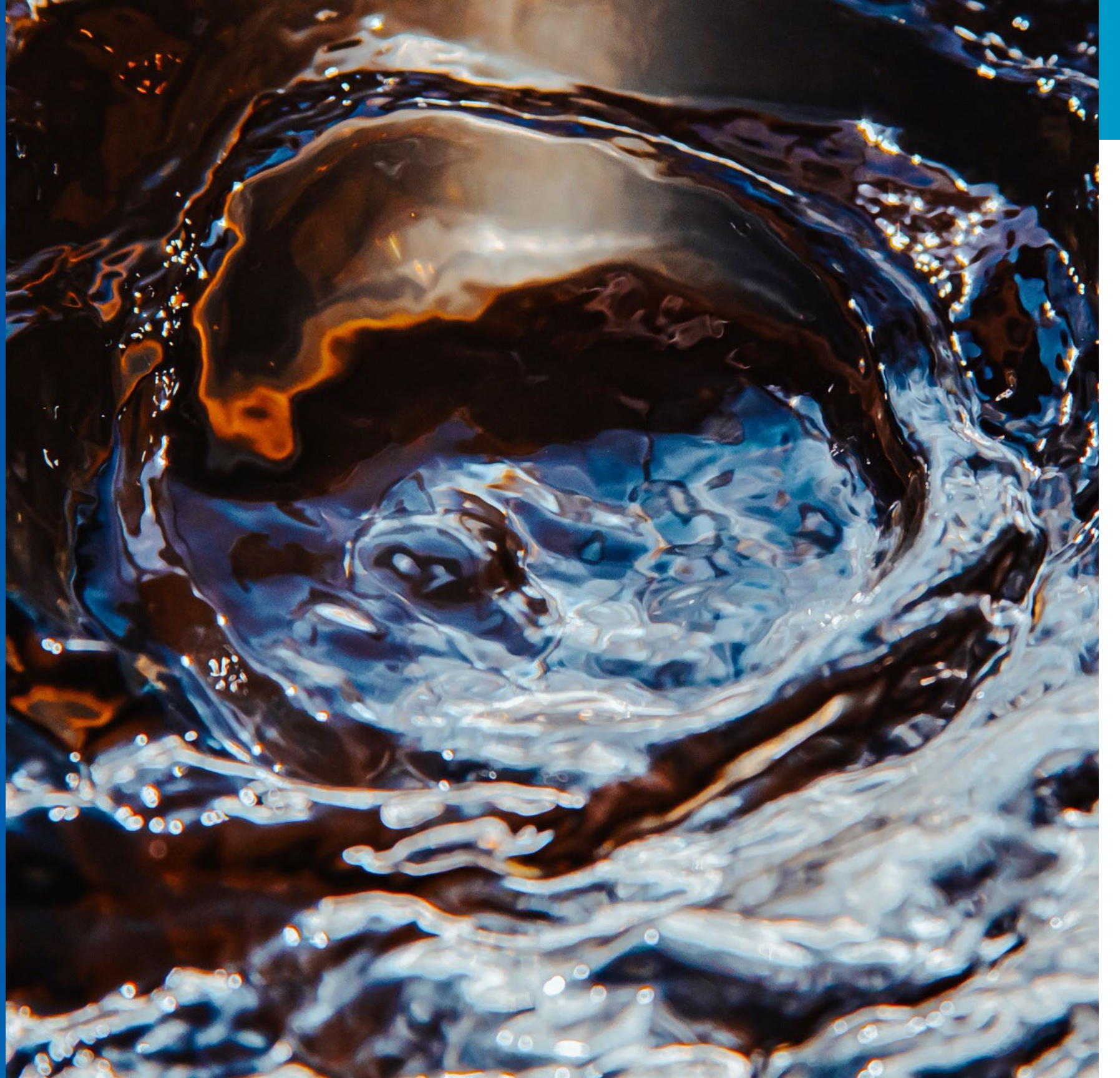
Requirements for:

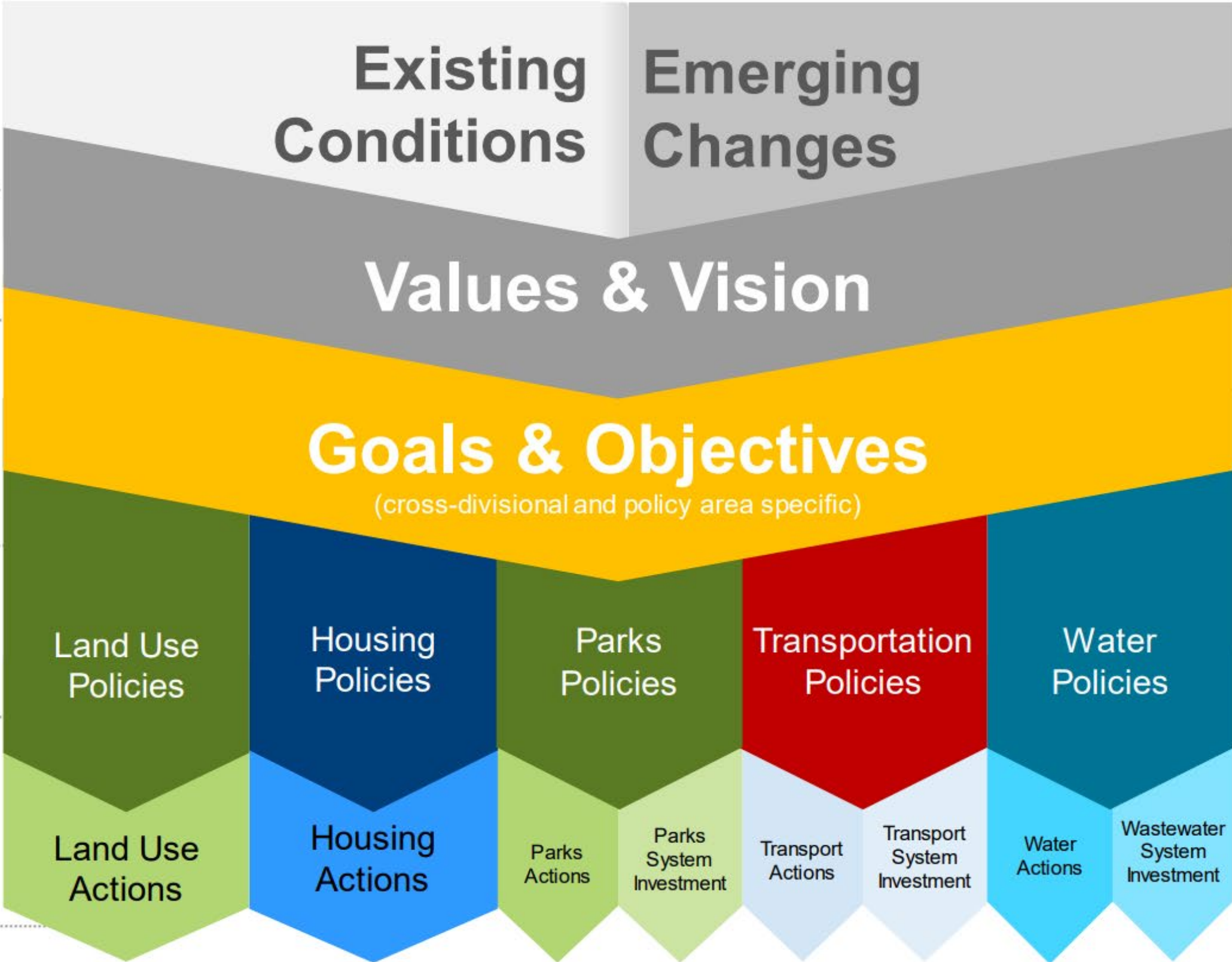
- Local Comprehensive Sewer Plan
- Local Surface Water Management Plan
- Local Water Supply Plan

Current 2040 WRPP Goals and Policies



How are we developing the 2050 WRPP?





Our work reflects the region's existing conditions and emerging changes

Our shared values reflect **the core beliefs** that guide how we work toward the vision of **what we want to achieve**.

The goals and objectives articulate **desired end states** and **achievable results** that advance toward them, to achieve the vision.

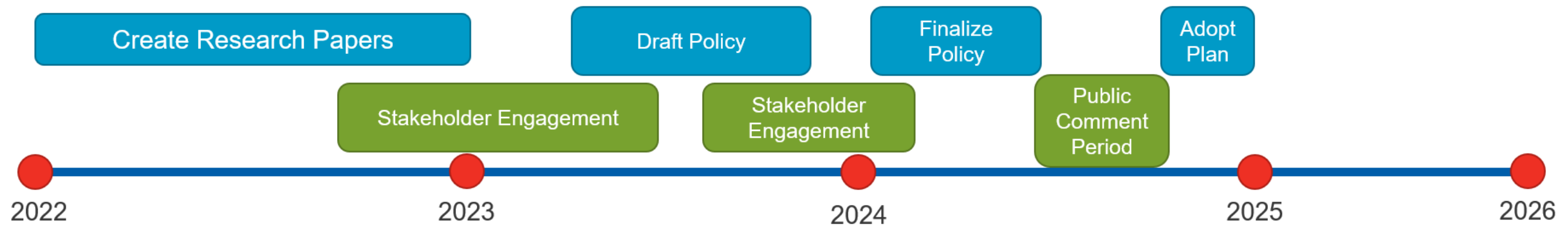
Policies set the **intent and approach to regional issues** that will help achieve goals and objectives – policies clarify expectations for both Council and partners.

Policies are implemented through **specific actions by the Council and partners**.

Regional 10-Year Planning Cycle



2050 WRPP Timeline



Water Advisory Group

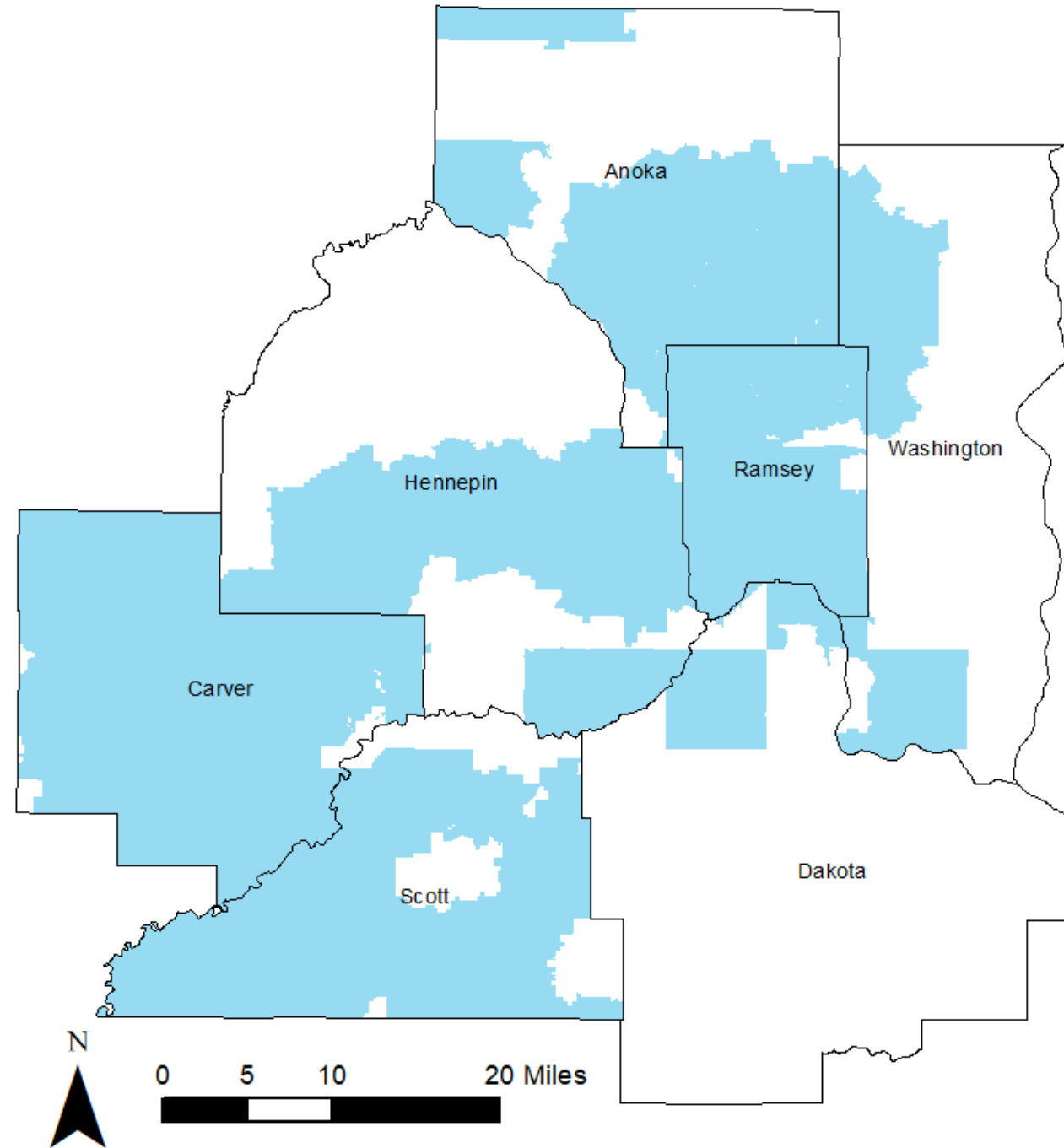
Wastewater / Water Supply Experts

- Scott Anderson (Bloomington)
- Bruce Elder (St. Paul)
- Charles Howley (Chanhassen)
- Jennifer Levitt (Cottage Grove)
- Richard McCoy (Robbinsdale)
- Bryan Dodds (Minneapolis)
- Bryan Bear (Hugo)
- Mark Maloney (Shoreview)
- Russ Matthys (Eagan)
- Pat Shea (SPRWS)
- Bruce Westby (Ramsey)
- Andrew Brotzler (Prior Lake)
- Paul Carpenter (St. Francis)

Watershed Experts

- Phil Belfiori (Vadnais Lake WMO)
- Laura Jester (Bassett Creek WMC)
- Tim Kelly (Coon Creek WD)
- Paul Moline (Carver County WMO)
- Vanessa Strong (Scott County WMO)
- Nick Tomczik (Rice Creek WD)
- James Wisker (Minnehaha Creek WD)

WRPP Advisory Group Representation



MAWSAC and TAC membership

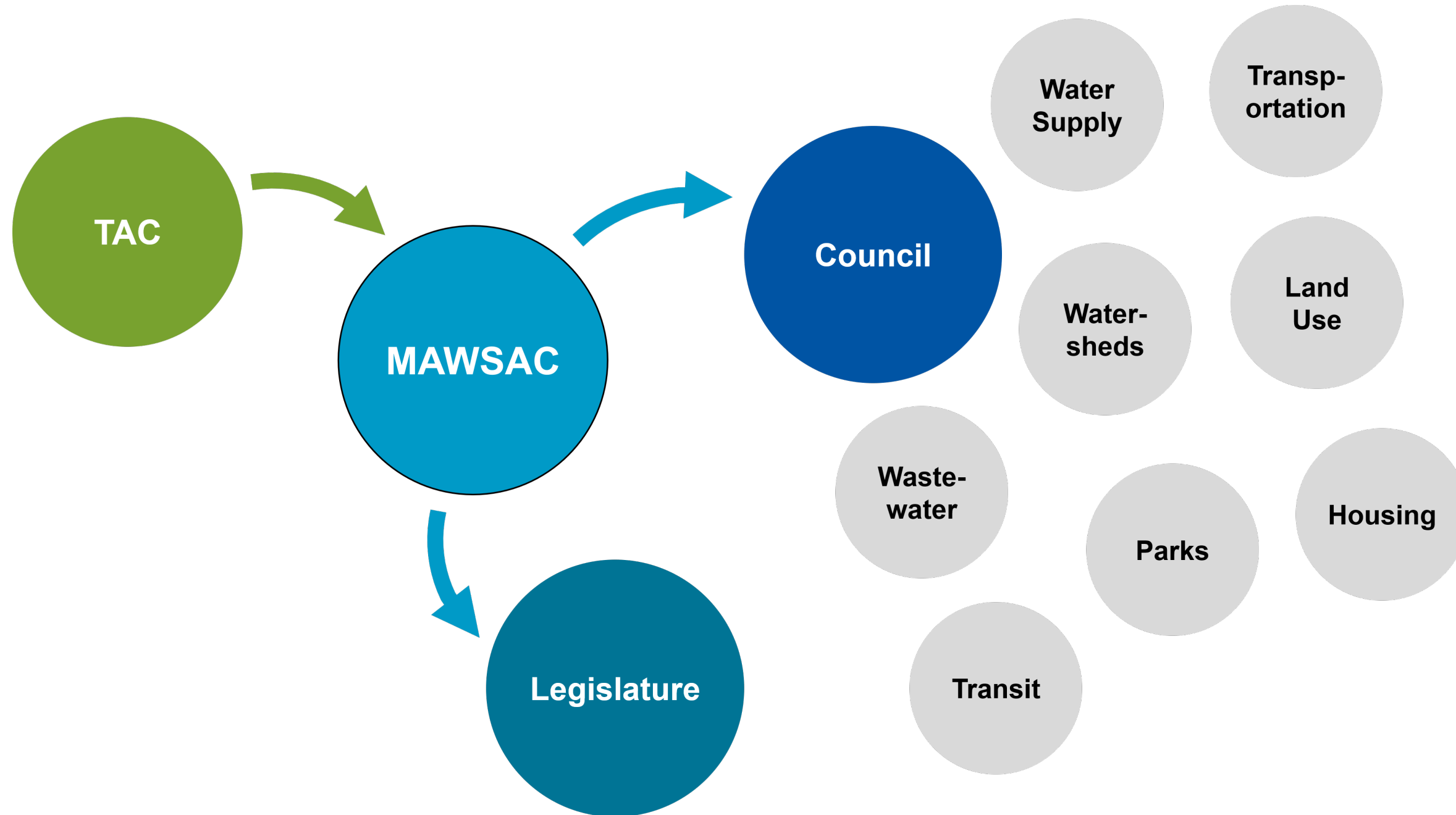
MAWSAC members

- **Wendy Wulff**, Committee Chair
- **Annika Bankston**, City of Minneapolis
- **Jeff Berg**, Department of Agriculture
- **Sandeep Burman**, Department of Health
- **John Gleason**, Department of Natural Resources
- **Mike Huang**, City of Chaska
- **Phil Klein**, City of Hugo
- **Brad Larson**, City of Savage
- **Valerie Neppi**, Dakota County
- **Patrick Shea**, St. Paul Regional Water Services
- **Erik Smith**, Pollution Control Agency
- **Lisa Vollbrecht**, St. Cloud Public Utilities
- **Kevin Watson**, City of Vadnais Heights

TAC members

- **Scott Anderson**, interim chair, City of Bloomington
- **John Dustman**, Summit Envirosolutions
- **Robert Ellis**, City of Eden Prairie
- **Dale Folen**, City of Minneapolis
- **Elizabeth Kaufenberg**, Pollution Control Agency
- **Kim Larsen**, Department of Health
- **Matt Saam**, City of Apple Valley
- **James Stark**, United States Geological Survey & Legislative Water Commission
- **Jim Westerman**, City of Woodbury
- **Ray Wuolo**, Barr Engineering Company

Water planning relationships

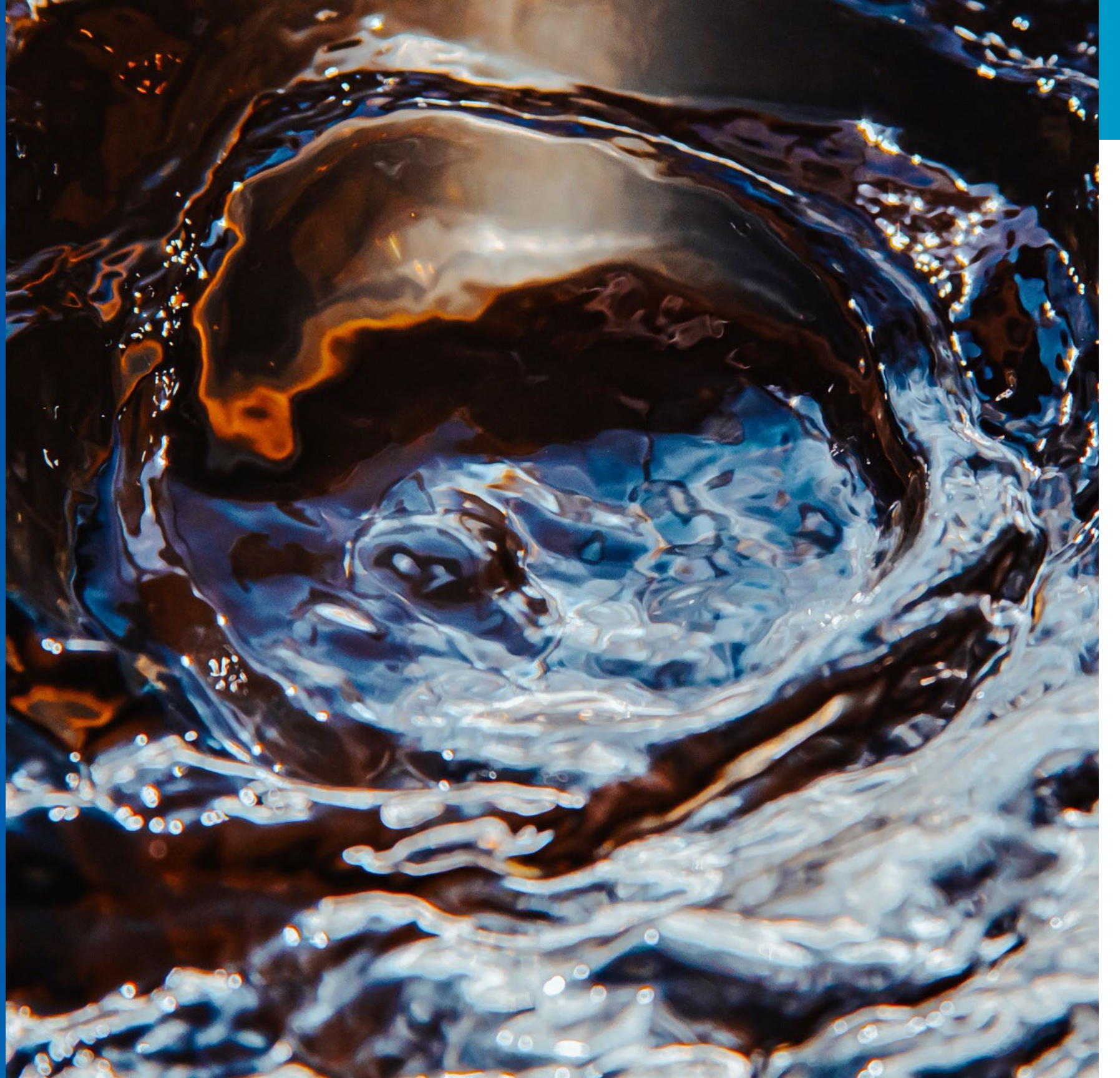


WRPP Engagement Events



- Environment Committee
- Council's WRPP Water Advisory Group
- MAWSAC/TAC
- Water Supply Subregional Workshop
- **MORE TO COME!**

Water Policy Research



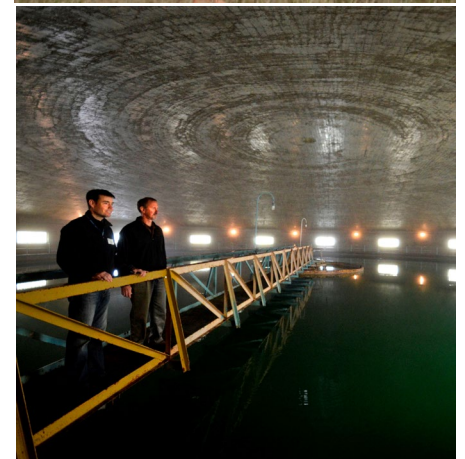
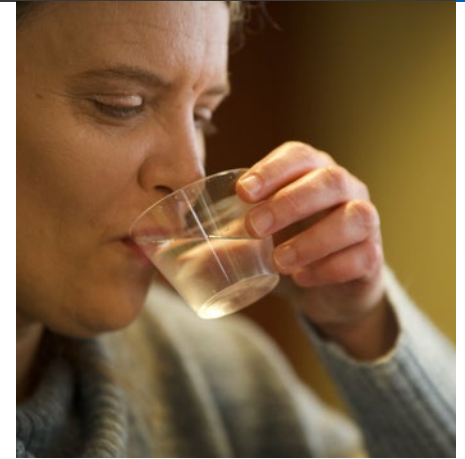
WRPP Research Topics



1. Protecting Source Water Areas
2. Rural Water Concerns
3. Wastewater Concerns
4. Water and Climate
5. Water Availability, Access, and Use
6. Water Quality
7. Water Reuse

Protecting Source Water Areas

- Upfront regional investment in source water protection avoids hundreds of millions of dollars in treatment and clean-up costs.
- Public water suppliers and the Minnesota Department of Health are responsible for providing safe drinking water, but they do not have the land use planning or land ownership rights within management areas.
- Understanding and collaboration is vital to protect the land areas that are the sources for region's water supply – especially where they cross jurisdictional boundaries.



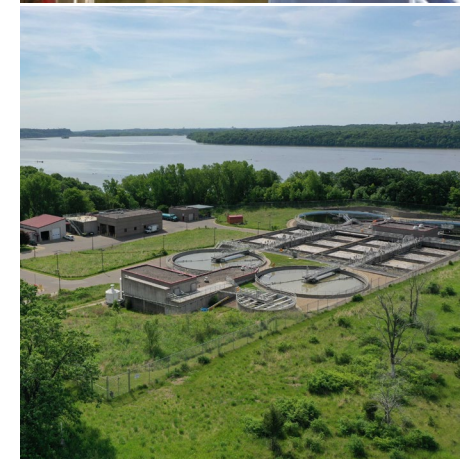
Rural Water Concerns



- Improved and expanded collaboration between partners is critical for success, and a current gap for the Met Council.
- Protecting our rural lands and understanding rural water concerns are crucial for achieving sustainable water resources within the metro region.
- Rural water issues are complex. Climate change, infrastructure, land use, and land use changes all impact water quantity and quality.
- Rural areas are important for natural resource protection and groundwater recharge for drinking water wells.

Wastewater Planning and Service Considerations

- The Council provides high quality, affordable, and sustainable wastewater collection and treatment, which supports environmental protection and a growing, prosperous region with high quality of life.
- We will work with community partners and incentivize private property inflow and infiltration (I/I) reduction through technical and financial (grants) assistance to address local sources.
- We will strive to build and rehabilitate facilities in an equitable way while engaging traditionally underrepresented communities in the planning and construction process.



Water Availability, Access, and Use



- Sustainable water resources are derived from the combination of availability, accessibility, and use of water.
- We must keep in mind the impacts and our responses to natural limitations, social and economical constraints, and regulatory decisions (among others) in our efforts to retain sustainable waters.
- Integrated water planning and cross-sector collaboration is vital to our desired outcome of sustainable water.

Water and Climate

- Climate change impacts water resources, infrastructure, and services provided to the communities, businesses, and residents of our region.
- The climate will continue to become more volatile without greenhouse gases emission reduction, leading to further impacts and new or evolving water challenges in the future.
- It is necessary to implement adaptation actions in land and water management, infrastructure design and operation, and build regional economic and social resiliency to thrive in the face of change.



Water Reuse



- The metro region needs clear, safe, and consistent stormwater reuse guidance from state agencies to help with broader implementation.
- Wastewater reuse has water quality constraints of the treated effluent for reuse without additional costly treatment.
- Current economic and environmental conditions do not strongly encourage the implementation of water reuse widely across the metro area.
- Hyper-localized drivers may push the need for reuse in specific areas within the metro region.

Water Quality

- Water quality contamination and its consequences impacts public health, ecosystem function, and affects regional economic competitiveness.
- Uncertainty around population growth and density, emerging contaminants, regulatory changes, and climate change affect our ability to enact impactful regional water quality improvements in all cases.
- Not all metro residents are impacted by water quality concerns equally and the Council has a role in lessening the burdens on vulnerable, marginalized, and underinvested communities within the region.



Research Feedback





[PLANNING](#)

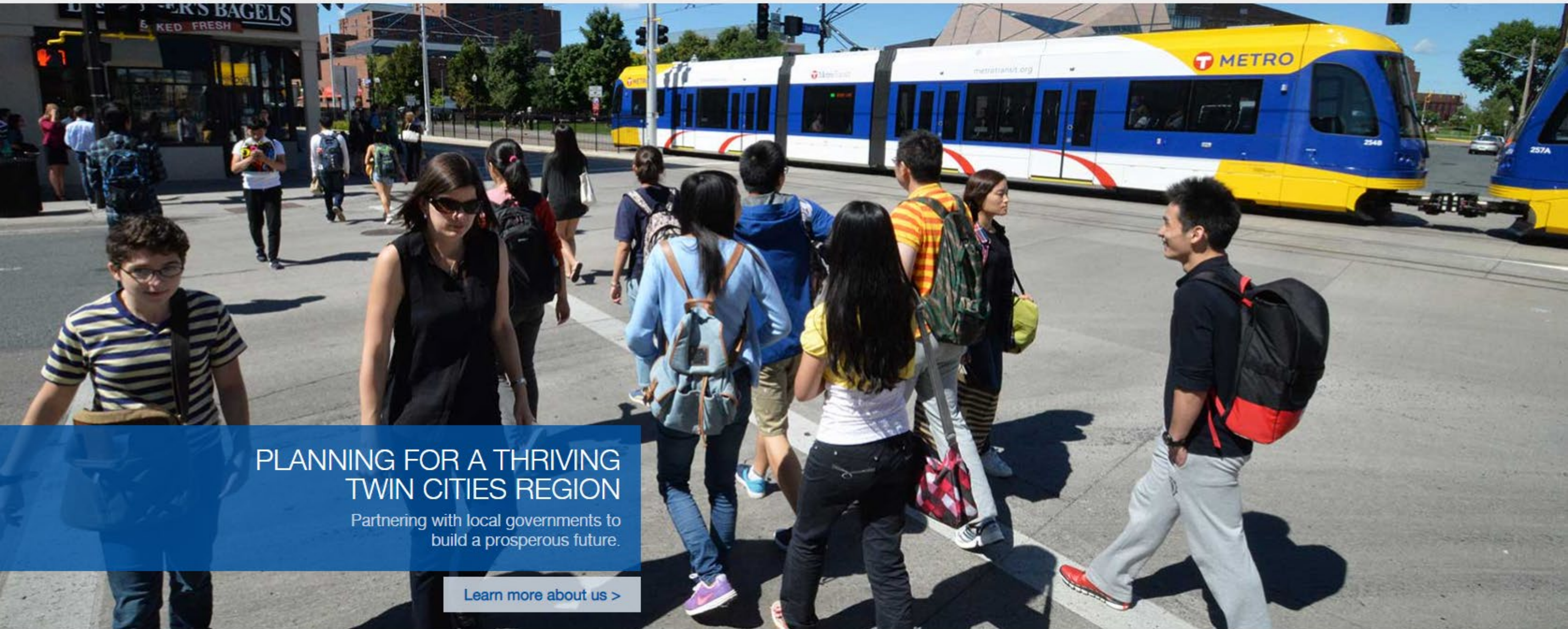
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Partnering with local governments to build a prosperous future.

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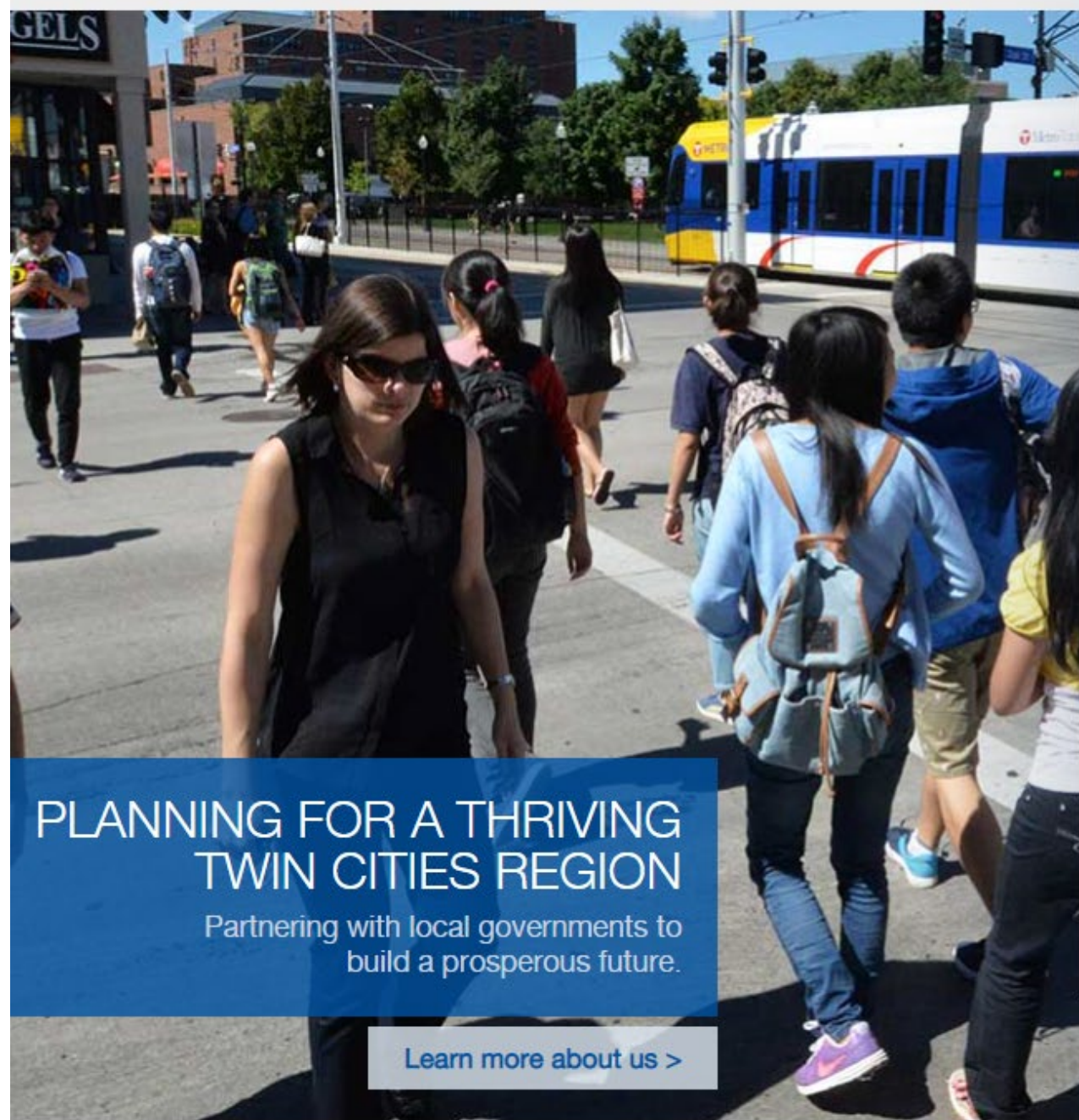
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PLANNING

- Wastewater
- Water Resources
- Water Supply Planning

- SERVICES**
- Wastewater Treatment
 - Water Quality Management
 - Industrial Waste
 - Interceptor Conveyance

- PROJECTS**
- Tracking COVID-19 in Wastewater Capital Program
 - Energy & Sustainability
 - Sewer Construction & Planning
 - Metro Plant Improvements

- FUNDING & FINANCE**
- PUBLICATIONS & DOCUMENTS**
- NEWS & EVENTS**
- CONTACT STAFF**

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WASTEWATER & WATER	-
> Planning	-
2040 Water Resources Policy Plan	
2050 Water Resources Policy Plan Update	-
2021 Performance Report	+
Wastewater	+
Surface Water	+
Water Supply Planning	+
Services	+
Projects	+
Funding & Finance	+
Publications & Documents	
News & Events	

INTEGRATED PLANNING

Wastewater, water supply, and surface water

Water resources have sustained this region for millennia — and wise planning now can ensure a water-rich future for generations to come.

The key is building regionwide support that brings people and organizations together working toward common goals.

Thrive MSP 2040, the Met Council's regional guide for planning and development, helps provide direction for the region as it grows in population from 3.2 million people in 2020 to 3.7 million in 2040.

Our **2040 Water Resources Policy Plan** supports Thrive MSP 2040 and

integrates water resources planning for wastewater, water supply, and surface water with the goal of protecting, conserving, and utilizing the region's groundwater and surface water in ways that protect public health, support economic growth and development, maintain habitat and ecosystem health, and provide for recreational opportunities.

The plan provides regional guidelines for water areas in which the Met Council has some statutory responsibility — wastewater service, surface water management, and water supply — and helps focus the discussion among regional partners.

Through its policies and planning, we are committed to working collaboratively with state and federal agencies, local and county government, watershed management organizations, interest groups, and the public to protect the region's rich water resources as the region continues to grow.



Research for the Water Resources Policy Plan

In this planning cycle for the Water Resources Policy Plan, we started our work with research to make sure the 2050 water policies are responsive to current and future challenges. The goals are to:

- Develop and share our current understanding of issues.
- Identify current policy connections or gaps.
- Propose draft policies and strategy recommendations to ensure sustainable water resources.

Environmental Services staff are writing seven research papers investigating current and future water concerns and recommendations for the metro region. These papers will be rolling out over the next few months. The first paper is linked below.

1. Protecting our region's water quality
2. Water reuse can preserve future water resources.

Three core principles guide the research paper topics



One Water, integrated water management

The metro area is water-rich, and that water holds immense value. Integrated water management, also known as "One Water," addresses water as it moves from water supply, through wastewater systems, and into surface waters. The ultimate goal of integrated water management is sustainable, high-quality water in the region.



Use existing structures

The region plans for water resources and operates the region's wastewater system in partnership with local water and wastewater utilities, watershed management organizations, and regional, county, state, and federal agencies. Collaboration and cooperation between these groups is necessary to protect our water for future generations.



Metric-based policies

It is hard to quantify policy success without accountability. We will provide policy options with associated metrics and measurable outcomes where possible, to demonstrate the effectiveness of our water policies and actions.

These papers are a first step in defining the region's water concerns for the 2050 plan update. While not all the draft recommendations will make it into the final Water Resources Policy Plan, they will spark conversations with stakeholders that help work toward sustainable water resources. The 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan will outline local planning requirements and the Met Council's commitments for water supply, water resources, wastewater planning, and the operation of the regional wastewater treatment system.



<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/2050-Water-Resources-Policy-Plan.aspx>

WRPP Research Topics

JUNE 2023



Protecting Source Water Areas

JULY/AUGUST



Rural Water Concerns

JUNE 2023



Water and Climate

JUNE 2023



Wastewater Planning and Service Considerations

JULY/AUGUST



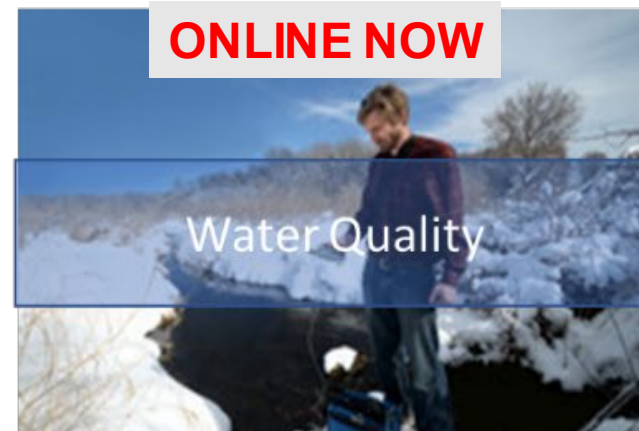
Water Availability, Access, and Use

ONLINE NOW



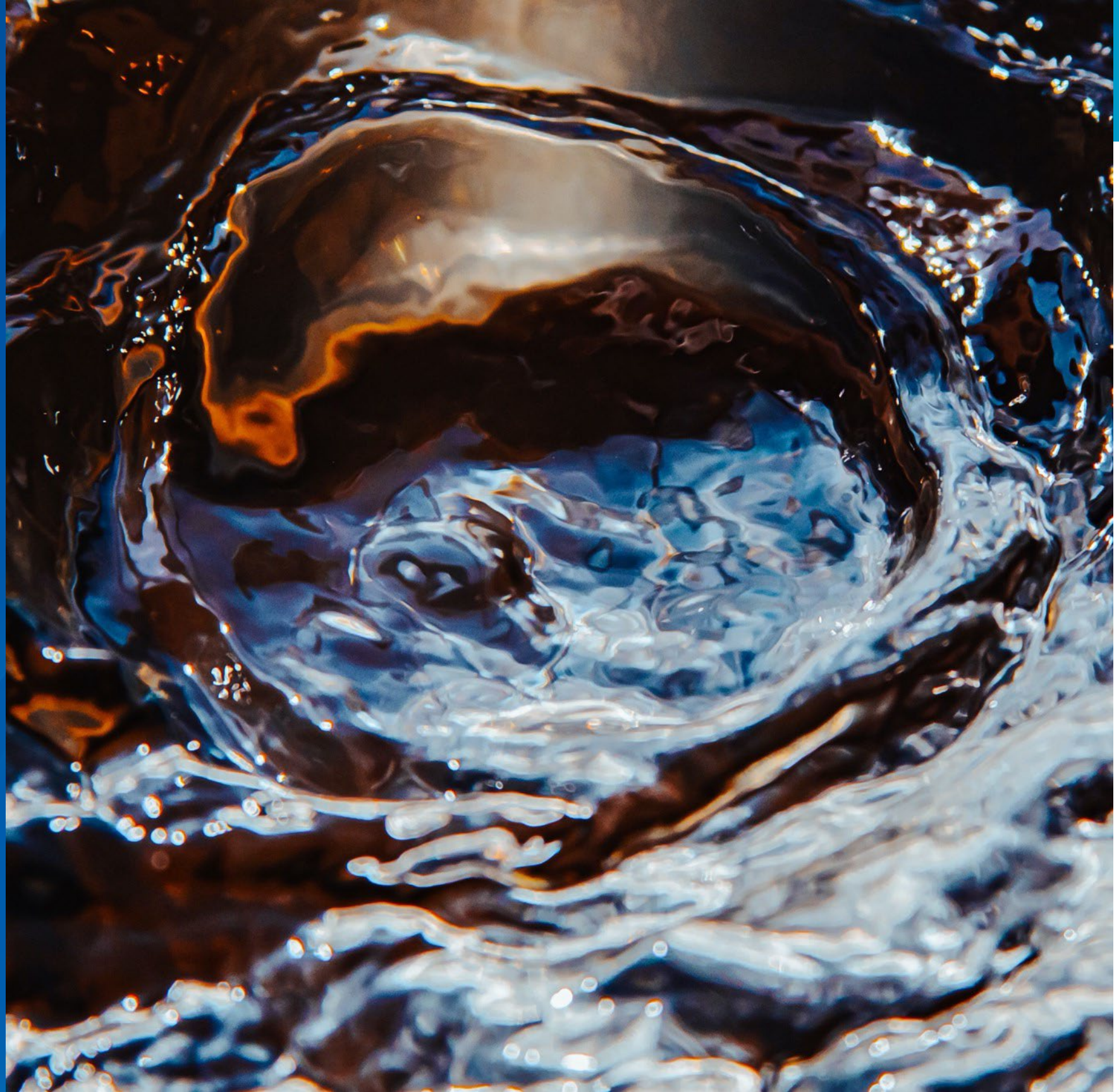
Water Reuse

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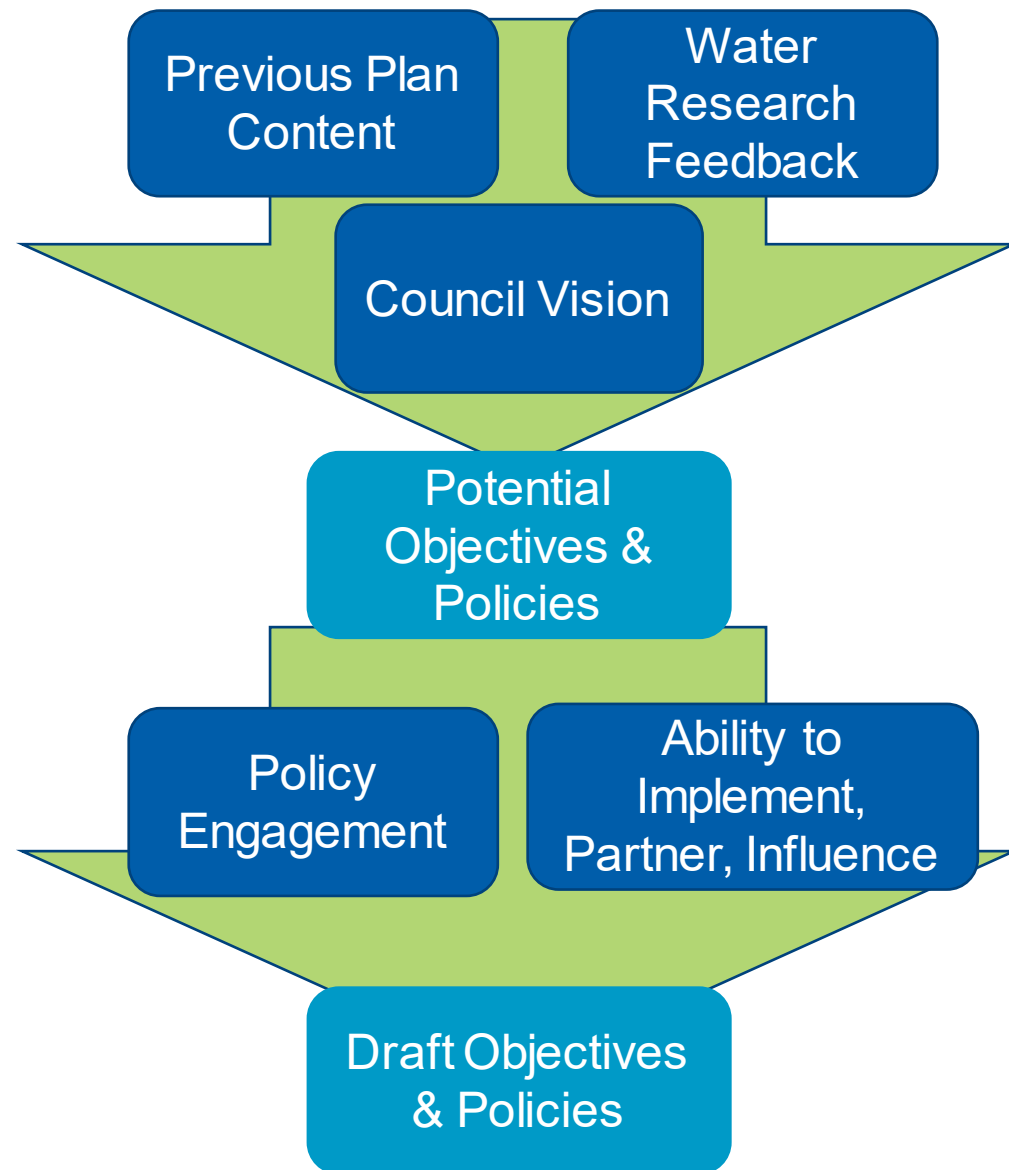
Water Quality

What's Next for the 2050 WRPP?



Process of Setting Regional Water Objectives

Multi-factor Process



Fall in love with the process,
and the results will come.

-- Eric Thomas



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