



2050 Water Policy Plan Update

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April 17, 2024





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Regional Development Guide Structure

Values

Core beliefs that guide how we work toward our vision

Vision

What we want to achieve for the region

Goals

Desired end states for the region, to successfully achieve the vision

Objectives

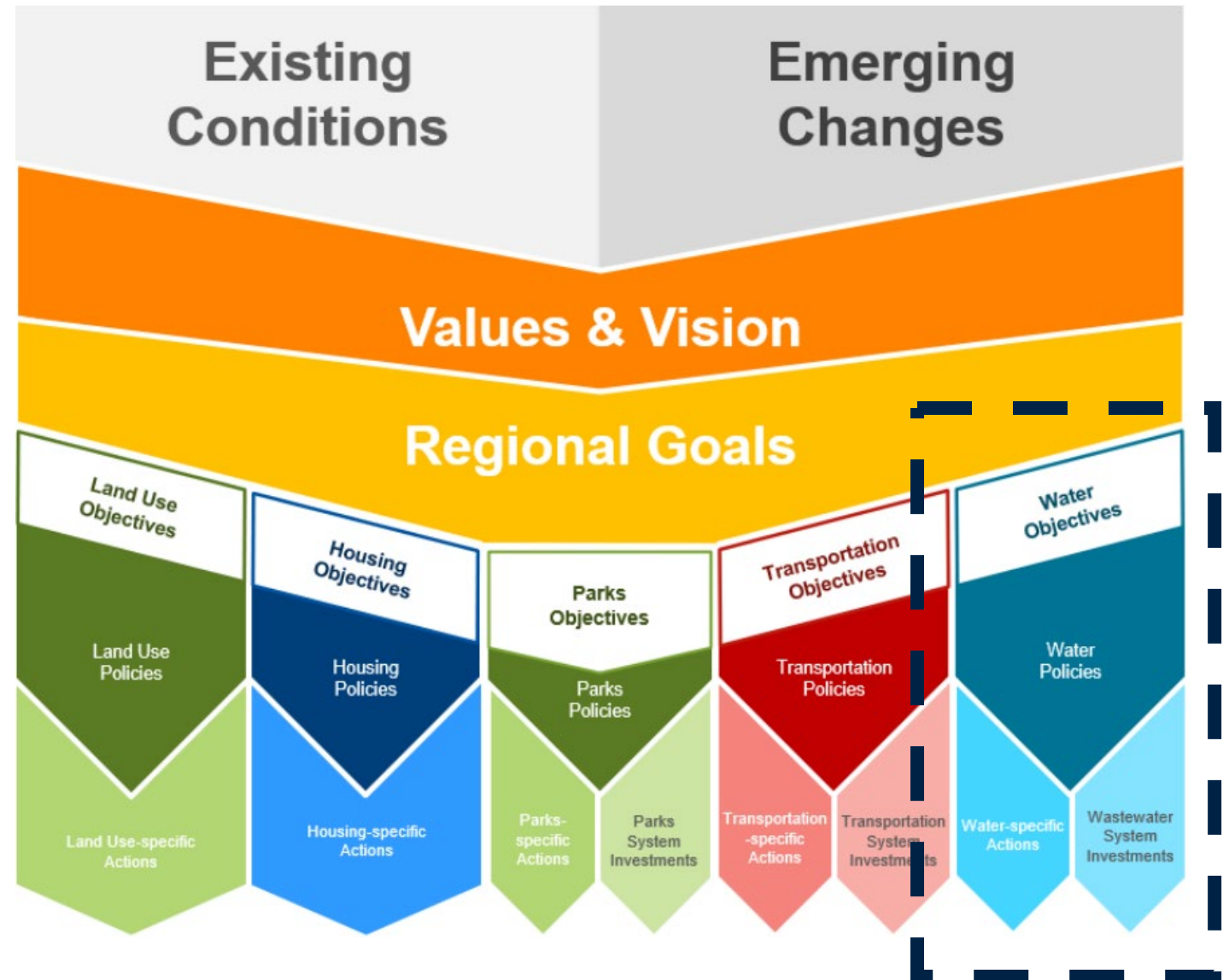
Achievable results that advance regional goals through areas of Council responsibility

Policies

Intent and approach to achieve objectives (expectations for both Council and partners)

Actions

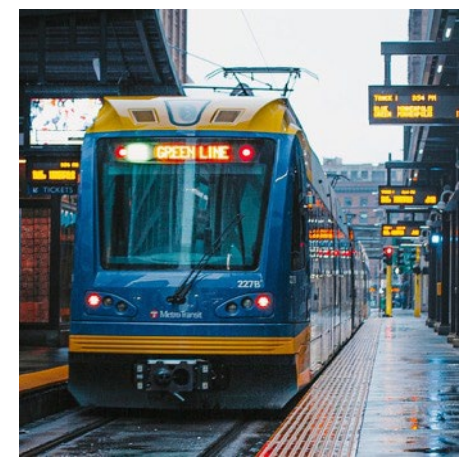
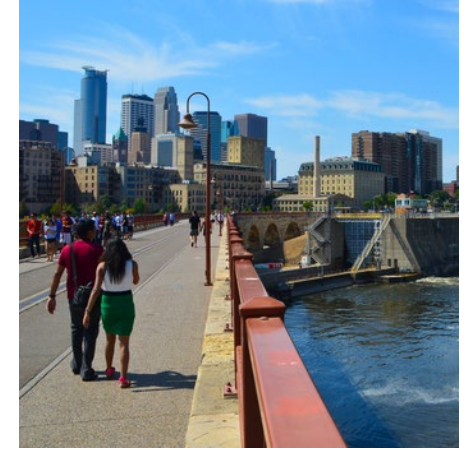
Policies are implemented through specific actions by the Council and partners



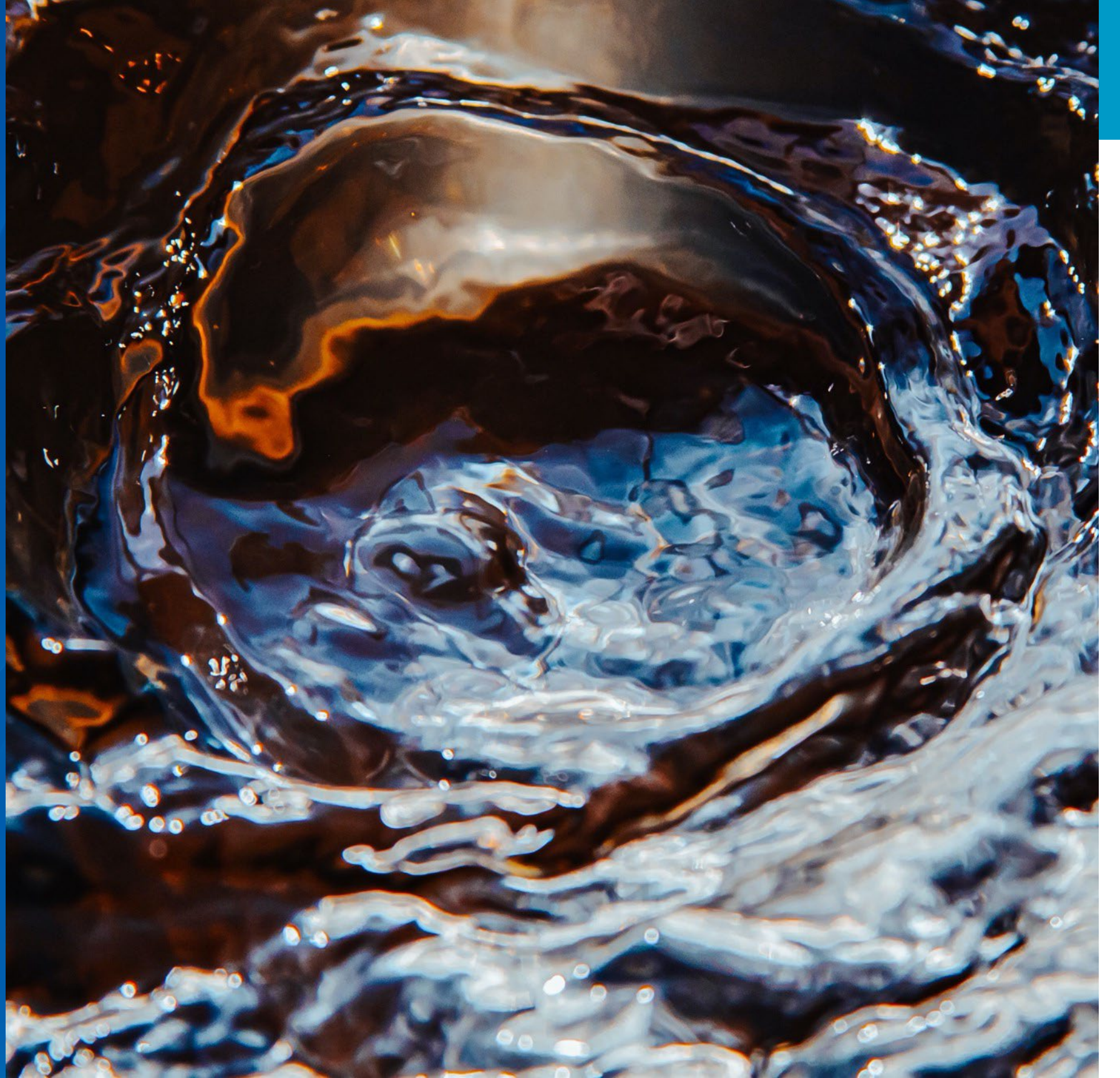
Water Policy Plan (WPP)

Plan Purpose

- Met Council is developing the 2050 Water 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 WPP 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.
- WPP 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.



Water Policy Plan Engagement



Technical Advisory Groups



Environment Committee

Water Advisory Group (WAG)

**Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee
(MAWSAC)**

Technical Advisory Committee (MAWSAC-TAC)

Environment Committee



- Peter Lindstrom, Chair
- Wendy Wulff, Vice Chair
- Anjuli Cameron
- Tyronne Carter
- Gail Cederberg
- Diego Morales
- Yassin Osman

Water advisory membership

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)
- Tom Weslowski (Shoreview)
- Russ Matthys (Eagan)
- Racquel Vaske (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)

Water supply advisory committees

Metro Area Water Supply Advisory

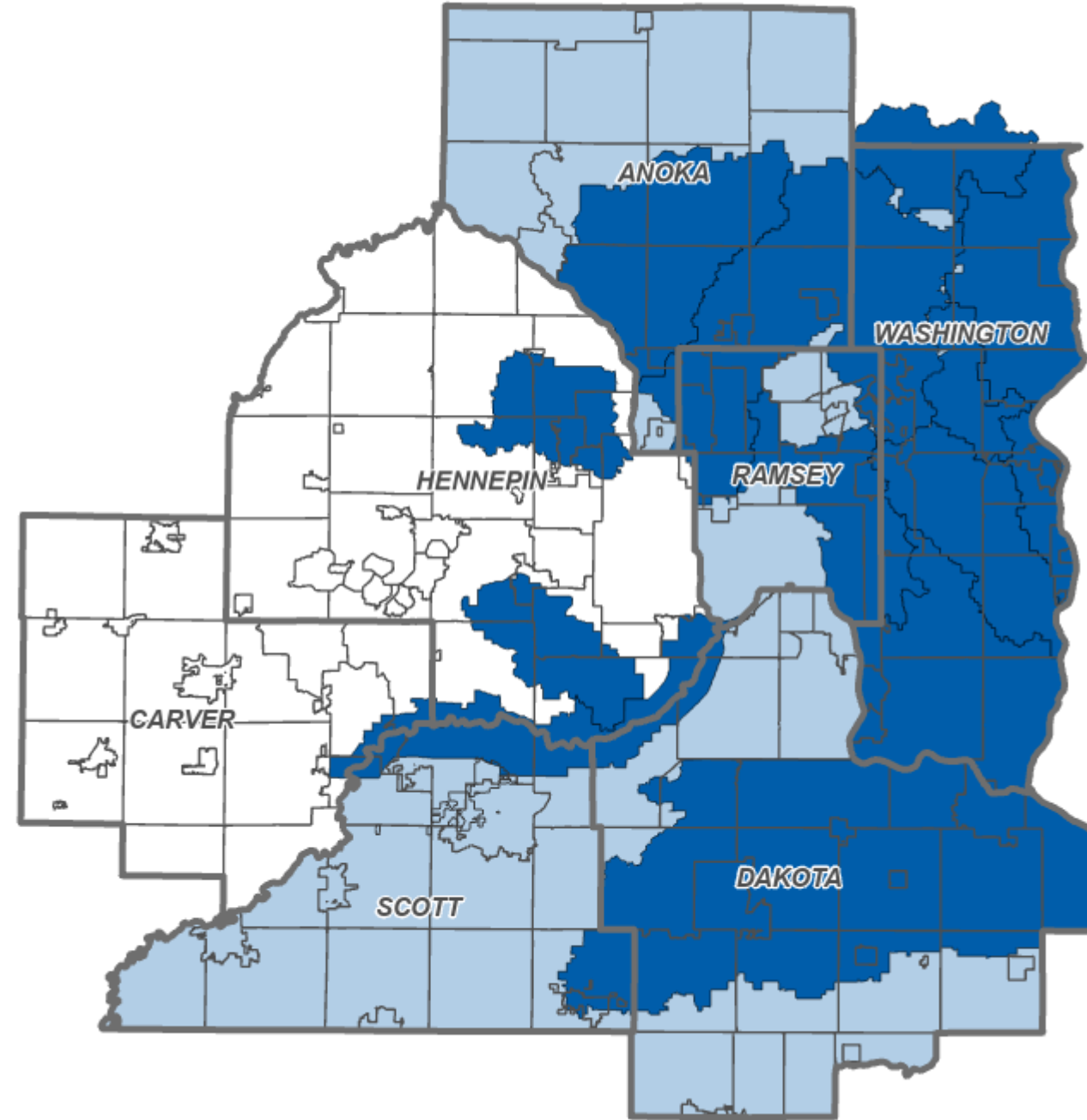
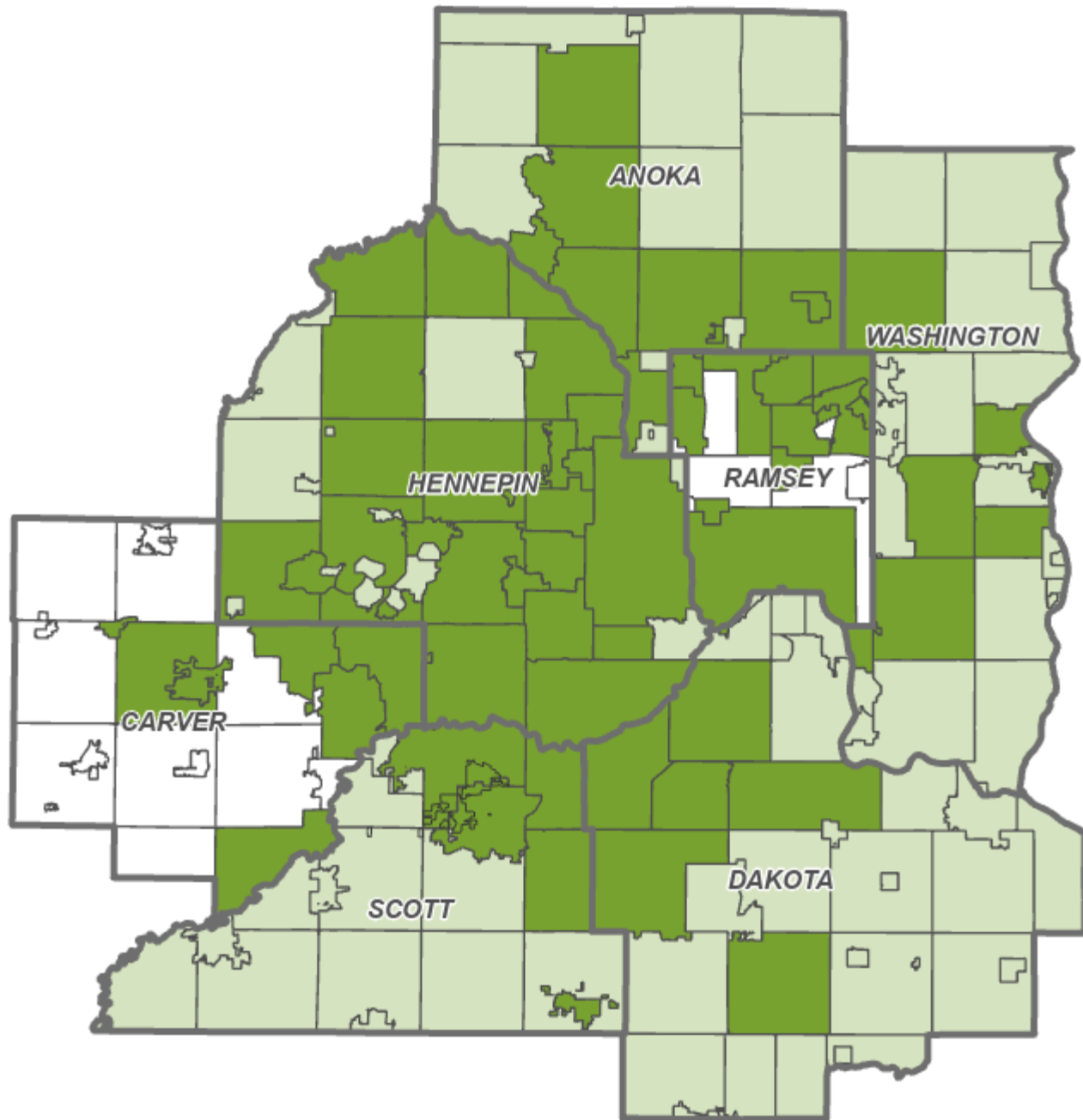
- **Wendy Wulff**
- Annika Bankston (Minneapolis)
- Brad Larson (Savage)
- Ellen Considine (Mn DNR)
- Erik Smith (MPCA)
- Jamie Schurbon (ACD, Anoka County)
- Jeff Berg (MDA)
- Kevin Watson (Vadnais Heights)
- Mike Huang (Chaska)
- Sandeep Burman (MDH)
- Phil Klein (Hugo)
- Todd Blomstrom (SPRWS)
- Valerie Nepl (Dakota County)

Technical Advisory

- **Scott Anderson** (Bloomington)
- John Dustman (Summit Envirosolutions)
- Robert Ellis (Eden Prairie)
- Dale Folen (Minneapolis)
- Elizabeth Kaufenberg (MPCA)
- Kristin Asher (Richfield)
- Matt Saam (Apple Valley)
- James Stark (USGS, Legislative Water Commission)
- Jim Westerman (Woodbury)
- Ray Wuolo (Barr Engineering Company)

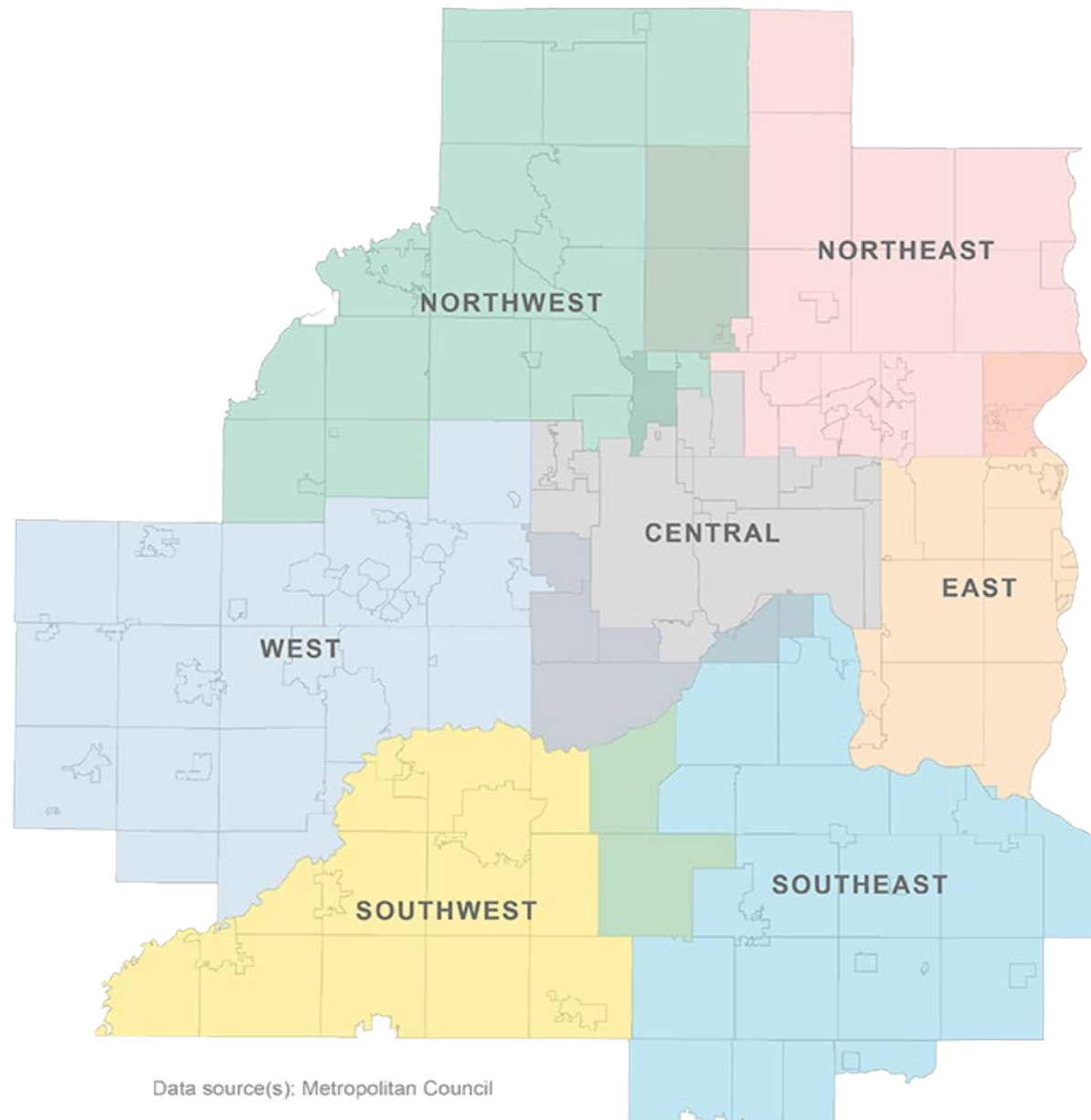
* Names in bold are committee chairs

Subregional Engagement Participants



Subregional Engagement

- ~150 people participated
- 23 engagements over 7 months
- 76 cities and townships represented
- 44 non-community organizations represented:
 - 14 watershed organizations
 - 12 county and county soil water conservation districts
 - 5 state agencies
 - 5 consulting firms
 - 3 private large-volume water users
 - 3 nonprofits/advocacy groups
 - 1 community advisory group member (Washington County Groundwater Plan)
 - 1 tribe
- Included updates to CONDAC, Water Utility Council, and MDH staff working on the Minnesota Drinking Water Plan



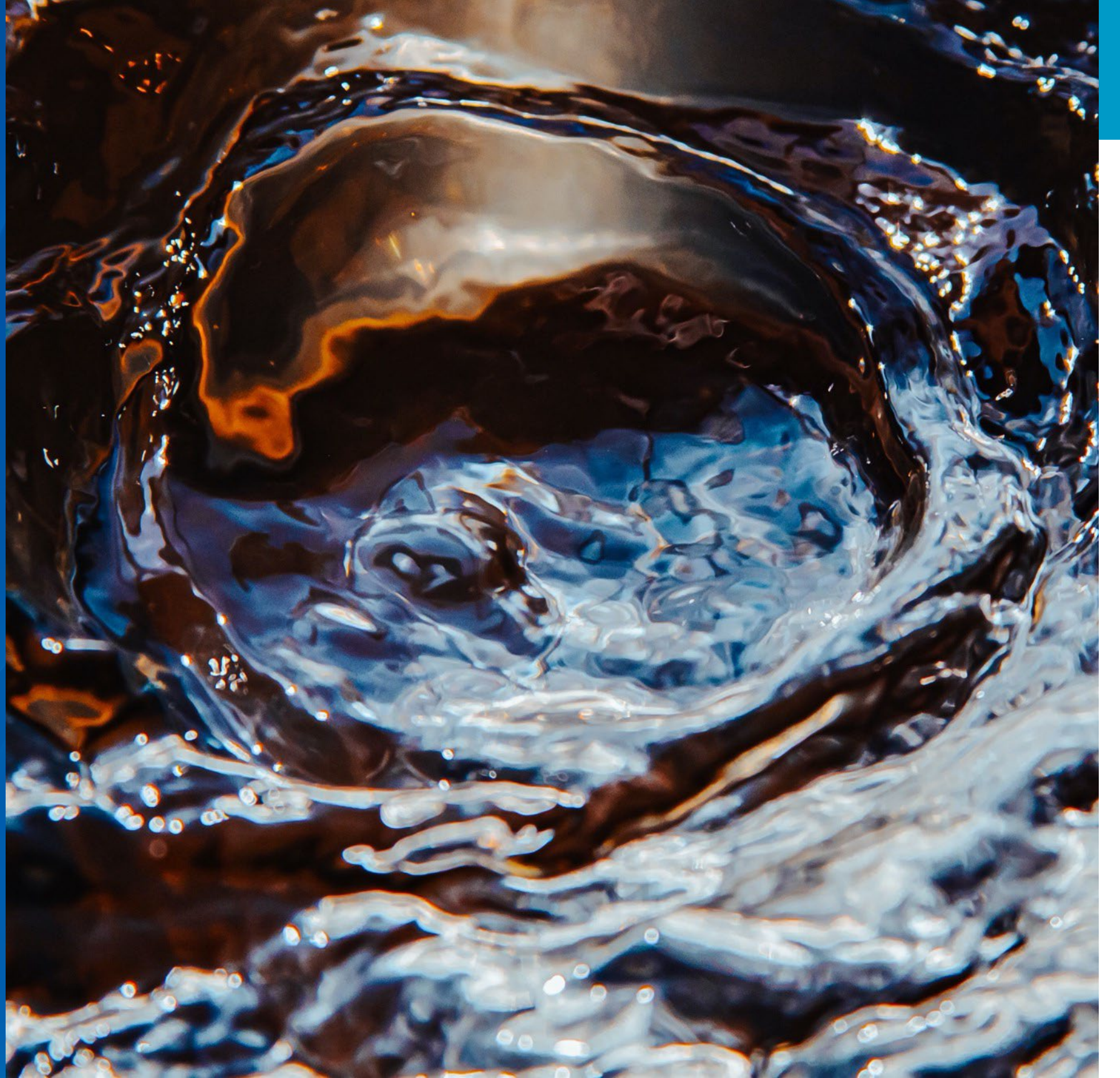
Future WPP engagements

There's more to come...

- Tuesday, April 30th from 1-3pm at Cottage Grove City Hall Training Room
- Tuesday, May 7th from 9-11am at Chanhassen Recreation Center
- Thursday, May 16th from 1-3pm at Shoreview Community Center
- Virtual information session – late May-early June



Draft Water Policy Plan Content



Water Policy Plan

Draft Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Regional Development Guide connection to water
- Principles, goals, and roles
- Regional water context
- Problem identification
- Policies & actions
- Regional wastewater system plan
- Metro area water supply plan
- Appendices



Plans are nothing.
Planning is everything.”

~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

Draft WPP objectives



CLIMATE: Create climate-resilient water sources, ecosystems, and water infrastructure through mitigation, innovative design, and adaptive planning.



INVESTMENTS: Optimize regional water protection, planning, and infrastructure investments.



HEALTH: Protect public and ecosystem health to maintain, restore, and enhance a high quality of life, regional waters, and water services across the region .



EQUITY: Water benefits and services are accessible and shared amongst all residents and communities.

Action Categories

Partner

The Met Council partners with national, regional, and local organizations and experts to work towards water sustainability, climate resilience, and equitable water outcomes.

Plan

The Met Council collaboratively develops plans to protect, enhance, restore, and sustainably manage the region's water resources

Provide

The Met Council provides essential water planning services to the entire region and wastewater treatment and collection services to 111 communities.

Integrated Water Policy



Water planning, management, and operation approaches are cooperative and span the natural and built water cycle.

PARTNER

Work within the metro region to address issues that transcend water organization boundaries to prepare water management plans that promote the enhancement and restoration of local and regional waters (lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater).

PLAN

Identify and assess current groundwater and surface water conditions, uses and use behaviors, community needs, historical trends, drivers (influencers) of change, risks and system limitations, and estimated future conditions.

PROVIDE

Provide technical information to watershed organizations, city planners, and local water providers on practices to use and incorporate into their operations or planning efforts that protect water quality and quantity.

Equitable Water Outcomes Policy



Regional water benefits and water services are accessible and shared among all residents and communities.

PARTNER

Engage with residents and other local and regional partners to understand local perspectives, regional water values, and identify services and benefit gaps.

PLAN

Wastewater infrastructure investments are prioritized according to environmental justice approaches that promote equitable public and ecosystem health outcomes which provide community benefit beyond harm mitigation

PROVIDE

Met Council staff will convene and listen to community members who have water equity and environmental justice concerns or experiences. We will work together to try to alleviate imbalances that cause injustices, strengthen our relationships, and build trust in our organization and the water services we and our partner organizations provide.

Water Monitoring, Data, and Assessment Policy



Natural waters and engineered water systems in the region are proactively monitored, high quality data is collected and shared, and conditions are collaboratively assessed to support regional water objectives.

PARTNER

Partner, assist, and support collaborators with the monitoring and assessment of regional priority waters and groundwaters.

PLAN

Support community efforts to identify and evaluate the economic and technical feasibility of water supply approaches and best practices that promote water conservation, enhance groundwater recharge, and make the best use of groundwater, surface water, reclaimed wastewater, and stormwater.

PROVIDE

Provide monitoring data to our partners through our regional database that contains easily accessible water quality, quantity, and other water-related information collected as a part of the Council's monitoring programs.

Climate Resilient Water Policy



The impacts of climate change on water and water services are proactively addressed to minimize the risks of negative public and ecosystem health outcomes so that current and future residents enjoy long term benefits of clean and abundant waters.

PARTNER

Partner with and support academic institutions and other organizations to conduct research to generate metro area-specific climate change information, identify potential risks and benefits, and better understand future climate scenarios based on current science and models.

PLAN

Assess the climate vulnerabilities and risks within our facilities and operations and reduce the impact of climate on water resources, land management, water planning, and regional wastewater services now and in the future.

PROVIDE

Manage and renovate facilities and land holdings to reduce impervious surfaces, integrate green infrastructure and nature-based solutions within our stormwater management systems, install native plantings where possible, and be a regional leader in climate-focused land management.

Water-focused, Land Protection and Development Policy



As the region grows, the effects of development, redevelopment, and land use changes on water, and water services are planned for and inform water management approaches and strategies.

PARTNER

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PLAN

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PROVIDE

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Regional Wastewater Service Area Policy



The Council will plan for sustainable water resources by providing wastewater service commensurate to designated land use to protect waters for public health, recreation, habitat, and environmental health.

PARTNER

Utility corridors will be preserved when it is necessary to expand facilities or locate new facilities needed to implement the wastewater system plan through early land acquisition and work with communities.

PLAN

Connection of private community treatment systems or properties with individual sewage treatment systems to the Metropolitan Disposal System must be included in the community's overall minimum sewered residential density requirements.

PROVIDE

Provide wastewater service commensurate with the needs of the growing metro area in an environmentally sound manner.

Water Stewardship and Sustainability Policy



The region is a steward of the current and long-term viability of the region's waters and water infrastructure investments, by maximizing the benefits of clean and ample water through water conservation and efficient use practices.

Surface water and groundwater in the region are protected, restored, and enhanced to meet the needs of current and future residents, communities, ecosystems, and economies.

PARTNER

Promote customer engagement efforts for water conservation to extend the life expectancies for critical water infrastructure components.

PLAN

Create and develop funding requests with partners for water infrastructure projects and feasibility studies that benefit multiple communities.

PROVIDE

Install drought-resilient, native landscaping on Met Council properties to reduce the need for irrigation and turfgrass management, where feasible

Water Reuse Policy



The Council will work with our partners to reduce barriers, pursue opportunities, and support efforts to reuse water for potable and non-potable purposes, while balancing public and ecosystem health and financial viability.

PARTNER

Promote and invest in stormwater and wastewater reuse, both internally and regionally, as viable alternatives to augment non-potable water uses to support regional growth when feasible.

PLAN

Identify and evaluate the economic and technical feasibility of best practices that enhance groundwater recharge and make the best use of reclaimed wastewater and stormwater while protecting source water quality.

PROVIDE

Support our partners in their water reuse projects through financial and implementation support

Regional Wastewater Operations and Finance Policy



The region's investments and operation of water resource recovery infrastructure and related assets are built, operated, maintained, and rehabilitated in a sustainable, efficient, and economical way, considering current and future challenges. Service fees and charges to operate the system are based on regional cost of services and rules adopted by the Council.

PARTNER

The Council will continue efforts to work to simplify and improve SAC and to communicate to customers.

PLAN

Pursue other renewable energy sources, such as solar power generation, thermal energy recovery, and new technologies as they become proven and economical.

PROVIDE

Evaluate level of service for all customer types to address needed enhancements or availability of wastewater services like liquid and vector waste disposal sites.

Inflow and Infiltration Policy



Inflow and infiltration is systematically addressed to reclaim capacity in the conveyance system to improve efficiency and better utilize capital funds. Additional capacity will not be provided in the interceptor and wastewater treatment systems to serve excessive inflow and infiltration.

PARTNER

Work with the State to make funds available for inflow and infiltration mitigation, and promote statutes, rules, and regulations to encourage I/I mitigation.

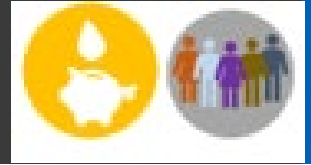
PLAN

The Met Council will continue developing inflow and infiltration goals for all communities served by the regional wastewater system.

PROVIDE

Met Council facilities and interceptors will be maintained and rehabilitated to minimize inflow and infiltration.

Water Sector Workforce Development Policy



Ensure a diverse water sector workforce with the skills and capacity to plan and manage water resources and maintain safe, efficient, and reliable water operations through addressing challenges in recruiting, training, and retaining employees.

PARTNER

Collaborate with K-12 educational providers to develop curriculum and support interest and skills needed for water sector careers.

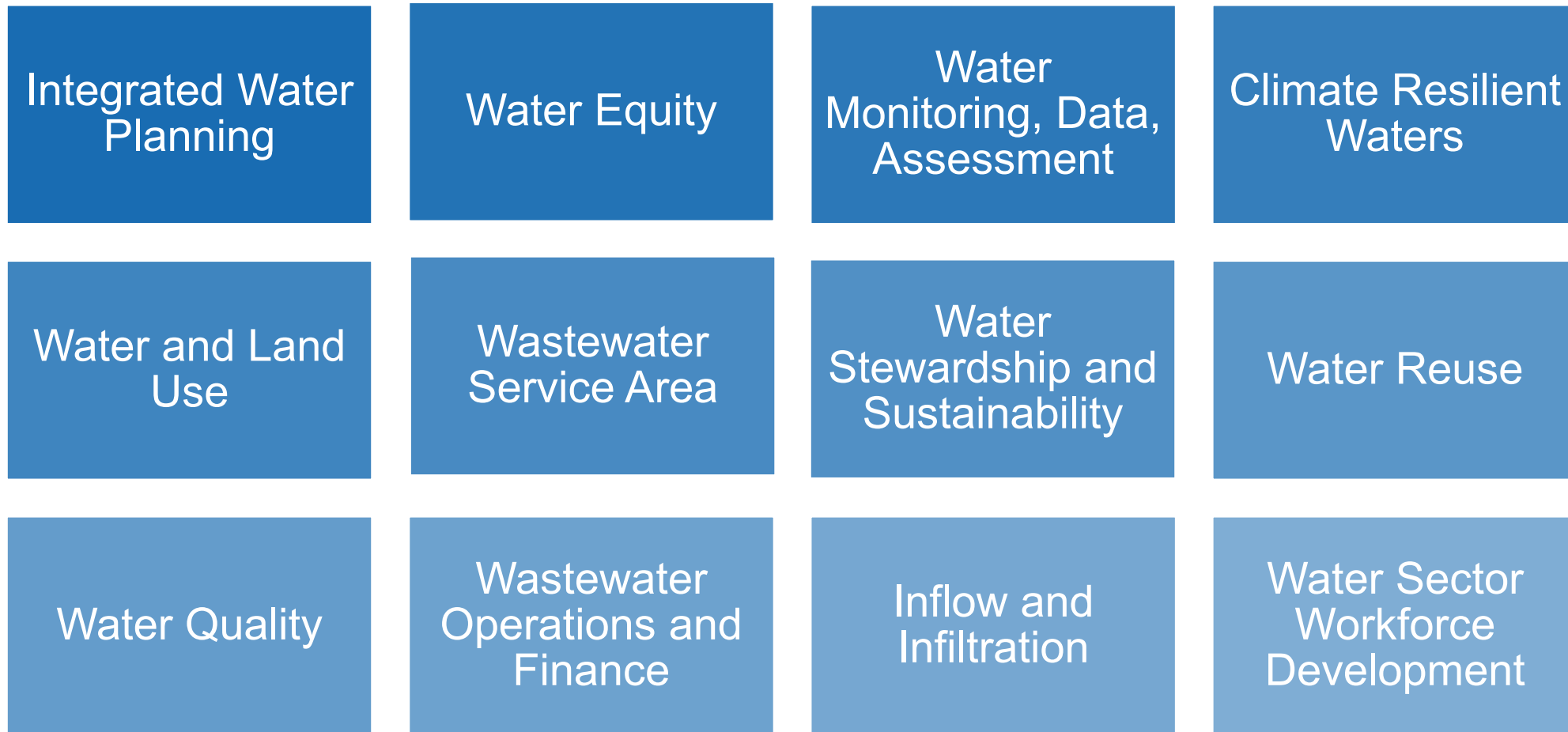
PLAN

Create water sector career skill development opportunities to support and encourage “in-sector” retention and mobility.

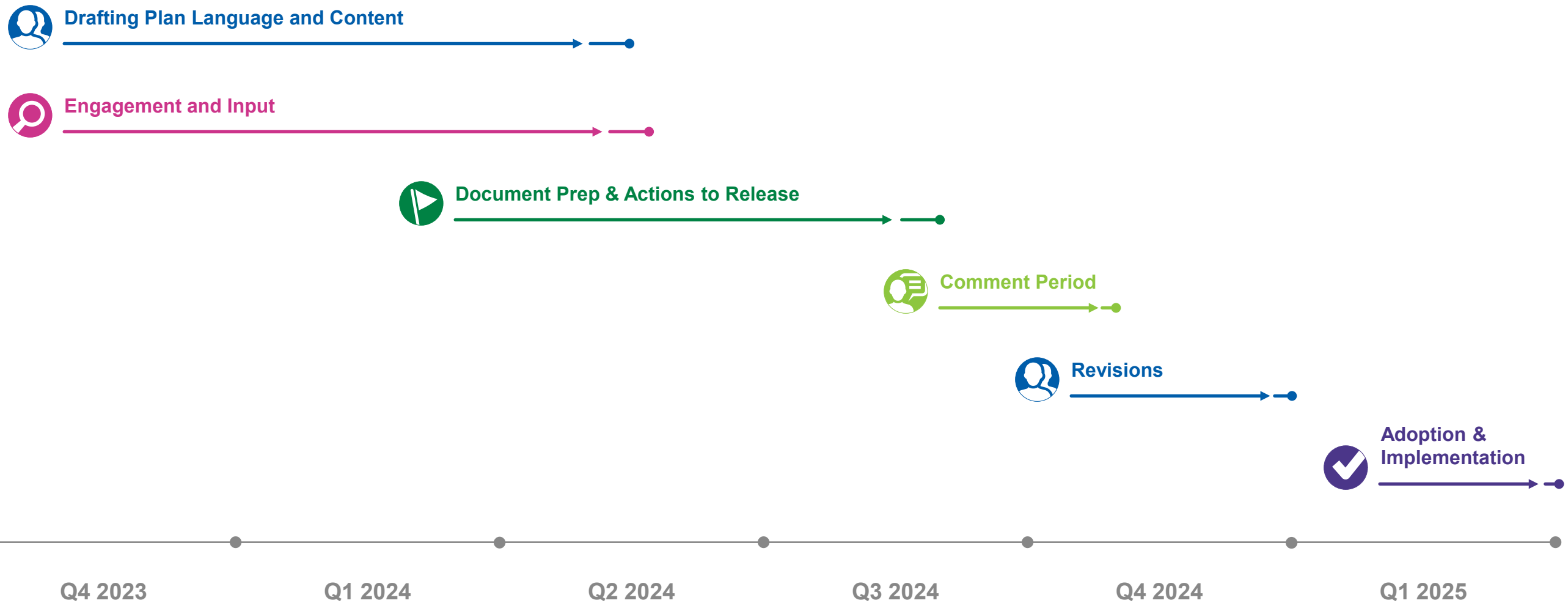
PROVIDE

Host Registered Apprenticeship programs to alleviate barriers of entry to water sector careers.

Policy Areas



WPP Timeline



Discussion



Council staff have gathered a lot of input on draft objectives, policies and actions.

- What resonates?
- What is missing?
- What is your advice for Council staff as we continue to draft water policy?

Thank you

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