



# Land, Water, and People Commitments and the American Indian Advisory Council

Meeting Summaries and Engagement Update

Allison Waukau and Angela R. Torres

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# Council value and Regional goal



## **Our region is equitable and inclusive.**

Racial inequities and injustices experienced by historically marginalized communities have been eliminated; and every person feels welcome, included, and empowered.

*~ Final language endorsed  
January 2024*



# *Imagine 2050* Direction



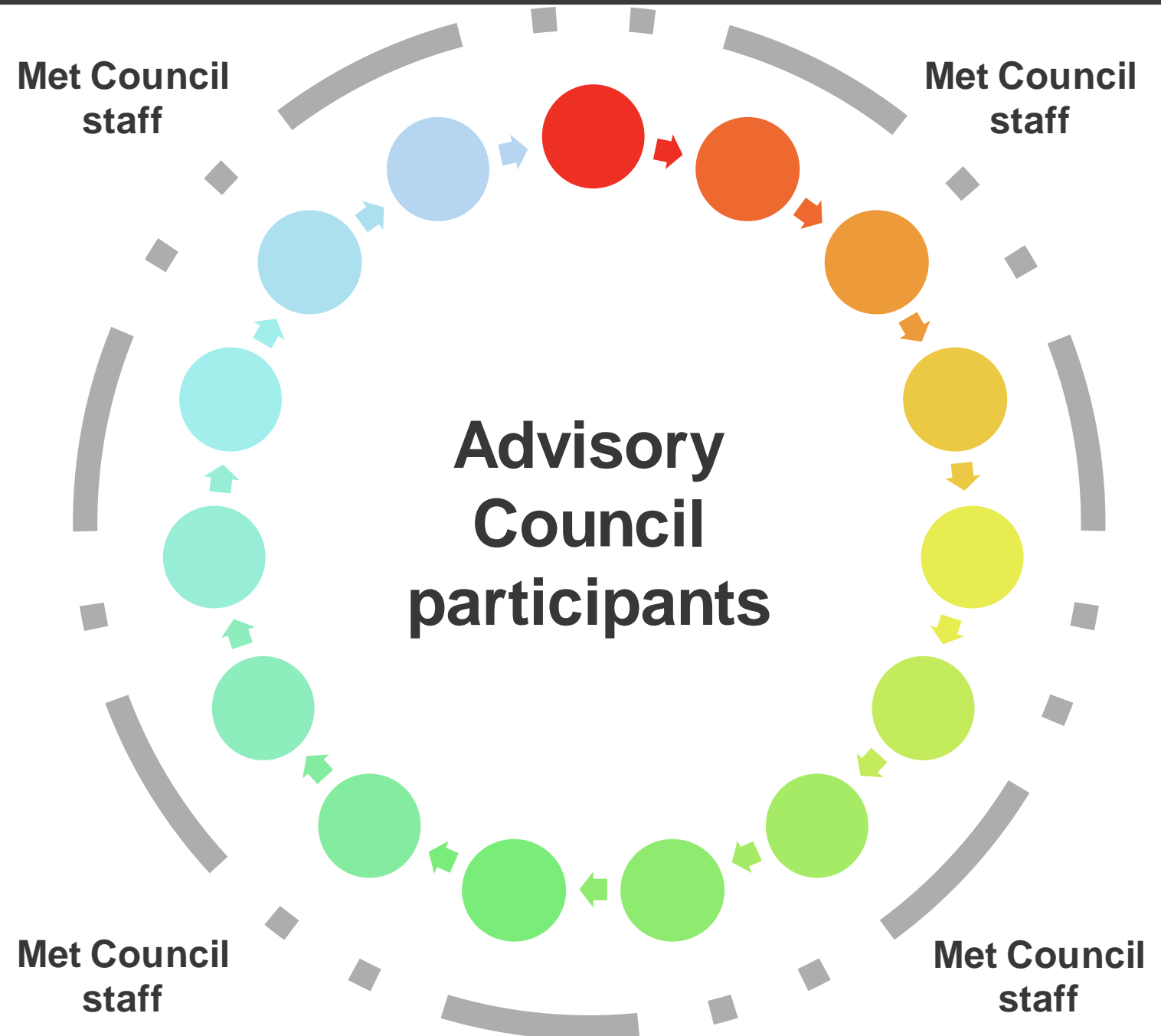
## Council member feedback throughout RDG development

- Equity at the center of policy and process
- Center community voices
- Be bold
- Be ambitious
- Councilmembers support positive change
- Met Council serves all people of this region

# Co-creation process and building trust

## Inside – Outside Circle

- Community speaks first (inside)
  - Talk amongst themselves
  - Speak to broad question prompts
- Council staff listen (outside)
  - Listen and take notes
  - Provide transcribed notes for Advisory Council participants
  - Provide summaries of discussion to others



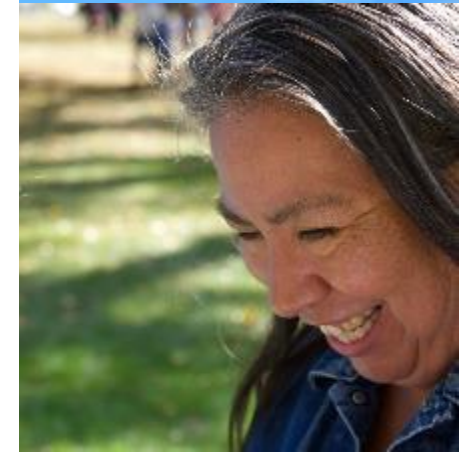
# Reflections from Meeting 1 (March 25)

## Land Acknowledgements

- Recognize indigenous people survived a genocide and there has been no accountability.
- Land acknowledgements need to result in action.
- Value of land acknowledgments are for non-native people.
- It can be the start of impactful work for future generations.
- Commitments are more impactful as they focus on change and accountability.

## Recommended Actions

- Recognize genocide and past harm
- Change from Acknowledgement to Commitments
- Actions need to recognize more than 11 federally recognized tribes in MN
- Take corrective action on Council responsibility for health of and access to sacred sites
- Waive fees and transit costs
- Institutional change can't be dependent on specific people and their relationships
- Educate both the public and Council staff about Dakota land





# Reflections from Meeting 2 (April 8)

## Met Council Roles

- Policy, Operations, Institutional Change
  - Tribal consultation policy needs to be proactive and robust.
  - Govt-to-govt relationship as well as urban Indian organizations partners
  - Incorporate tribal nations & indigenous communities into Council plans
  - Relationships must go beyond individuals
  - Make changes that aren't temporary or advisory and support leaders
  - Native representation in policy makers

## Recommended Actions

- Revise tribal consultation policy and procedures. Follow policy.
- Visibly integrate indigenous perspectives into regional plans
- Fund the work of Dakota & native orgs
- Employ native people across all areas of the Council; train staff to be leaders
- Require TSRT training; support program expansion and act
- Recommend minimum policymaker appointments; set expectations for Council Boards and Committees
- Apply International Indigenous Human Rights standards



# Reflections from Meeting 3 (April 22)

## Regional Parks and Trails

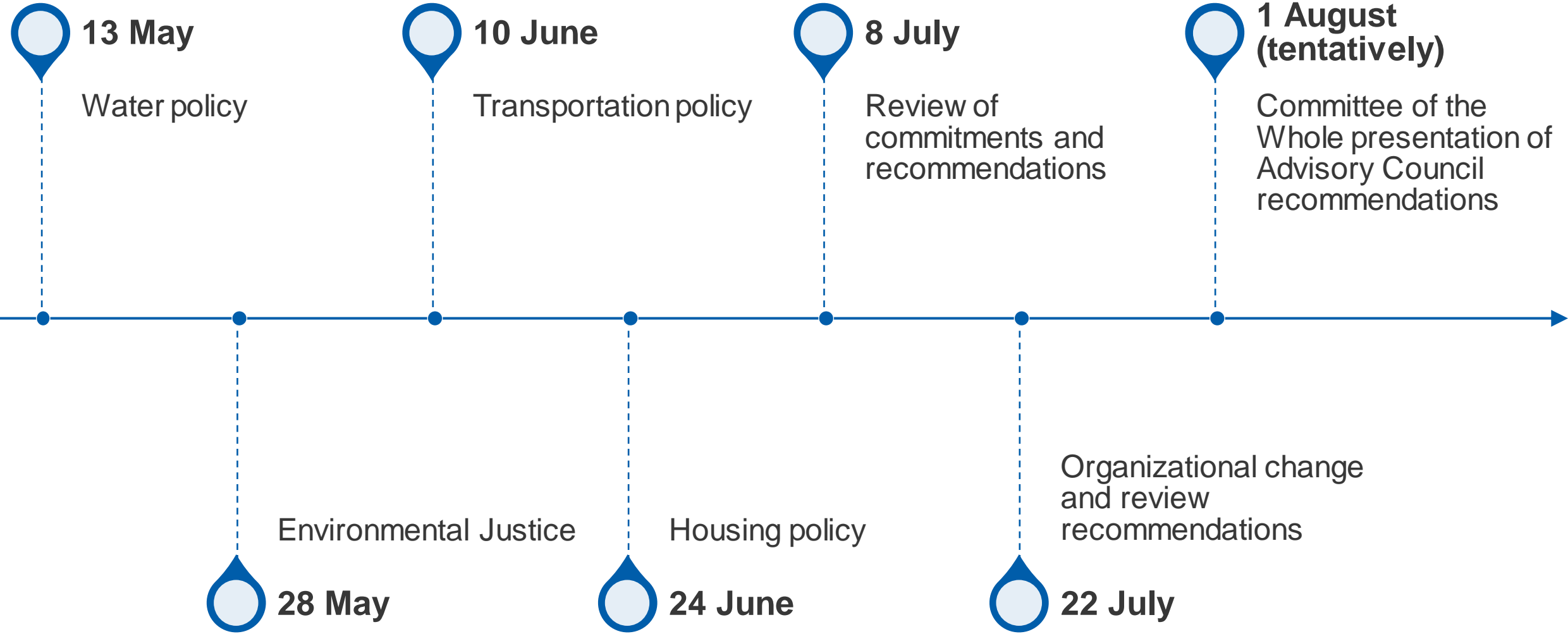
- Recognize lands with significant cultural value to Dakota people
  - Support native management of land resources, medicine, and foraging
  - Appropriate place naming
- Educate non-native people; appropriately interact with sacred sites
- Lead on reframing the regional parks system.
- Staff implementing changes need to be aware of changes.
- Native people care for the land, water, air as relatives.
- Council guidelines have a broad reach and consistent info sharing helps.

## Recommended Actions

- Create a cultural landscape designation in regional parks policy
- Incorporate training on native communities and tribal sovereignty into required onboarding
- Develop regional land management guides with partners to mitigate volume of individual requests
- Use funding mechanisms to influence functional policy changes on foraging and fees for native people.
- Remove barriers for access to sacred sites and ceremony.
- Support regional historical and cultural inventories.



# Outline of upcoming meetings and agendas







## Allison Waukau

Tribal Liaison and Native Relations Coordinator

[Allison.Waukau@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Allison.Waukau@metc.state.mn.us)

(651) 602-1590

## Angela R. Torres, AICP

*Imagine 2050* Equity Sponsor and

Senior Manager, Local Planning Assistance

[Angela.Torres@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Angela.Torres@metc.state.mn.us)

(651) 602-1566

