

Recommendations: Water Quality & Contamination

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PRE-WORK: Info shared by committee members

Nomination & Prioritization Research

- [MDH Contaminants of Emerging Concern \(CEC\) Program \(video\)](#)
- [MDH Health Risk Limits](#)

PFAS

- [SWnewsmedia 'Forever chemicals' leaked into groundwater by local landfills \(article\)](#)
- [MPCA "What are PFAS?" \(2 min video\)](#)
- [ECHA "How is the EU making sure PFAS chemicals don't stick around?" \(2 min video\)](#)
- [Clean Water Action "PFAS Chemicals are putting our health at risk" \(12 min video\)](#)

Chloride

- [U of M "The Changing Earth: Chlorides in Water" includes softeners, road salt, ag \(3 min video\)](#)
- [MPCA Smart Salt Training Program \(3 min video\)](#)
- [MPCA library of statewide chloride resources](#)
- [PLOS ONE 'Centralized softening as a solution to chloride pollution' \(2021 article\)](#)

Community data

- [MC Community Profiles](#)
- [MC Rethinking Areas of Concentrated Poverty](#)
- [MPCA Understanding environmental justice](#)

Groundwater monitoring data

- [MDH drinking water quality](#)
- [MDH consumer confidence reports](#)
- [MPCA groundwater quality data](#)
- [DNR groundwater level data](#)
- [MDA agricultural monitoring and assessment](#)
- [MC environmental information management system](#)

Communication and engagement resources

- [MDH Drinking Water Risk Communication Toolkit](#)

Private well testing resources

- [MDH How to Test Your Well Water \(1.5 min video\)](#)
- [MDH Accredited Labs in Minnesota Accepting Samples from Private Well Owners](#)
- [Washington County Water Tests \(services and fees\)](#)
- [Dakota County Testing Well Water \(testing and costs\)](#)

Committee members are encouraged to share useful and interesting resources!

Working Together



Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC)

- Informs Metropolitan Council's water supply planning activities and preparation of its regional development framework.
- Pools collective expertise to address increasingly complex water problems that require a collaborative approach.

What recommendations to make as a committee around water quality and contamination? This information will be included in a 2022 report to the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Legislature.

Presentation overview:

- 1) Introduce proposed language
- 2) Consider regional and local context
- 3) Review process and next steps

WATER QUALITY & CONTAMINATION

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Problem or need

There is always the potential of another contaminant emerging in our water supply. As a region, we are not always proactive or best prepared to prevent spread or be responsive when new sources of contamination are discovered.

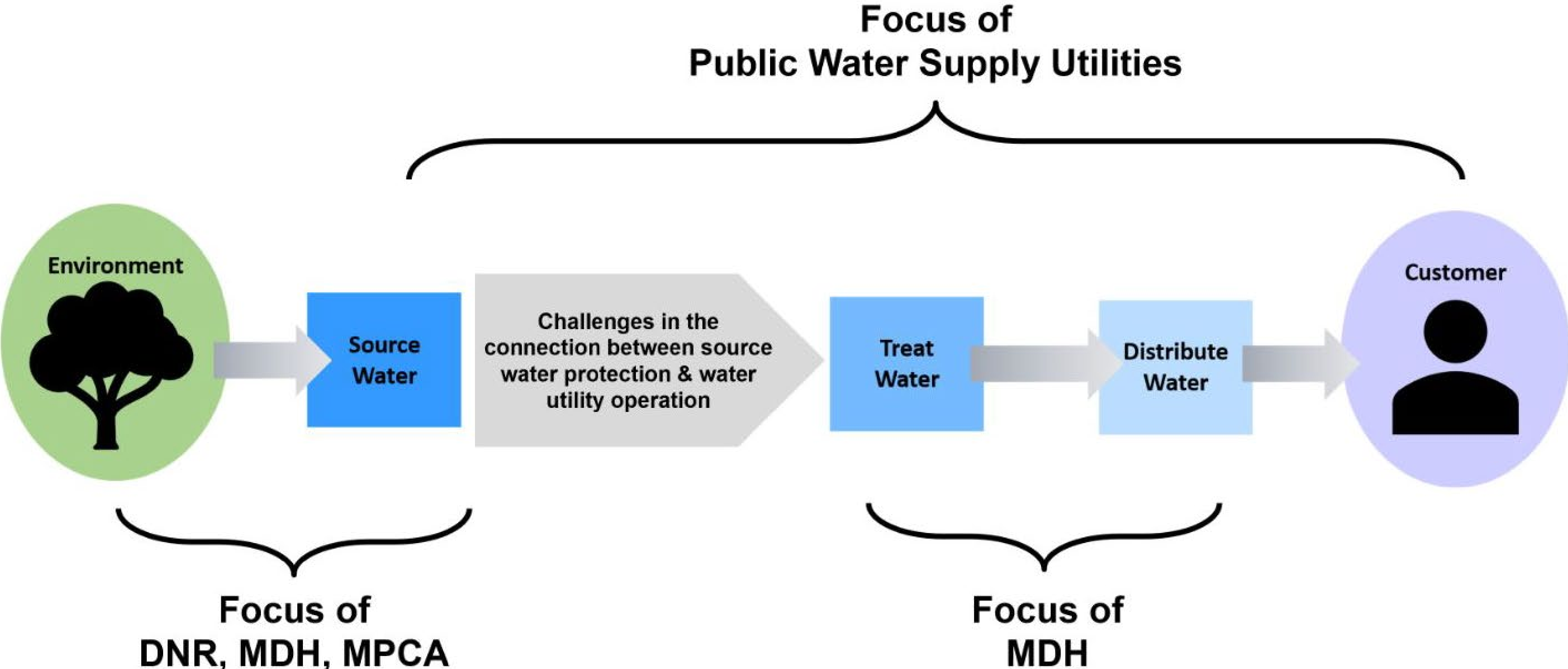
Goal

MAWSAC and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) would like all the region's changing communities to be prepared for new, emerging contaminants and empowered to continually work to provide a safe water supply. The MAWSAC, under advisement of the TAC, recommends that, to achieve this outcome, the Metropolitan Council and the State of Minnesota support a framework to maintain equitable, long-term, integrated water approaches developed collaboratively by communities, water utilities, and regulators.

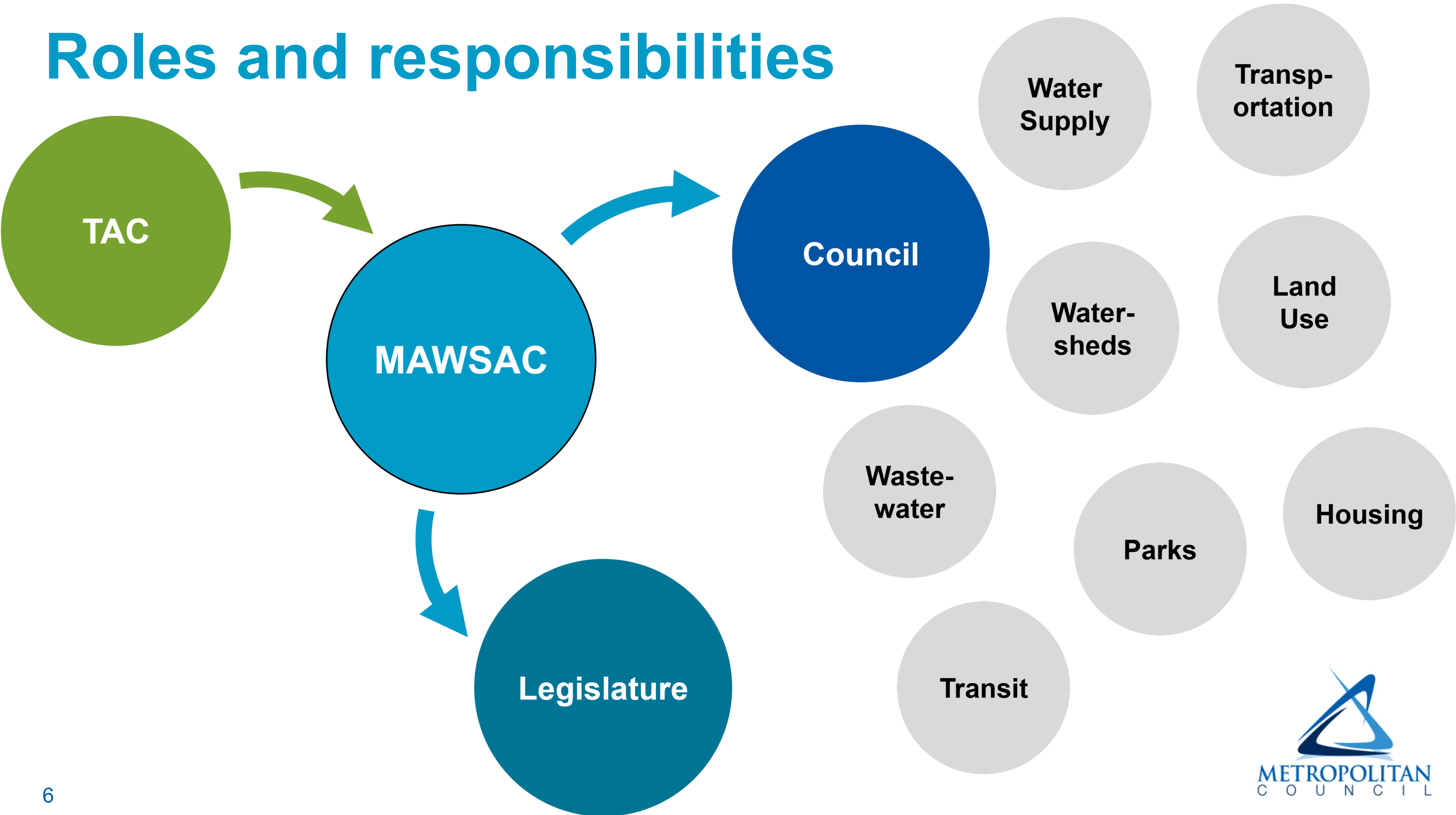
Solutions

- **Financial support** – *funding available to fill monitoring gaps, reduce risks, & respond to unexpected events*
- **Outreach, engagement, training** – *consumer confidence campaign, tabletop emergency response training, & private well education*
- **Research** – *enhance monitoring and data accessibility, subregional feasibility studies, survey citizens' perspectives*
- **Regulatory** – *develop and support coordinated protocol to address new contamination challenges*
- **Regional policies & planning** – *integrated water management, considering multiple scenarios and extended planning horizons*

How can Metropolitan Council help?



Roles and responsibilities



TAC considerations for MAWSAC

- Funding is critical to include in the discussion and should be a high, if not the highest, priority for MAWSAC
- Point source contamination may be outside Metropolitan Council's "swim lanes", but nonpoint source contamination within Council's "wheelhouse" and worth pursuing (particularly related to land use)
- Important that proposed approaches not only recognize potential contaminant sources but also the nature and unpredictability of potential contaminants
- Input provided to revise draft problem statement, goal and proposed actions

Definition: water supply sustainability



Maximize use of infrastructure investments



Maintain protected surface water flows



Maintain aquifer levels & manage flow directions



Combination of efficiency/conservation, groundwater, surface water & reuse



Align agency directions on all aspect of water

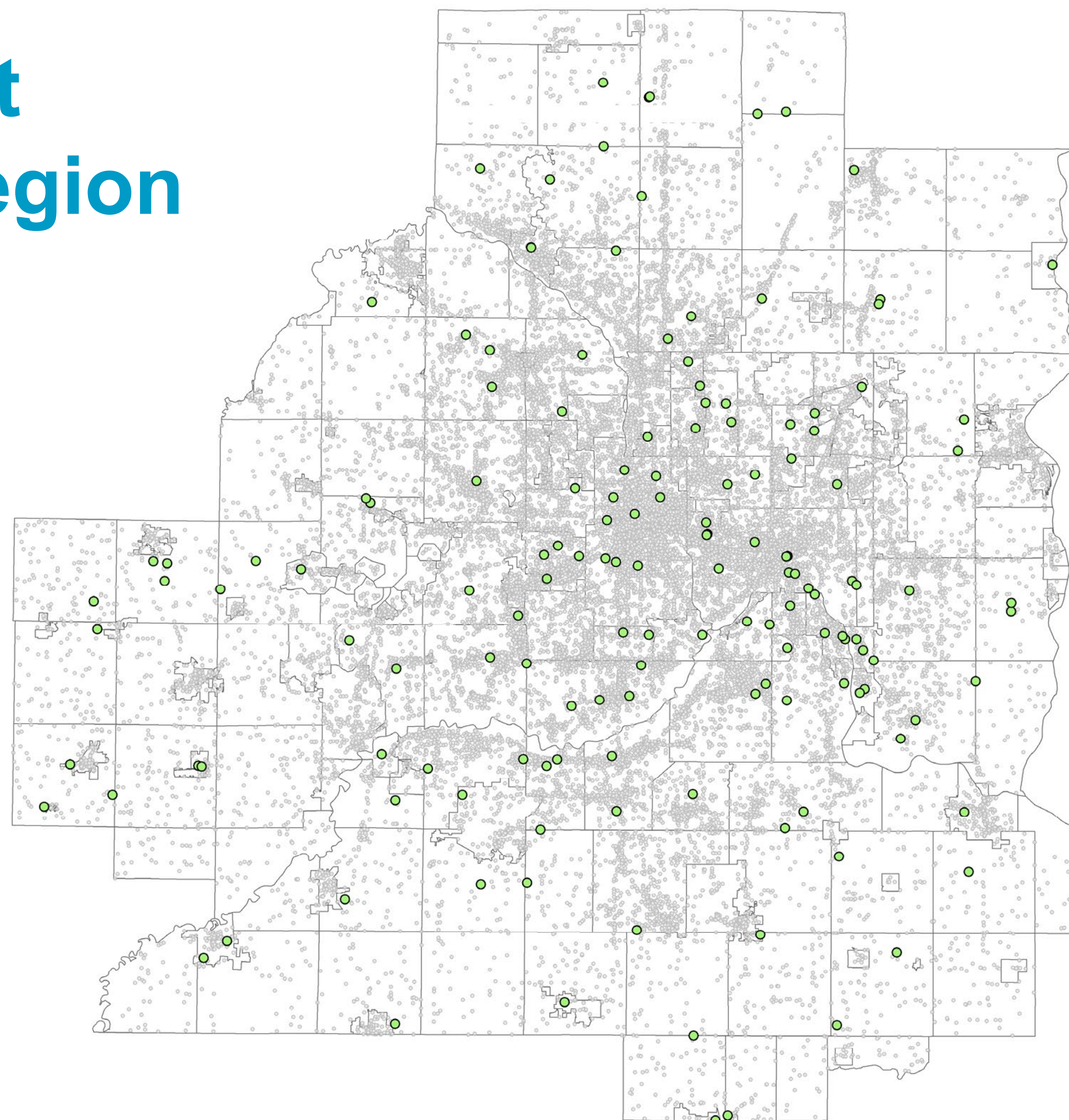


Recognize uncertainty & seek to minimize risk

Potential contaminant sources across the region

MPCA What's In My Neighborhood Sites

- Solid waste
- All other sites
- Community



Explore more about the communities where these sites are located:

- [MC Community Profiles](#) (dashboard)
- [MC Rethinking Areas of Concentrated Poverty](#) (map)
- [MPCA Understanding Areas of Environmental Justice](#) (map)

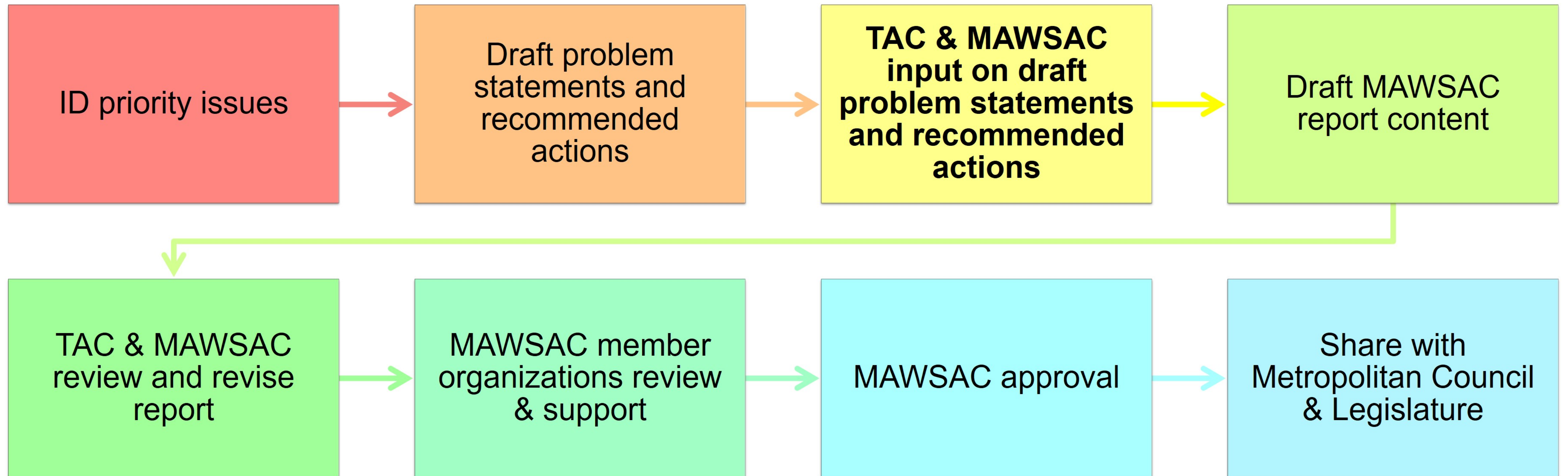
Committee member experiences – food for thought

- **Landfill risks and a multi-community public water supply system – Brad Larson, City of Savage**
- **Catherine Neuschler, MPCA**

QUESTIONS

1. What is the problem or challenge, and what impacts were most concerning?
2. What regulatory trade-offs or tensions shape the work?
3. What is needed to be better prepared?
4. What is the level of consumer confidence in different groups?
5. How could the Council and/or organizations represented on MAWSAC help?

Approach to 2022 MAWSAC report



Questions

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