



# Guiding Regional Plan Updates

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee  
(MAWSAC)



May 17, 2022

# Purpose of today's conversation

## Metro Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC)

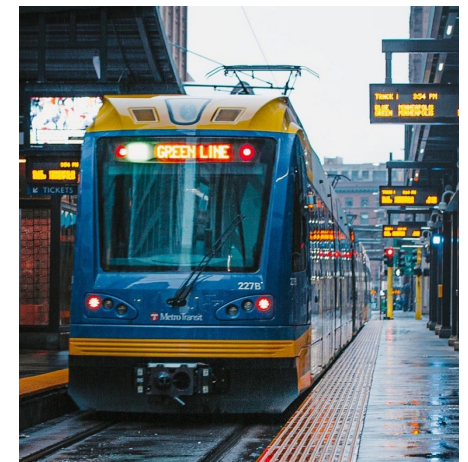
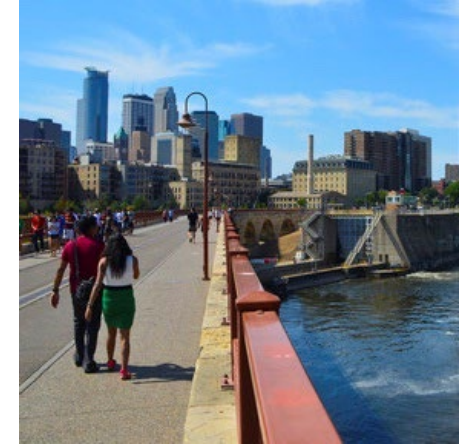
- Informs Metropolitan Council's water supply planning activities and preparation of its regional development framework.
- Pools collective expertise to address increasingly complex water problems that require a collaborative approach.

1. Start grounded in MAWSAC's 2022 work plan and report goals
2. Understand connections between Regional Development Guide (RDG), Water Resources Policy Plan (WRPP) and Master Water Supply Plan (MWSP)
3. Use current opportunities to influence key regional planning work

# 2022 MAWSAC TAC Work Plan

## Objectives and schedule

1. Influence the Council's DRG, WRPP, MWSP, and plans and projects.
  2. Draft water supply vision and goal content for Chapter 1 of the master water supply plan.
  3. Draft approach or work plan to engage subregional water supply work groups in 2023.
  4. Strong committee support for the subregional approach.
- **Spring:** Early input on regional policy and plan updates
  - **Summer:** Propose approach for building support for and achieving shared goals through a subregional approach
  - **Fall:** Collaboration with subregional water supply workgroups



# MAWSAC Focus Area Goals

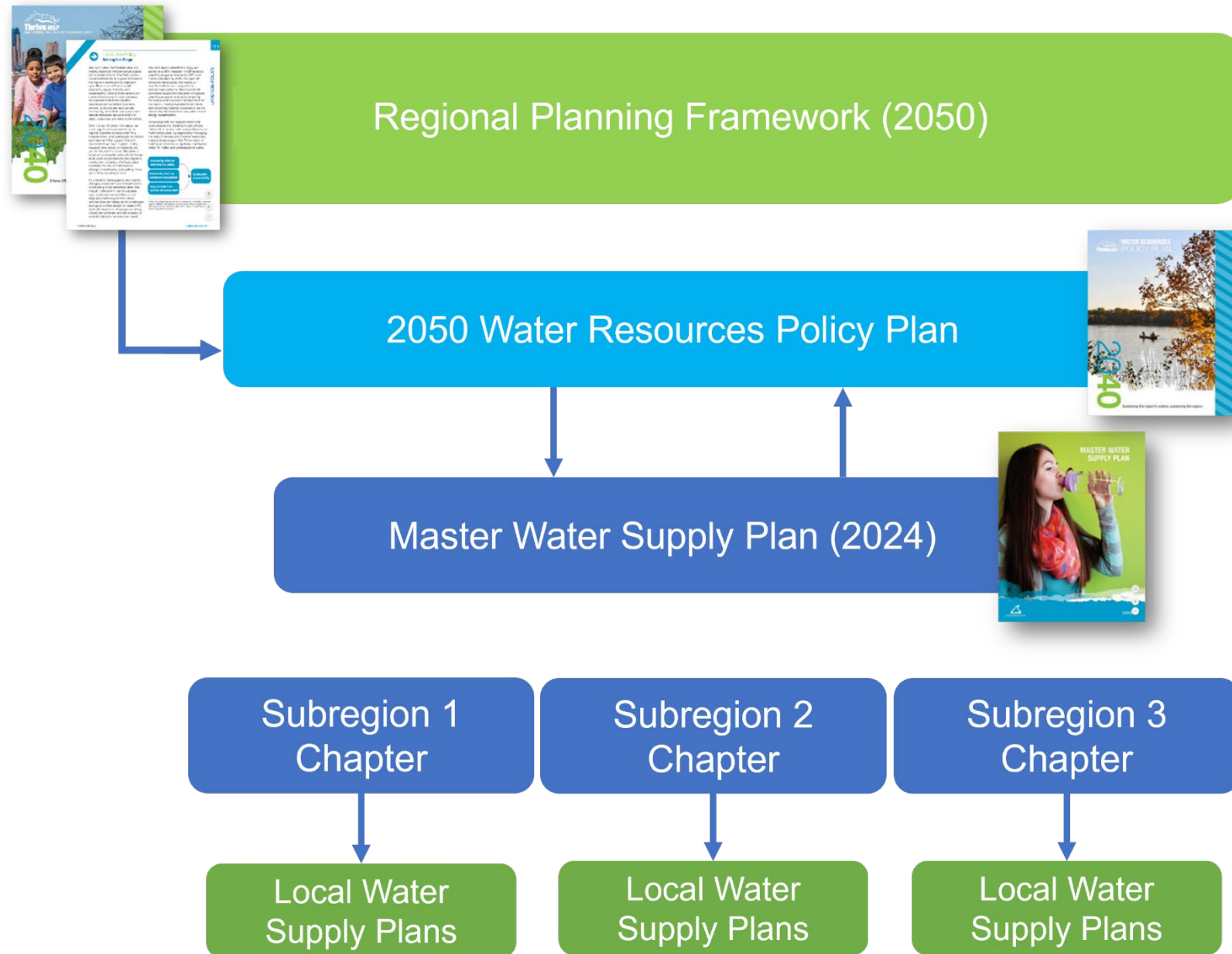
**1. Water Quality:** Communities have the resources they need to provide a safe water supply. A shared process is developed that allows communities, water utilities, and regulators to respond in a more coordinated and effective way to both contaminants of emerging concern and existing contamination.

**2. Land Use and Water Supply Connections:** Public water suppliers, land use planners, and developers have tools and are empowered to work together to guide and support development in ways that balance communities' economic needs while protecting the quantity and quality of source waters that are vital to the region's communities.

**3. Understand and Manage Groundwater and Surface Water Interactions:** Water resource managers, community planners, and leaders understand how groundwater and surface water interact and how those interactions impact water supply sustainability.

**4. Water Supply Infrastructure:** Communities can act quickly, thoughtfully, and equitably to address aging infrastructure, contamination, changing groundwater conditions, changing water demand, and financial challenges.

# Aspects of the Regional Planning Framework



Sets the framework for our region, including land use policy and other cross-divisional issues

Provides a framework for integrative water planning (wastewater, water supply, and surface water)

Provides water supply-related considerations for developing regional, subregional, and local plans and supporting programs

**Provides subregional context, shared objectives and strategies, and direction for implementation and partnerships**

Provides information and identifies local actions for a sustainable water supply

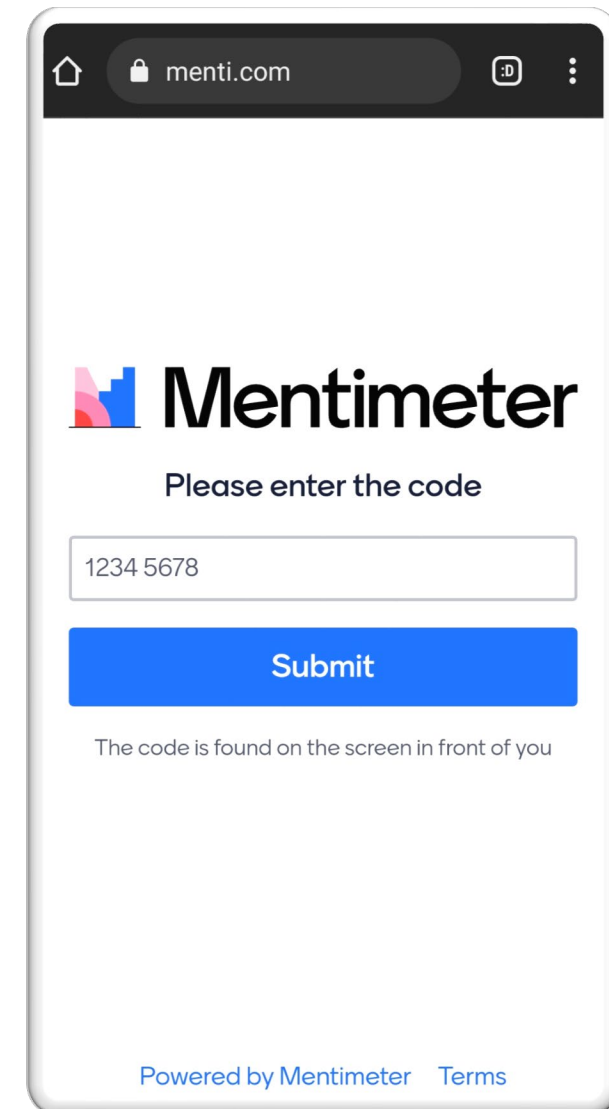
# Current Opportunities

## Projects for consideration today

- Regional values, vision and goals
- Community designations
- Scenarios
- Water issue white papers

## Process for sharing information and getting input

- Lightning round presentations
- Share questions and comments in Mentimeter ([menti.com](https://www.menti.com))
- Short Q and A to briefly address clarifying questions
- Small group discussion for deeper dive



# Regional Values, Vision and Goals

- Creates mental picture of desired future
- Inspirational and unambiguous
- Direction for plan / policy development

# Regional Values, Vision and Goals

## Purpose

The Regional Vision will help set a tone and direction for what we want to achieve for the region and why, how we will work together, and the high-level outcomes our policies and plans should help us achieve.

## Outcomes

- Statements of values for the region in key policy areas for the 2050 RDG.
- Language that describes our vision and the key interrelationships among policy areas.
- Narratives / stories of what success looks like.
- High level measures of indicators of success.

## Learn More

### Contact:

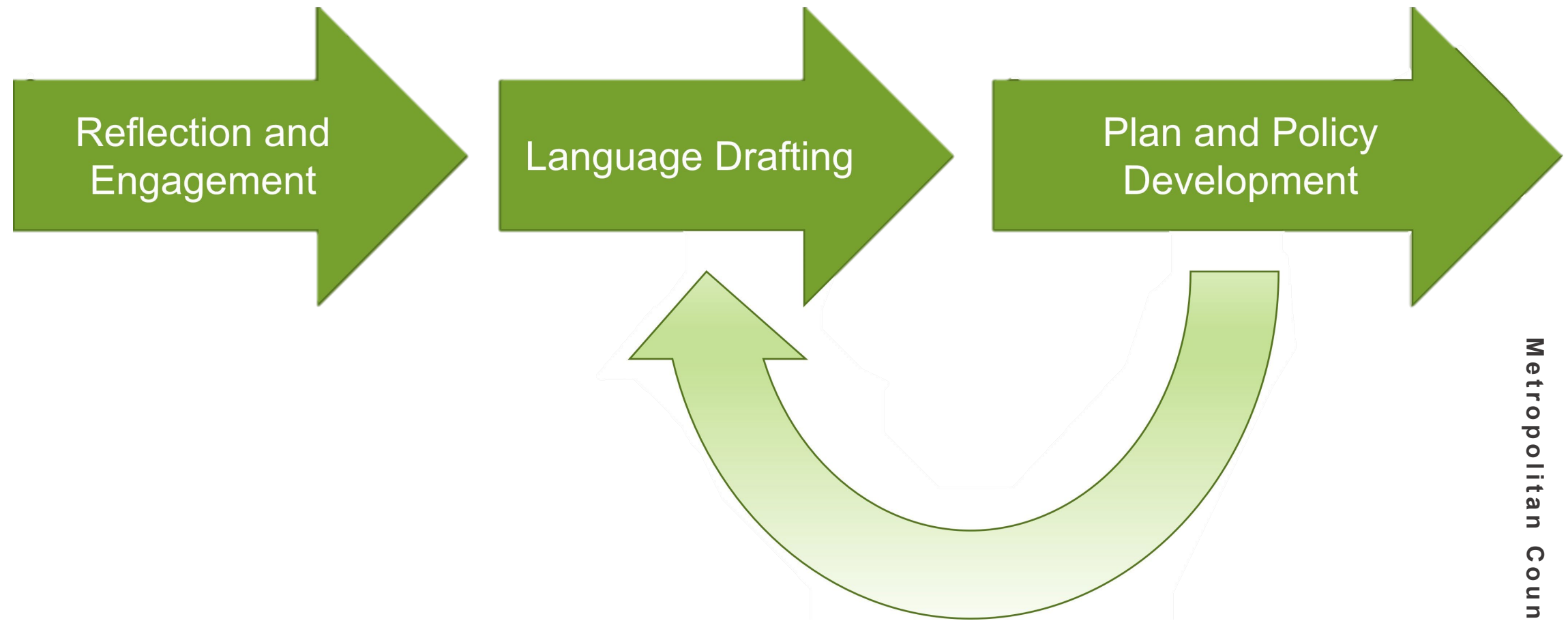
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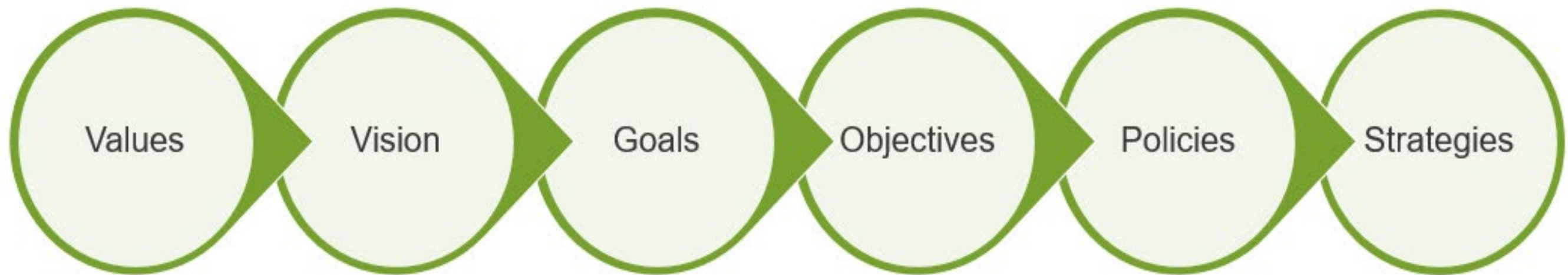
651-602-1407



# Vision Process



# From Values to Implementation



# Water Supply and Regional Vision

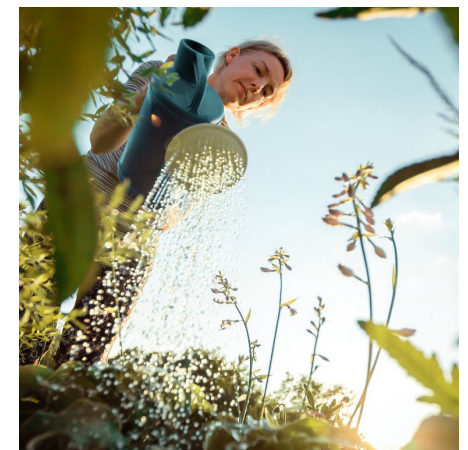
Stakeholders engaged in this work:

- Metropolitan Council
- Council Advisory Groups
  - Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC)
  - MAWSAC
  - Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)
  - Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)
- Regional Planning Advisory Group
- Other stakeholders

## **MAWSAC's Role:**

Understands the importance and complexity of water supply, including its relationship to other issues in the region.

Helps describe, articulate, or frame water-related values and vision to be reflected in the regional plan.



# Exploratory Issues

- Affordability
- Climate
- Equity
- Infrastructure
- Pandemic Recovery
- Public Health
- Resiliency
- Shared Prosperity
- Stewardship
- Welcoming and Safe Communities

# Key Milestones - 2022



Comprehensive plan values, visions, and goals

Succinct articulation of region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats

Discussion of exploratory issues

Engagement of advisory / stakeholder groups

Statements of values, vision, and goals

# Committee Input Requested



## Focusing on Values:

- What words describe the importance of water to the region's communities?
- What words describe the character of our work together on water supply?

## Focusing on Vision:

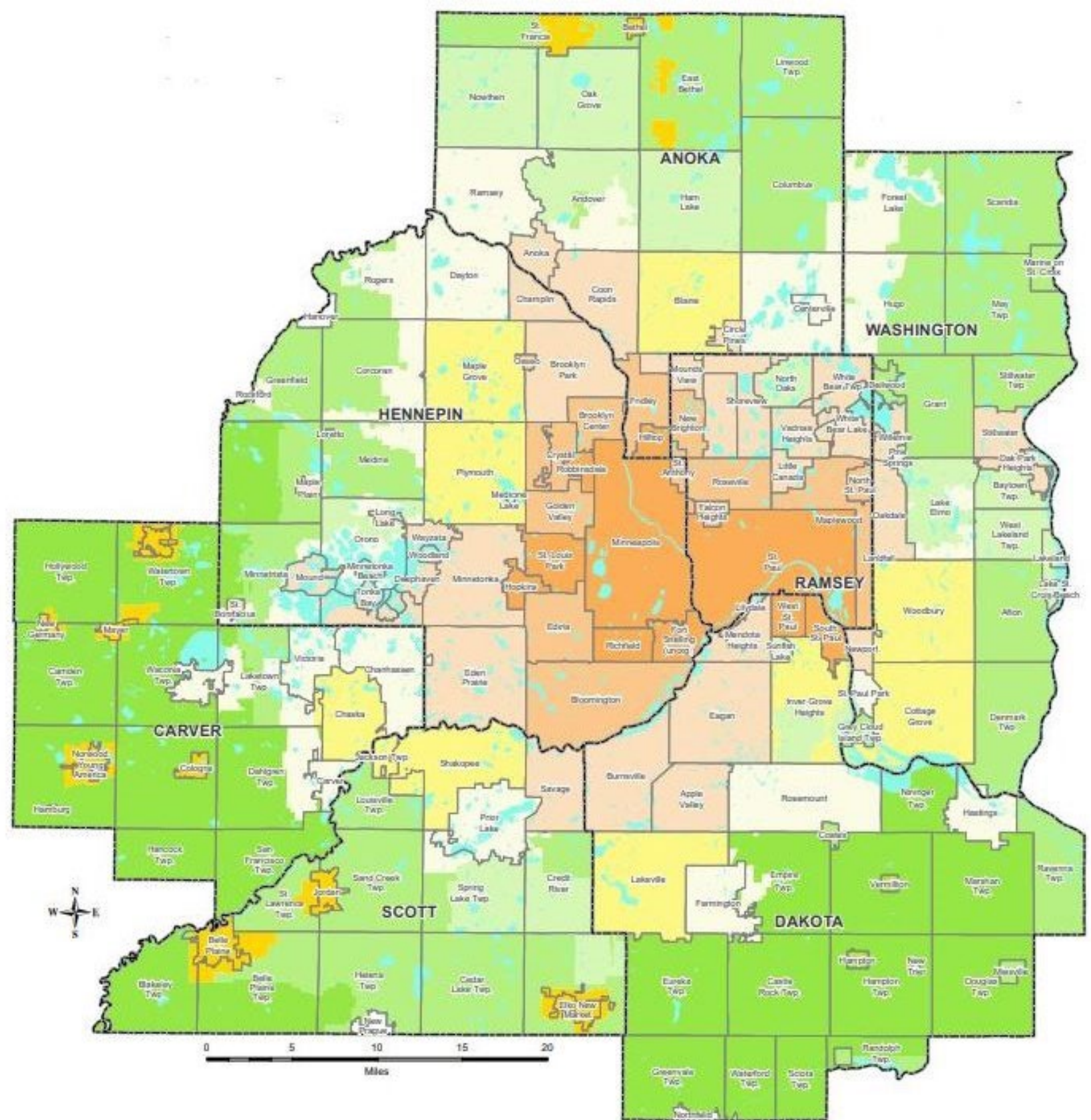
- How would you describe a future water supply for the region?
- How would you describe our future relationship to sources of water?
- What problems will we solve? What opportunities do we realize?

## Focusing on Outcomes:

- How would we describe success in terms of water supply?
- What high level measures indicate we've achieved our vision?

Share ideas at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and during small group discussion later in the meeting.

# Community Designations



# Community Designations

## Purpose

Community designations work in concert with land use policies to guide growth in areas with urban infrastructure; establish distinct land use policies and density expectations; protect agricultural land and natural amenities; and outline strategies to meet the region's forecasted growth.

## Outcomes

- A set of criteria for defining community designations
- Proposed community designation(s) for each jurisdiction
- Descriptions of each community designation
- Density expectations based on community designation
- Maps

## Learn More

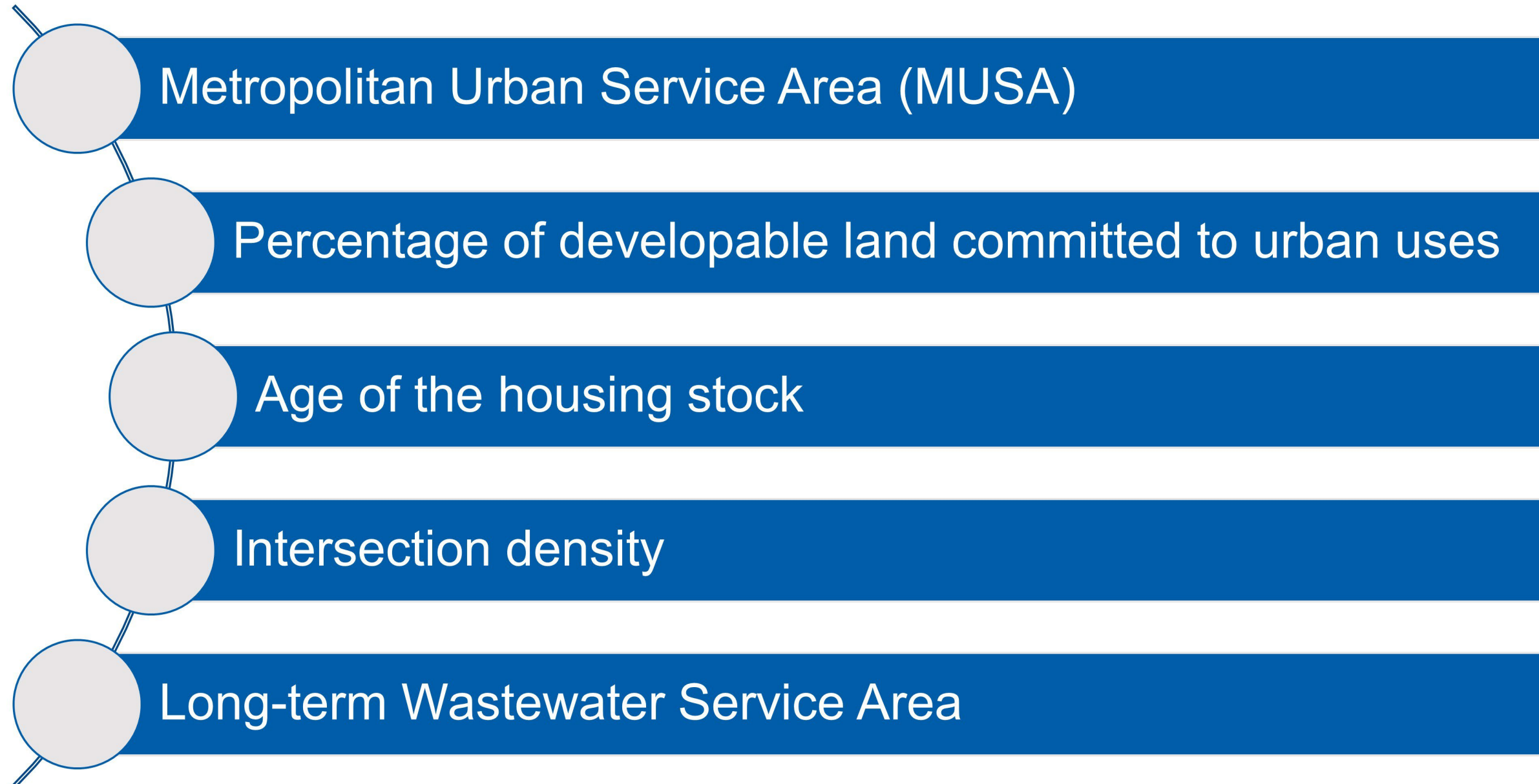
- [Thrive Community Designations](#)
- [LUAC Kick-off Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>](#)
- [LUAC Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>](#)

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# Thrive MSP 2040 Variables



# Stakeholder Engagement

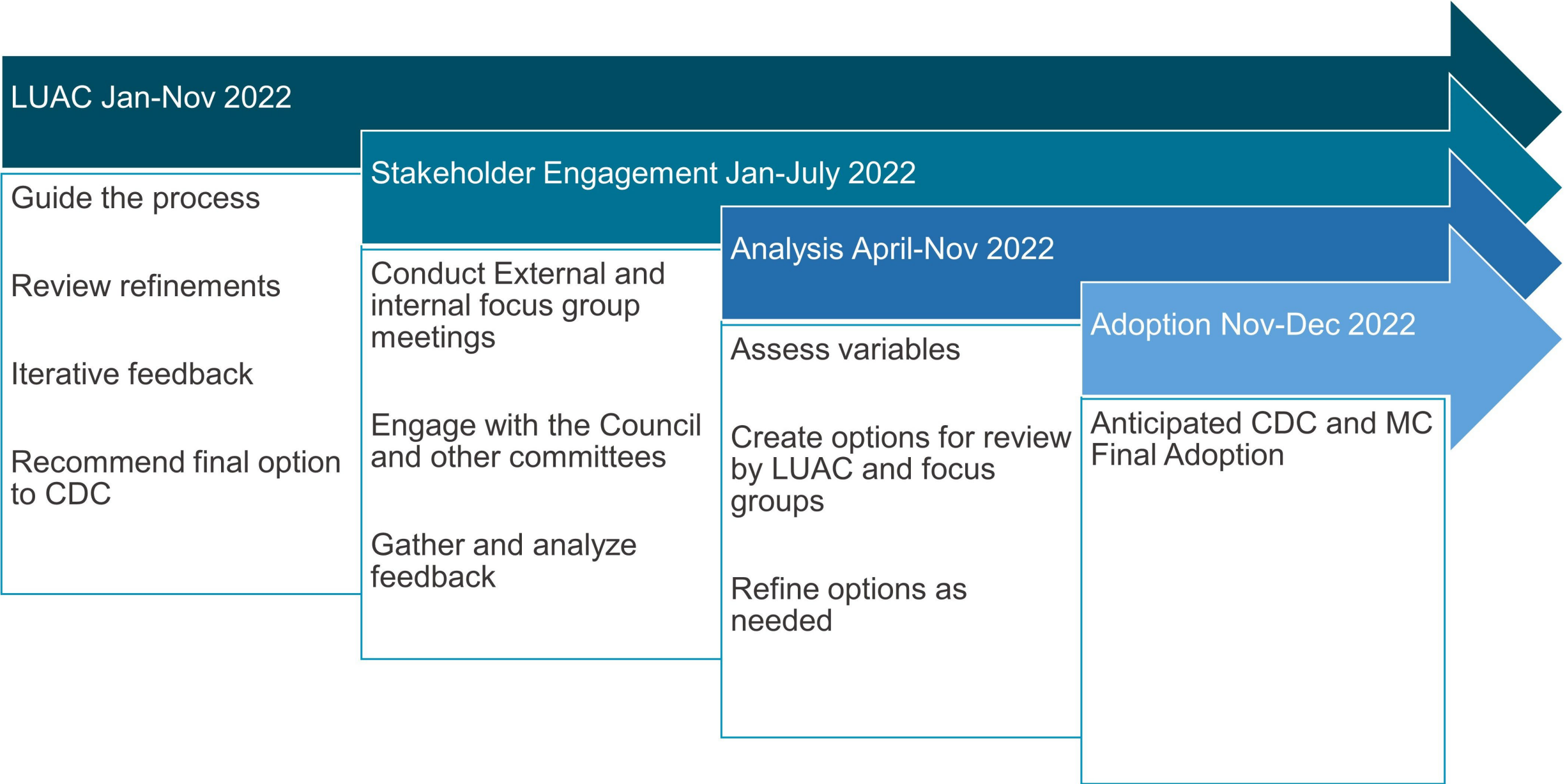
- External partners: local planners
- Internal technical staff
- Council Committees: Community Development Committee (CDC), Council of the Whole (COW), LUAC, MAWSAC
- Coordination with other regional planning efforts

## MAWSAC's Role:

Provide targeted input on data and variables to consider in developing community designations related to water supply.



# Key Milestones - Community Designations

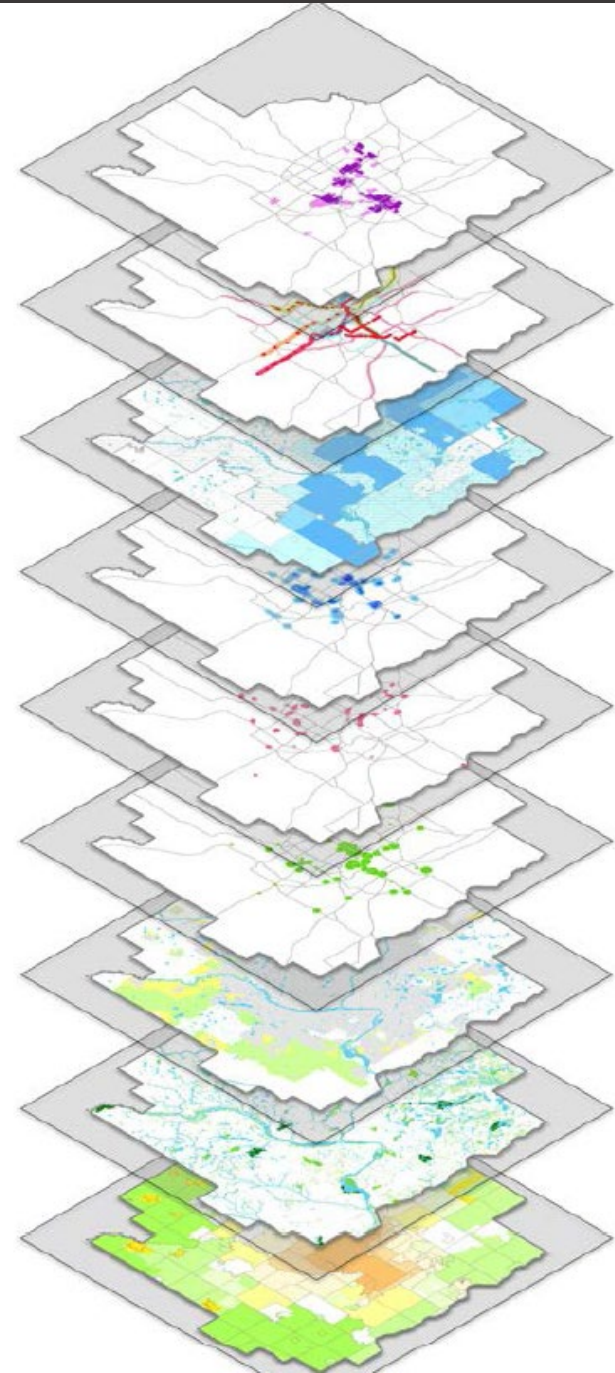


# Input Requested - Community Designations

## Committee input requested

- What water supply factors create commonalities or differences between communities?
- What water supply factors should impact land use and development patterns?
- What water supply factors would help apply policies in more targeted ways?

Share ideas at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and during small group discussion later in the meeting.



# Scenario Planning



# Scenario Planning

## Purpose

Scenario planning helps build more resilient 2050 plans by exploring regional uncertainties, identifying impacts on regional issues and Council responsibilities, and testing policy and investment responses to a variety of possible futures.

## Outcomes

- Shared awareness and approach to regional issues.
- Identified risks and opportunities from regional uncertainties
- More nimble policies that anticipate a wider range of possible futures.
- Water Supply issues incorporated from start

## Learn More

### Contact:

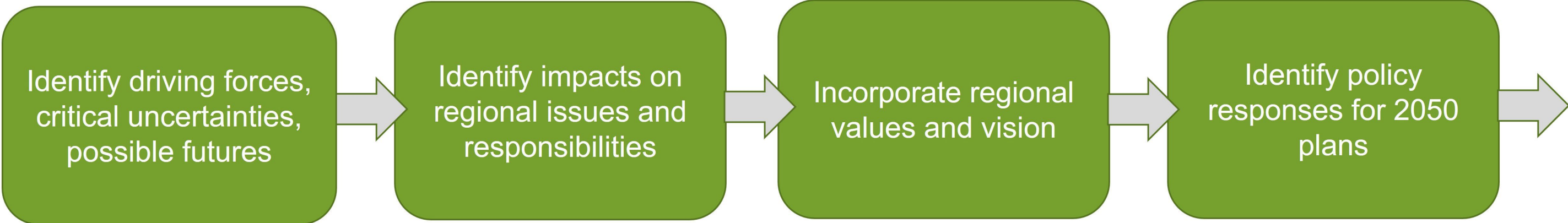
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# Phases

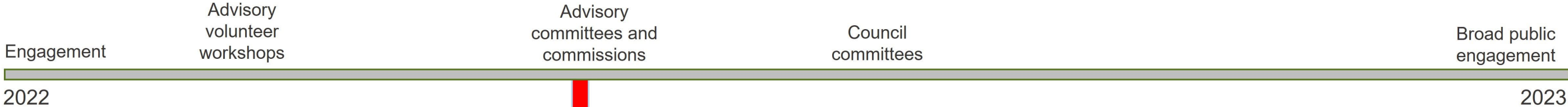


Business as usual  
+  
Higher growth, more compact  
Higher growth, more dispersed  
Lower growth, more compact  
Lower growth, more dispersed

How would these futures affect the region and its infrastructure?

What do we think of these effects?

How can we use our roles to encourage the good and change the bad?



# Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders engaged in this work:

- Technical staff
- Advisory Committee volunteers
- Advisory Committees
- Interested city and county staff and elected officials
- Interested citizens and groups

**MAWSAC's Role Today:**

**Consider and advise on how four alternate futures would affect water supply and planning in the region.**





# Committee Input Requested - Scenario Planning



Focusing on the four alternate futures:

- How would each alternate future press on water supply?
- What pressures or opportunities would this bring to your individual work?
- How would they affect your shared work here at MAWSAC?

Share ideas at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and during small group discussion later in the meeting.

# Water Issues: White Papers



# White Papers

## Purpose

Provide policy makers with a summary of the current understanding of water issues, define the Council's role, and provide policy recommendations to address regional needs.

## Outcomes

- With input from regional stakeholders, the white paper content will inform regional water policy.
- Council staff will continue to investigate water issues and measure policy outcomes.

## Learn More

- Framing Papers

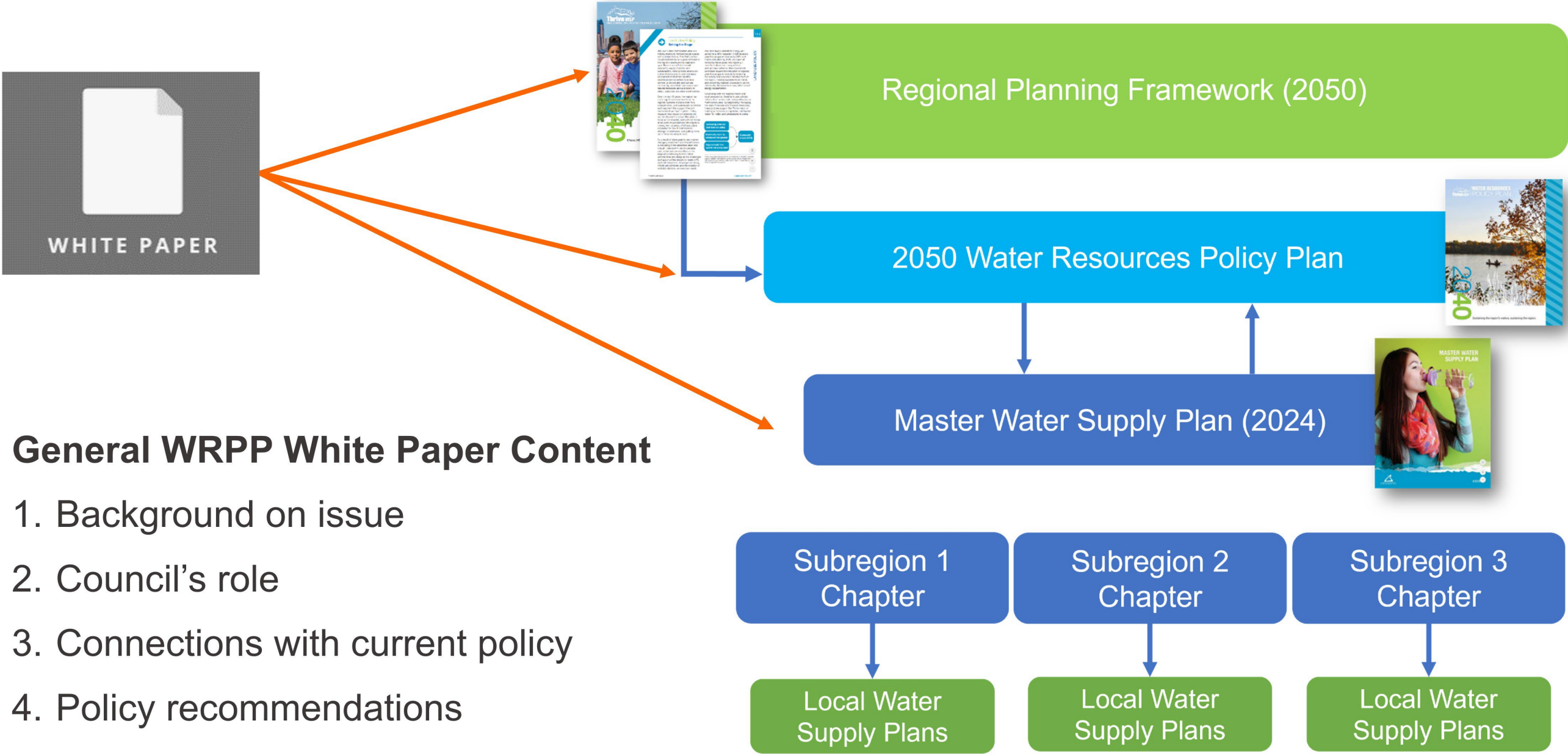
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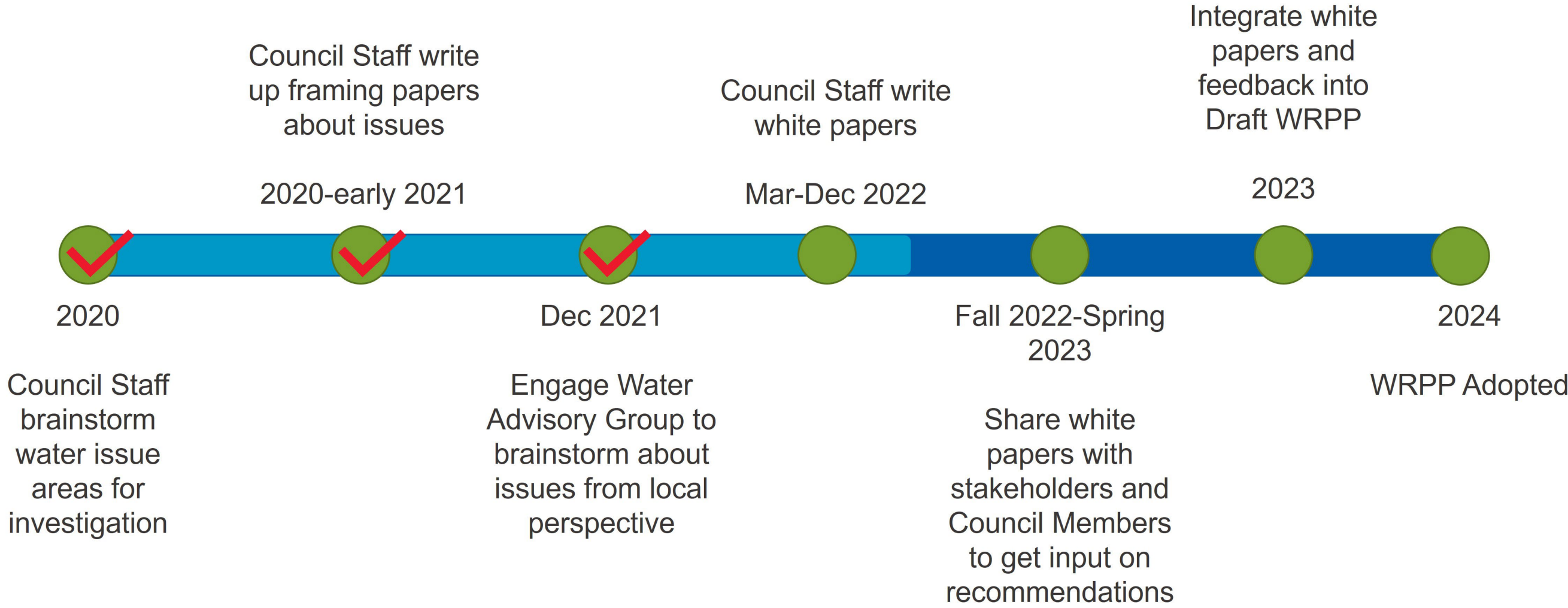
# Definition & Use



## General WRPP White Paper Content

- 1. Background on issue
- 2. Council's role
- 3. Connections with current policy
- 4. Policy recommendations

# Process



# Water Quality

- Watershed Approach
- Contaminant Investigation Process
- Highlighted Contaminants:
  - Chloride
  - Nutrients
  - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
  - Manganese, Trichloroethylene (TCE), Dioxane
- Climate Change
- Future Challenges



# Water + Climate

- Identify Regional Climate Risk
- Highlight impacts on ES (planning and operations) and local governments
- Focus on Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies



# Wastewater Issues

- Vector Waste Disposal
- Liquid Waste Receiving
- Aging Infrastructure
- Existing Community Wastewater (WW) Systems
- Regional System Expansion
- Public & Private Inflow & Infiltration (I/I)
- Future Challenges





# Rural Water Concerns

- Community Designations & Densities
- Community Challenges
  - Private Wells
  - Private Subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS)
  - Community Water Utilities
- Environmental Challenges
  - Wetland Protection
  - Water Storage & Drainage
  - Contamination
- Future Challenges



# Water Reuse

- Impact of Reuse on Water Supplies
- Stormwater Reuse
- Wastewater Reuse (ES facilities)
- Wastewater Reuse (External)



# Source Water Protection & Vulnerable Areas

- Land Use & Water Protection
- Overlapping Jurisdictions
- Water Contamination
- Emergency Response



# Water Availability

- Water Access Challenges
  - Deep groundwater supplies
  - Public Access to Surface Waters
- Water Use Challenges
  - Contamination
  - Contact Concerns
- Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction



# White Paper Milestones

March  
- May

## 1<sup>st</sup> Round of White Papers

- Water Quality
- Wastewater Concerns
- Water + Climate

May-  
July

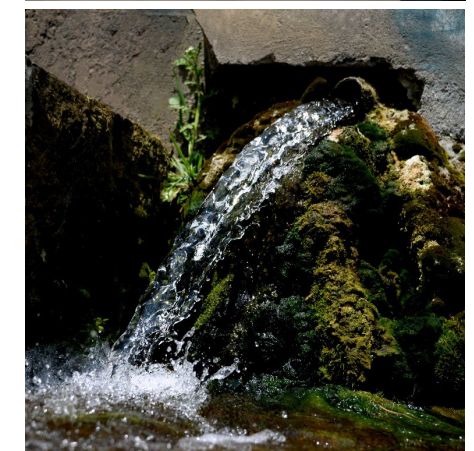
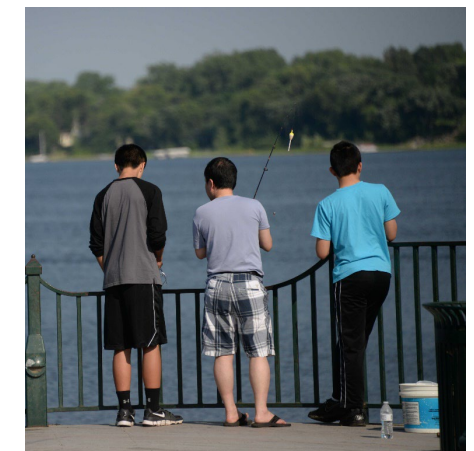
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of White Papers

- Source Water Protection & Vulnerable Areas
- Rural Concerns

July-  
Sept

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of White Papers

- Water Availability
- Water Reuse



# Feedback



## Your feedback is valuable!

When the White Papers are ready, we will come back for your input.

Please connect with the Water Resources Policy Plan Advisory Members to share your thoughts throughout the planning process.

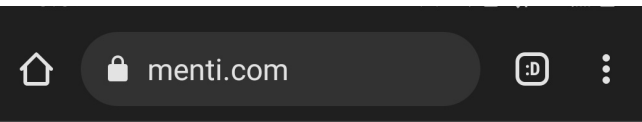
### MAWSAC

- Patrick Shea

### TAC

- Mark Maloney
- Scott Anderson
- Bruce Westby

# Q & A



## Mentimeter Results and Large Group Discussion

To submit questions and comments online, to go to [menti.com](https://menti.com) and enter the meeting code.



Please enter the code

Submit

The code is found on the screen in front of you