Metro Area Water Supply Plan and Water Policy Plan: Input Requested

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

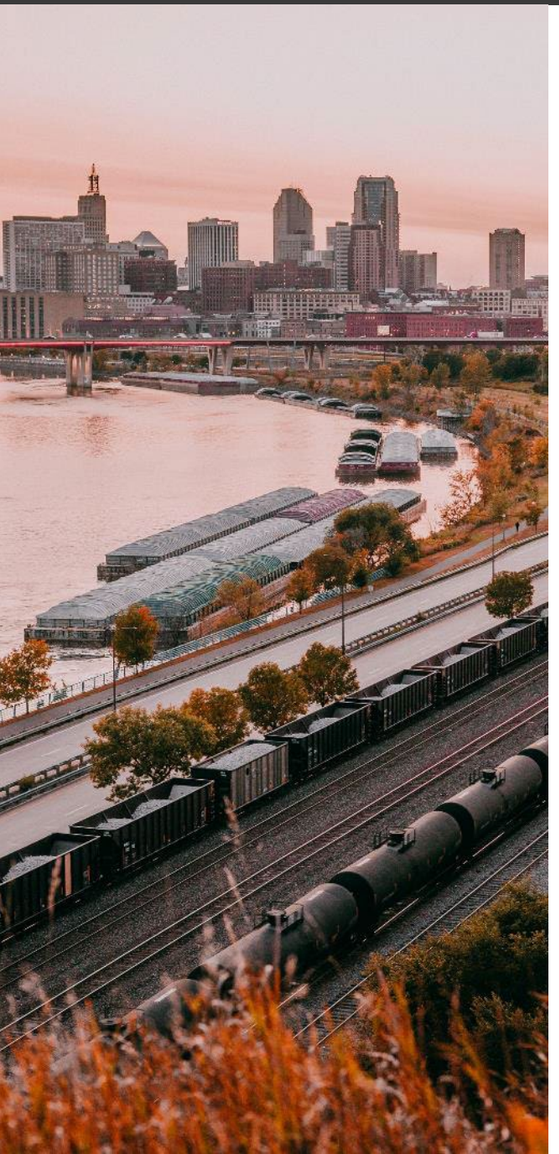
Joint Meeting of the Metro Area Water Supply Policy and Technical Advisory Committees | January 9, 2024 | Lanya Ross

Goals for today

Topics

- MAWSAC and TAC actions requested
- Update on plan content status
- Policy objectives to support subregional needs
- Next steps

MAWSAC and TAC input



What do you want to see, to vote to approve?

MAWSAC, with TAC recommendation, will be responsible for approving the updated Metro Area Water Supply Plan and recommending Council adoption with the rest of the Water Policy Plan.

- What do you and your organization want to see in the Metro Area Water Supply Plan and in its connections to the Water Policy Plan to feel comfortable voting yes?
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Regional water planning advances regional values, vision, and goals

Existing conditions & Emerging changes
Our work reflects the region's existing conditions and emerging changes.

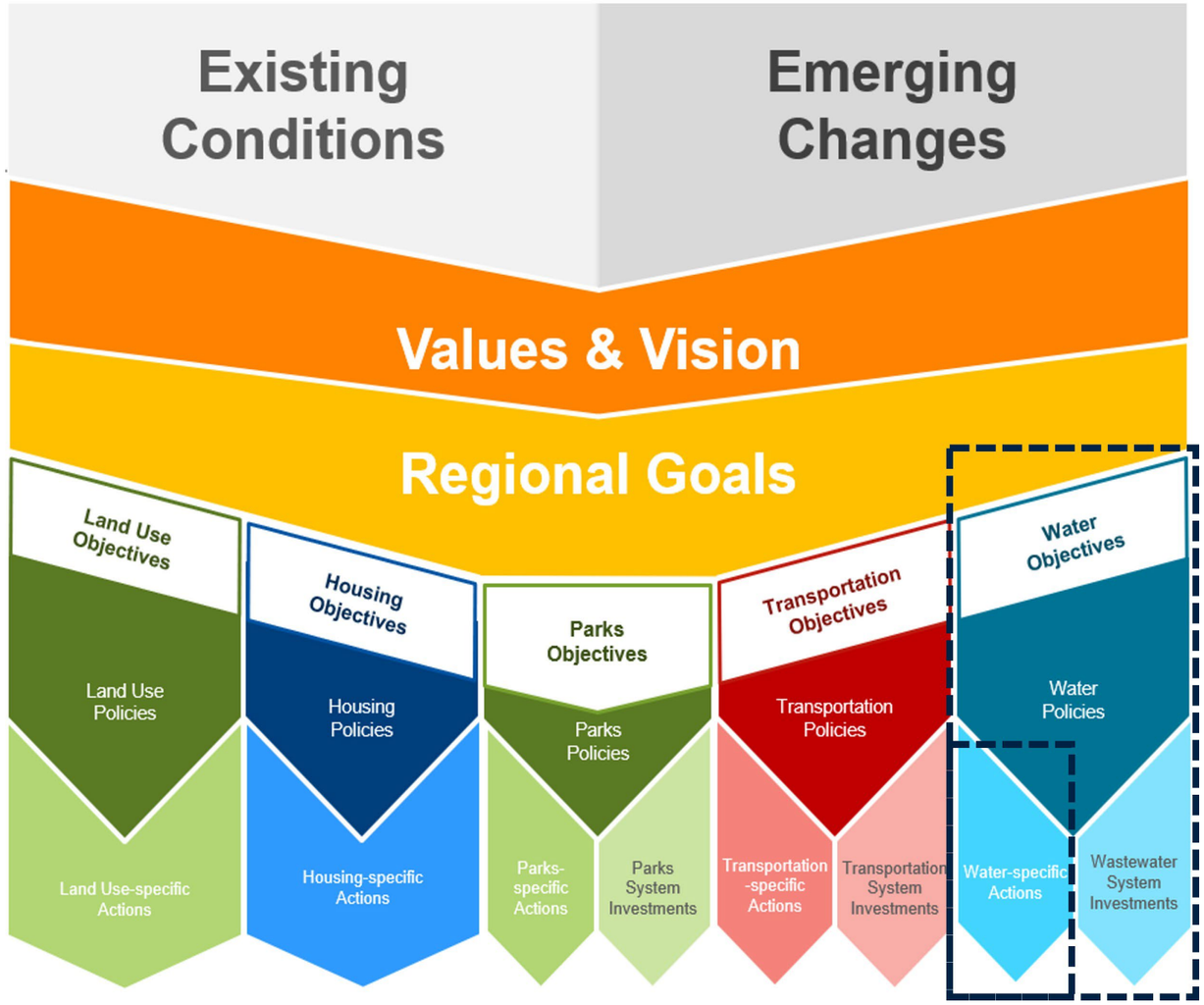
Values & Vision
Our shared values are core beliefs that guide how we work toward the vision of what we want to achieve.

Regional goals
Our goals express desired end states for the region.

Objectives
Our objectives articulate achievable results that advance regional goals, through the area of Council responsibility.

Policies
Policies set the intent and approach to regional issues; they clarify expectations for both Council and partners.

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



Water Policy Plan

Proposed Table of Contents

- Introduction
- RDG connection to water
- ES principles & role
- Regional water context
- Problem identification
- Goals & objectives
- Policies & strategies
- Wastewater system plan
- **Metro Area Water Supply Plan**
- Local water plan requirements
- Data appendices

Discussion: Potential revision to Metro Area Water Supply Plan content (draft)

Part 1
Desired Outcomes

- Rational and approach to regional water supply planning
- Connection to regional goals and objectives in the Water Policy Plan
- Regional desired outcomes with 2050 water supplies in mind

Part 2
Regional Commitments

- Connection to regional policies in the Water Policy Plan with more detail around water supply-related actions

Part 3
Regional Dashboard Measures

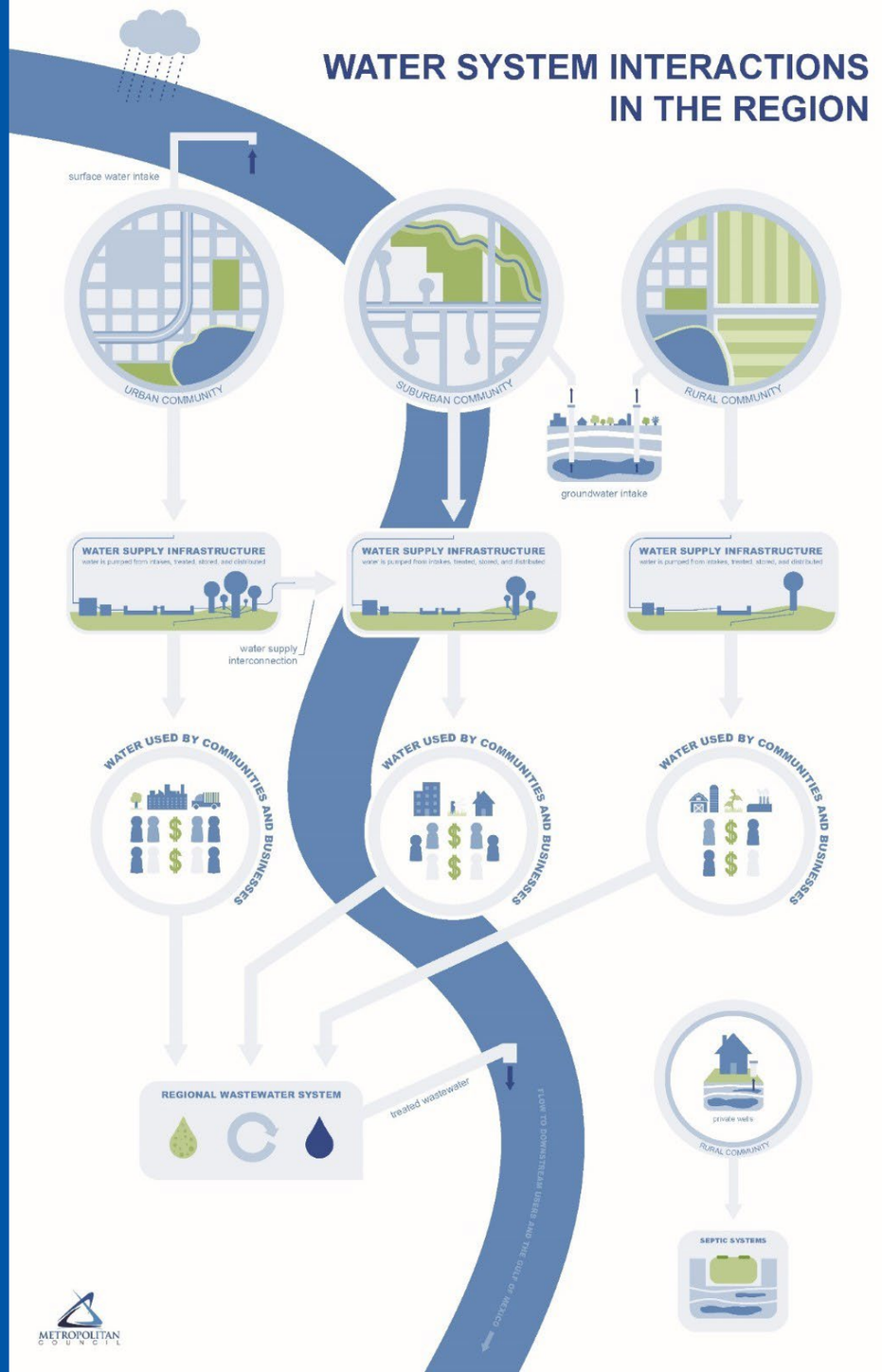
- Regional summary of information that provides context for water supply planning, describes the current state of sustainable water supply practices, and supports the development of measurable and trackable regional targets

Part 4
Subregional Info

- Subregional information related to water, land use, and other factors
- Key water supply issues, risks and opportunities identified by stakeholders
- Implementation needs (high-level)

Across all the region's water supply parts →

What measures illustrate water supply conditions, hazards, and sustainable outcomes?



GROUP ACTIVITY: exploring dashboard measures to communicate about water supply conditions, hazards, and sustainable outcomes

For all = what investments, actions, outcomes?	**Collaborate and build capacity**	**Assess the region's water supplies**	**Evaluate hazards and risks**	**Evaluate mitigation measures**
Climate	Subregional work group activity Technical assistance for local planners	Minneapolis/St. Paul climate	Drought monitor River monitor (flood)	Community awareness of drought and flood conditions (web hits) Local controls for water conservation (ordinances, rates, etc.) Mutual aid agreements and interconnections Tree canopy
Landscapes and sources	Subregional work group activity Technical assistance for local planners	Land use and associated contaminants # of building permits (density/distribution) Groundwater quality (MPCA, MDA) Surface water quality Sustainable limit of sources (use MC estimate?) Recharge estimates Groundwater levels	Land use change that increases contaminants in DWMSAs Widespread gw declines and near sensitive resources Well interference, conflicts Emerging sw & gw quality issues, trends Increased # priority waters on the impaired waters list Impervious surfaces limit recharge, increase runoff	Local controls for source water protection and conservation Source water protection BMP grants in metro DWMSAs Acres and practices in the Agricultural Preserves program Contaminant site clean up through Tax Base Revitalization Account
Local water supply infrastructure	Number of community rate payer assistance programs Customer confidence and satisfaction (Survey?) Interconnections and mutual aide agreements Number of licensed water operators Subregional work group activity Technical assistance for local planners	Firm capacity of existing infrastructure (MDH) Miles of pipe installed/replaced (how to document?) Current treatment in place (MDH) Number public and private wells drilled (MWI)	Firm capacity versus future demand PWS water quality violations Age of infrastructure(how to document?) Unused wells in DWSMAs	Interconnections and mutual aide agreements for resilient supply Funding awarded for treatment, addressing lead Reuse infrastructure (how to document?) Number of unused wells sealed (MWI)
Water users	Customer confidence and satisfaction (Survey?) Number of licensed water operators Subregional work group activity Technical assistance for local planners	Residential, industrial, business use (current and future) Total Per capita water use Total water use of gw versus sw sources Water rates	Well interference Ratio of indoor versus outdoor water use or max day pumping Use compared to capacity and to estimated sustainable limits	Water efficiency grants/activities funded (grant program reporting) Local controls for water conservation (ordinances, rates, etc.) Setting and tracking progress against regional goal (ex: 90 gpcd)
Local wastewater infrastructure	Number of licensed wastewater operators Subregional work group activity Technical assistance for local planners	I & I estimates (MCES data)	Wastewater spills; actions leading to MPCA permit enforcement	Funding awarded for treatment
Regional wastewater infrastructure	Task forces established with local stakeholders Subregional work group activity Technical assistance for local planners	Volume of water treated at regional facilities (MCES data) Regional system condition (MCES data)	Wastewater spills; actions leading to MPCA permit enforcement	Volume of water recharging groundwater (MCES data)

Example of how the Water Policy Plan and Metro Area Water Supply Plan connect

Regional Goal	We lead on addressing climate change

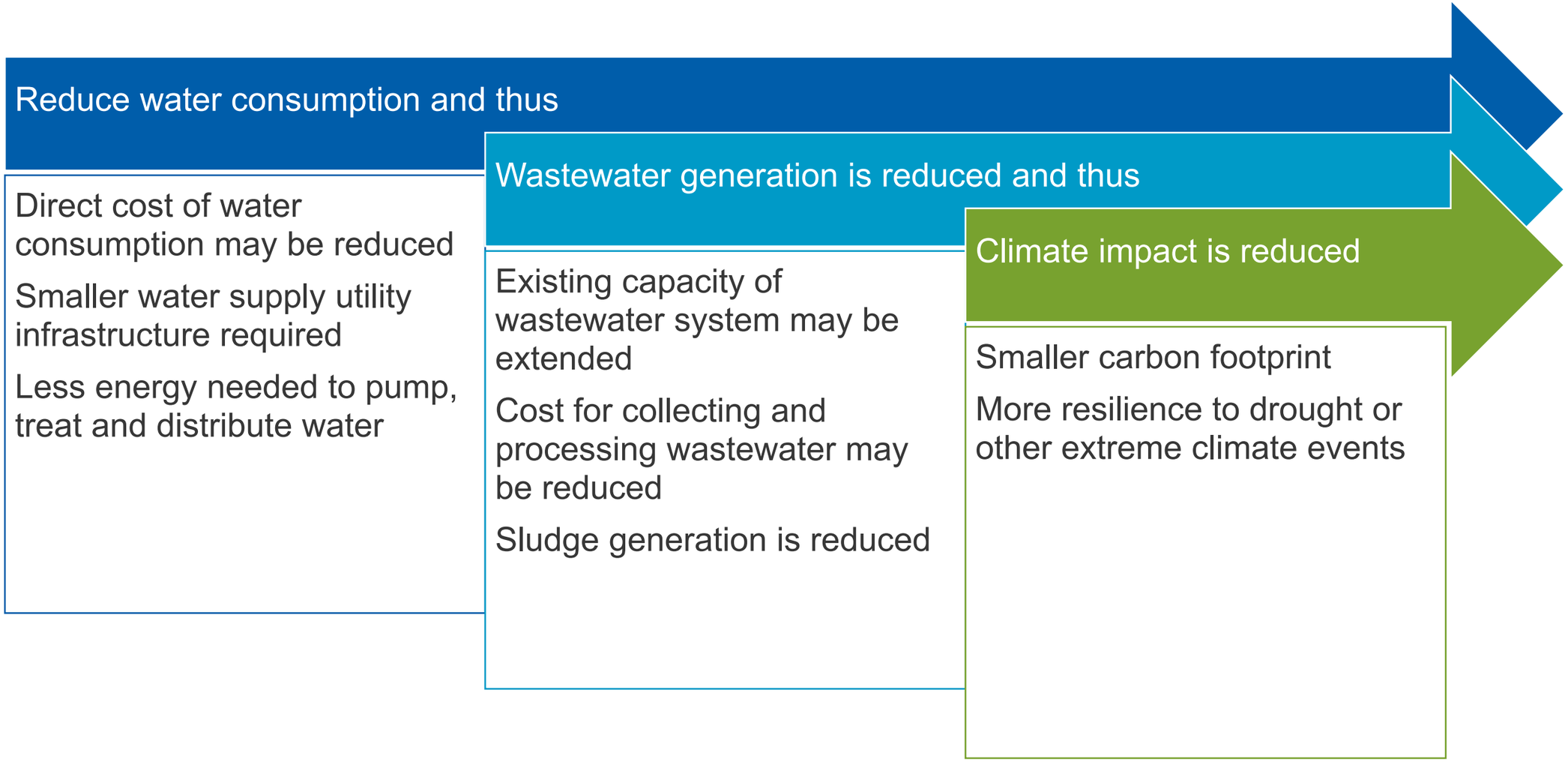
Water Policy Plan

Objective	Climate impacts on water sources and infrastructure are reduced
Policy	Adapt and mitigate for climate change risks and impacts (to water)
Action	Provide technical assistance targeting water and energy efficiency

Metro Area Water Supply Plan

Regional Program	Advocate for ongoing funding to support water use efficiency grants
Subregional Program	Target outreach for water efficiency grant programs to priority audiences
Dashboard Measure	Water use over time for region and subregion

Multiple benefits of water efficiency



Water Policy Plan – Built on foundational work

MAWSAC/TAC Goals

1. **Water Supply Infrastructure:** Communities can act quickly, thoughtfully, and equitably to address aging infrastructure, contamination, changing groundwater conditions, changing water demand, and financial challenges.
2. **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.
3. **Land use and Water Supply Connections:** Public water suppliers, land use planners, and developers have tools a, funding and authority to work together – supported by aligned agency directions - 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.
4. **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.
5. **Sustainable Water Quantity*:** Communities and water agencies understand the sustainable limits of groundwater and surface water sources. Agency directions are aligned and support local plans to supply demand that exceeds sustainable withdrawal rates using the most feasible combination of alternative groundwater or surface water sources, conservation, reclaimed wastewater and stormwater reuse.

**Added after 2022 report to Met Council, Legislature.*

Water Policy Plan – Built on foundational work

Water Advisory Feedback

Water Policy Research Feedback

1. Water Reuse
2. Water and Climate
3. Rural Water Concerns
4. Wastewater Planning and Service Considerations
5. Water Quality
6. Protecting Source Water Areas

Water Policy Plan – Built on foundational work

ES Vision

Clean waters for future generations.

Mission

Partner
ES partners with national, regional, and local organizations and experts to work towards water sustainability, climate resilience, and equitable water outcomes.

Plan
ES collaboratively develops plans to enhance, restore, and manage the region's water resources.

Provide
ES provides essential wastewater treatment and collection services to 111 communities and water planning services and resources to the whole region.

Proposed Water Policy Plan objectives

1. Ensure sustainable waters for current and future generations

2. Reduce climate impacts on water sources and infrastructure

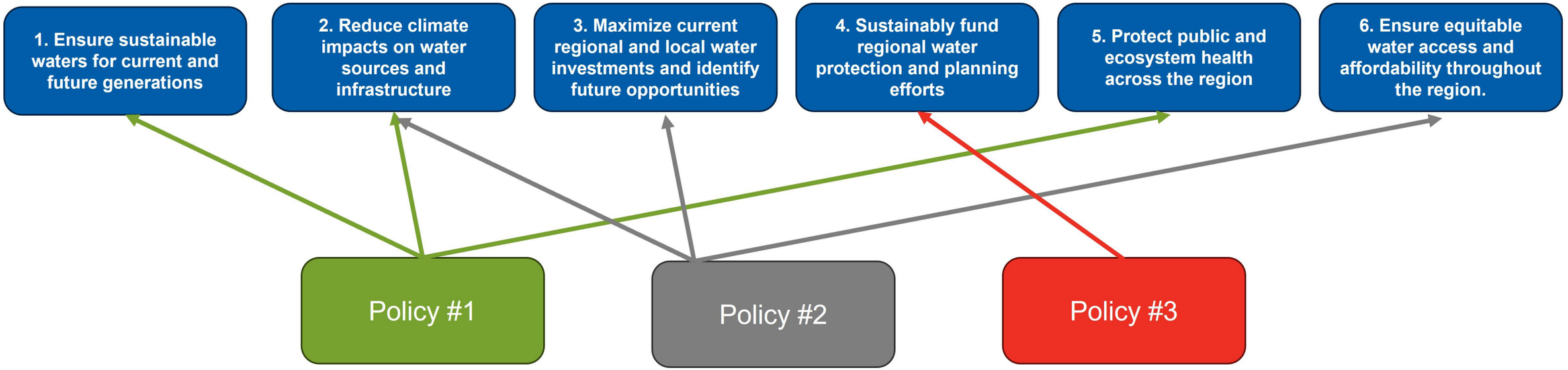
3. Maximize current regional and local water investments and identify future opportunities

4. Sustainably fund regional water protection and planning efforts

5. Protect public and ecosystem health across the region

6. Ensure equitable water access and drinking water affordability throughout the region.

Next steps – drafting policy

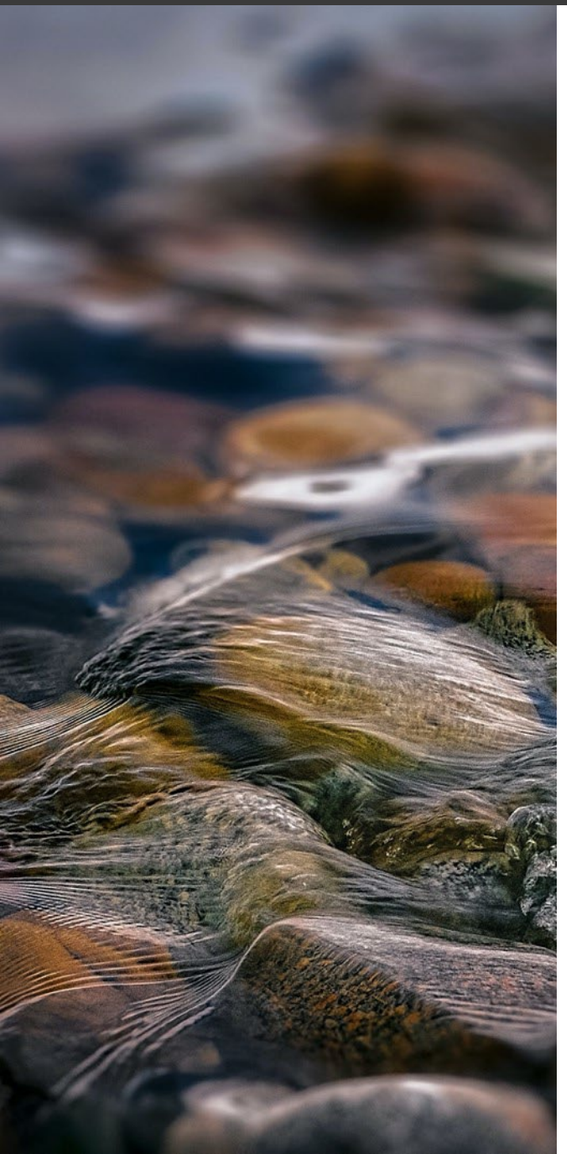


- Share with Environmental Services' executive leadership & Environmental Committee members
- Continue to engage with advisory committees (MAWSAC/TAC, WAG) and stakeholder groups
- Have plan ready for public comment period by summer 2024

Group activity: Connecting subregional input to Water Policy Plan

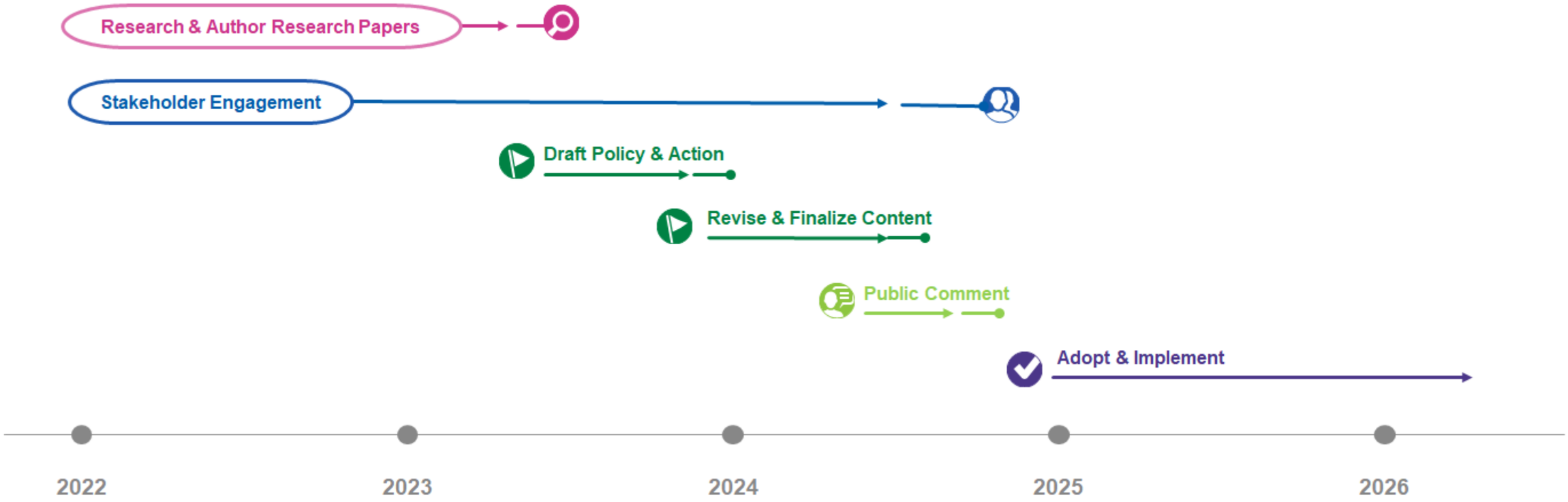
- Consider the range of recommended actions heard so far from water supply stakeholders
- Choose one or more and move to the objective poster you feel is most related to it
- Add a note if you think it relates to other objectives, as well
- If recommended actions are not related to draft objectives, move to new blank poster

Discussion



- What are your first impressions?
- Are we on the right path?
- Do the objectives feel like they are at the right level and specificity? Any modifications?
- Did we miss an objective?

Timeline for the 2050 Water Policy Plan and the Metro Area Water Supply Plan



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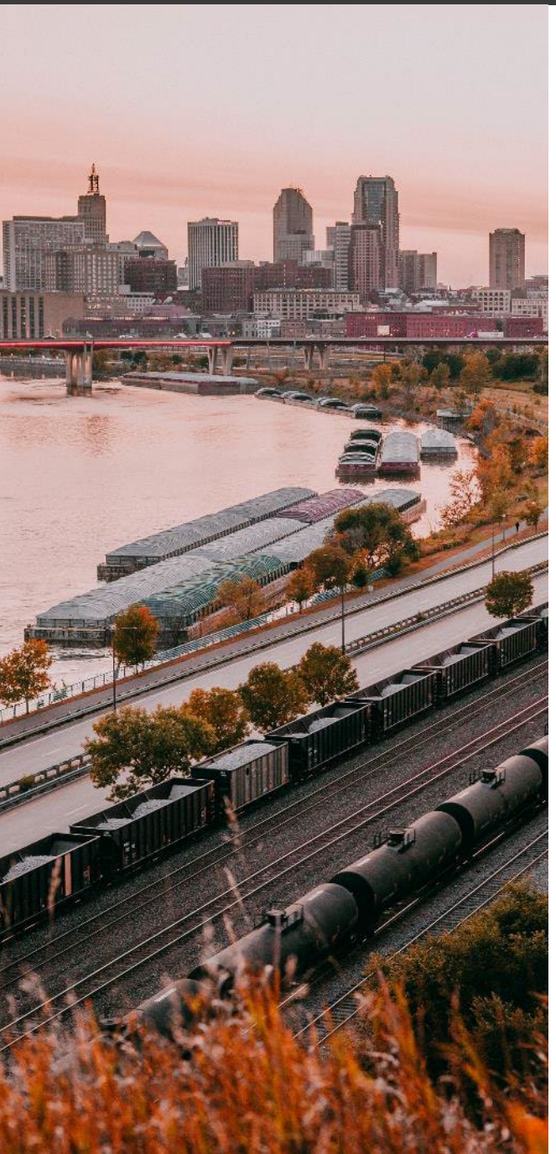

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