



Overview of Outcomes from Subregional Water Supply Engagement

A community-led effort to ensure the updated Metro Area Water Supply Plan and Water Policy Plan support local water supply planning needs



Presentation overview

Quick recap on purpose and approach

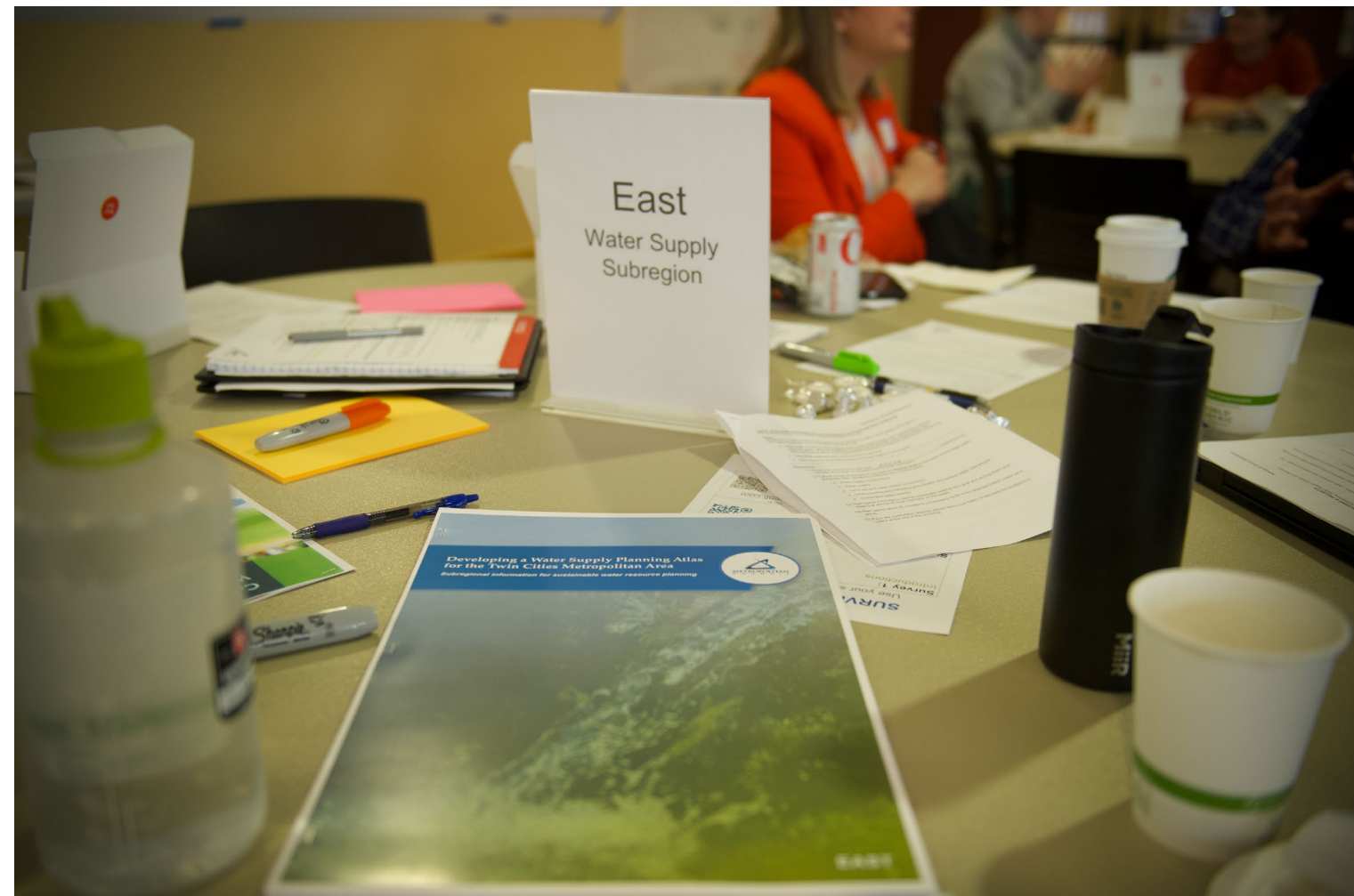
Who participated

Shared vision concepts

Focus areas

Implementation

Feedback



Regional Planning Cycle



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

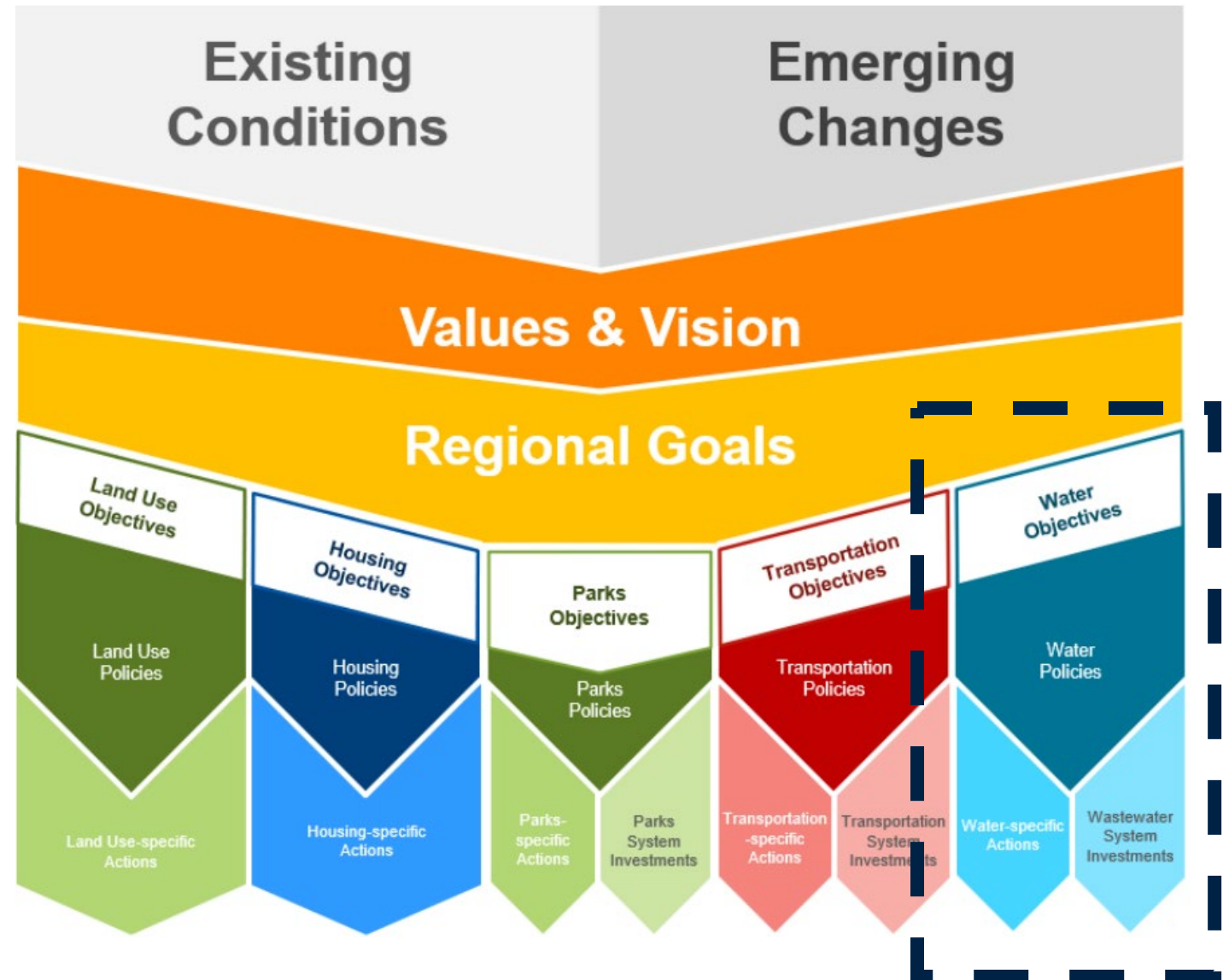
Achievable results that advance regional goals through areas of Council responsibility

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



Purpose of this effort

To build shared understanding of the following at a subregional level:

Context and current conditions

Definition of success

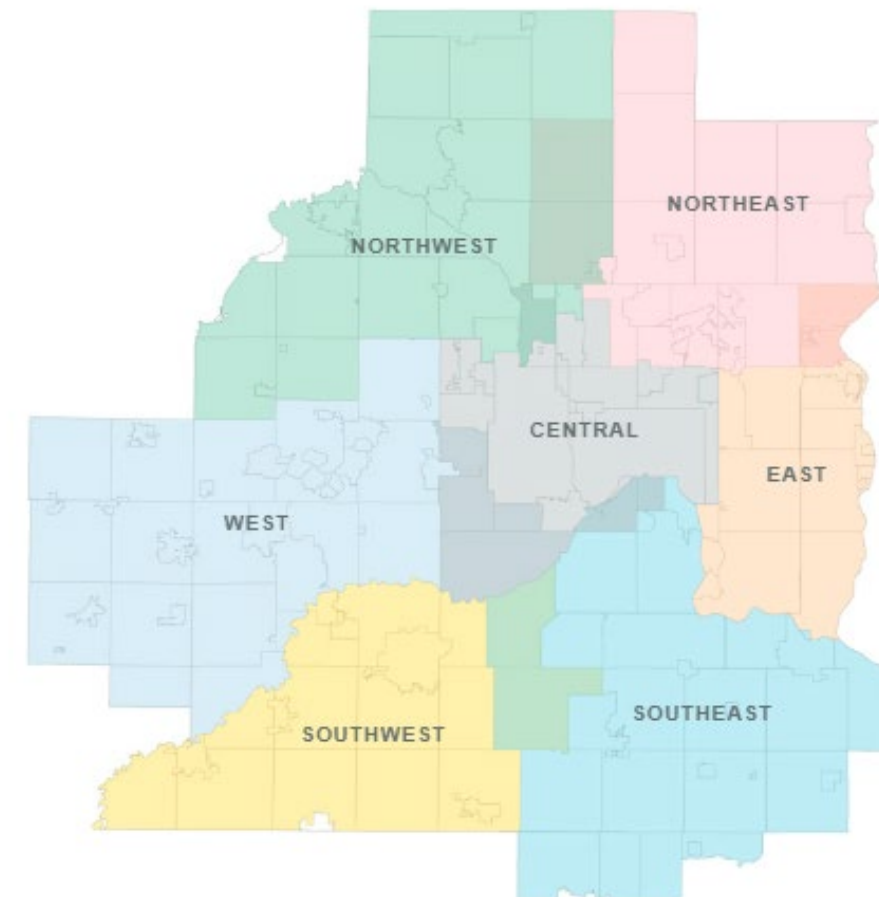
Issues and barriers

Strategies to address them

- Practices
- Policies
- Partnerships

Timeline/sequencing

Resources needed to sustain effort towards success over time



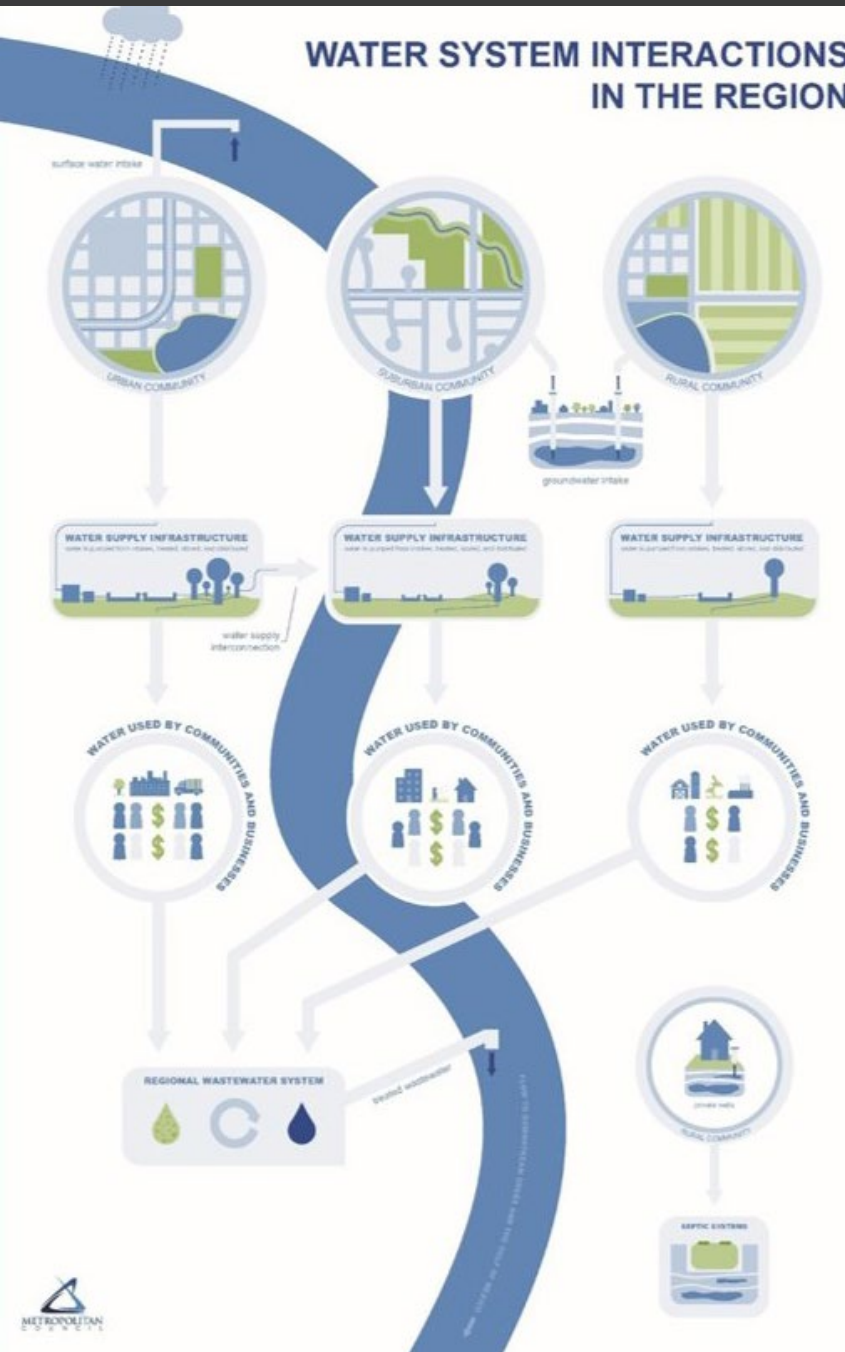
Using the input

"Asking a question is a promise to do something with the answer."



Relationships, trust, and a common path forward, leading to action

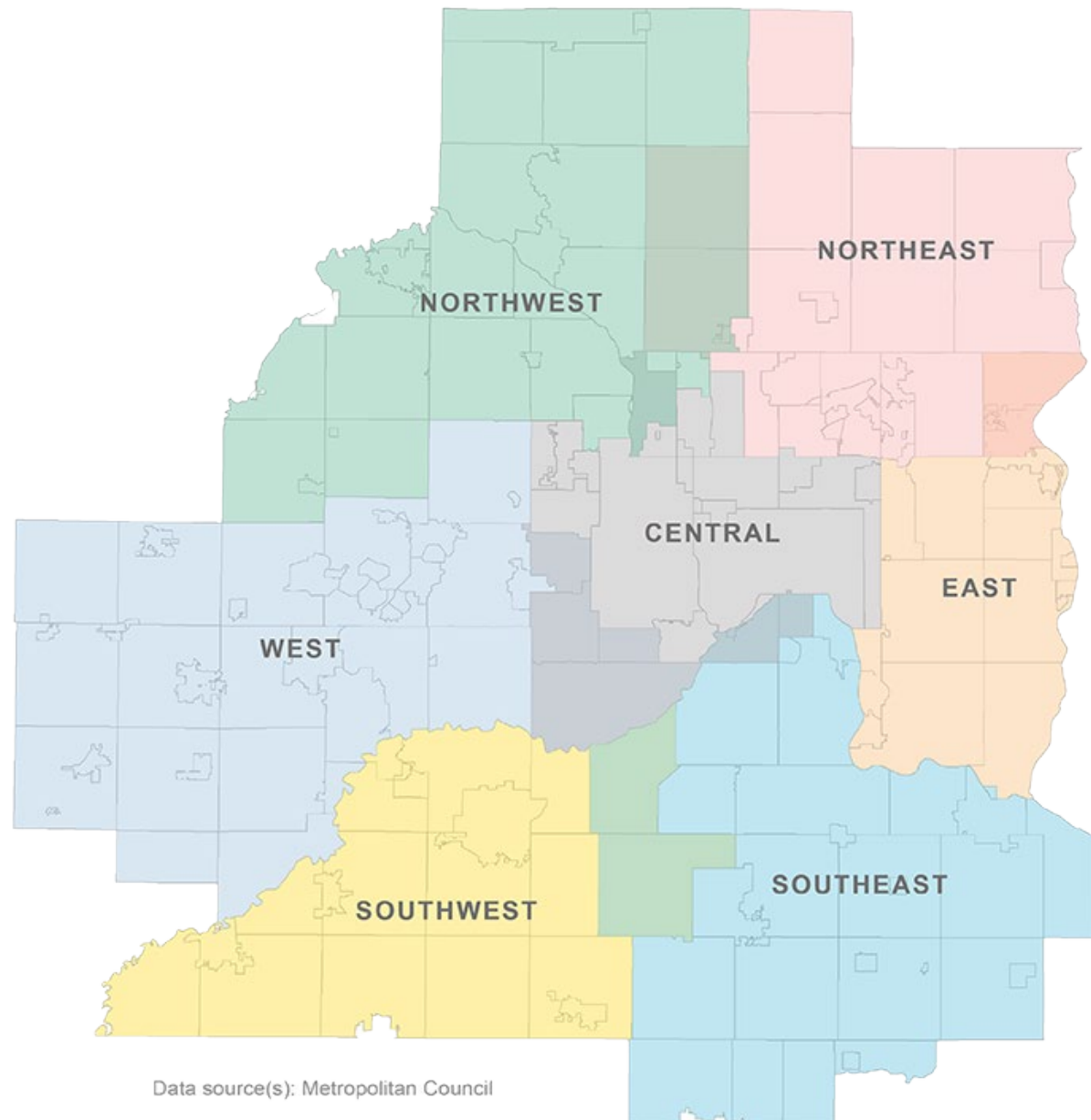
Integrating perspectives



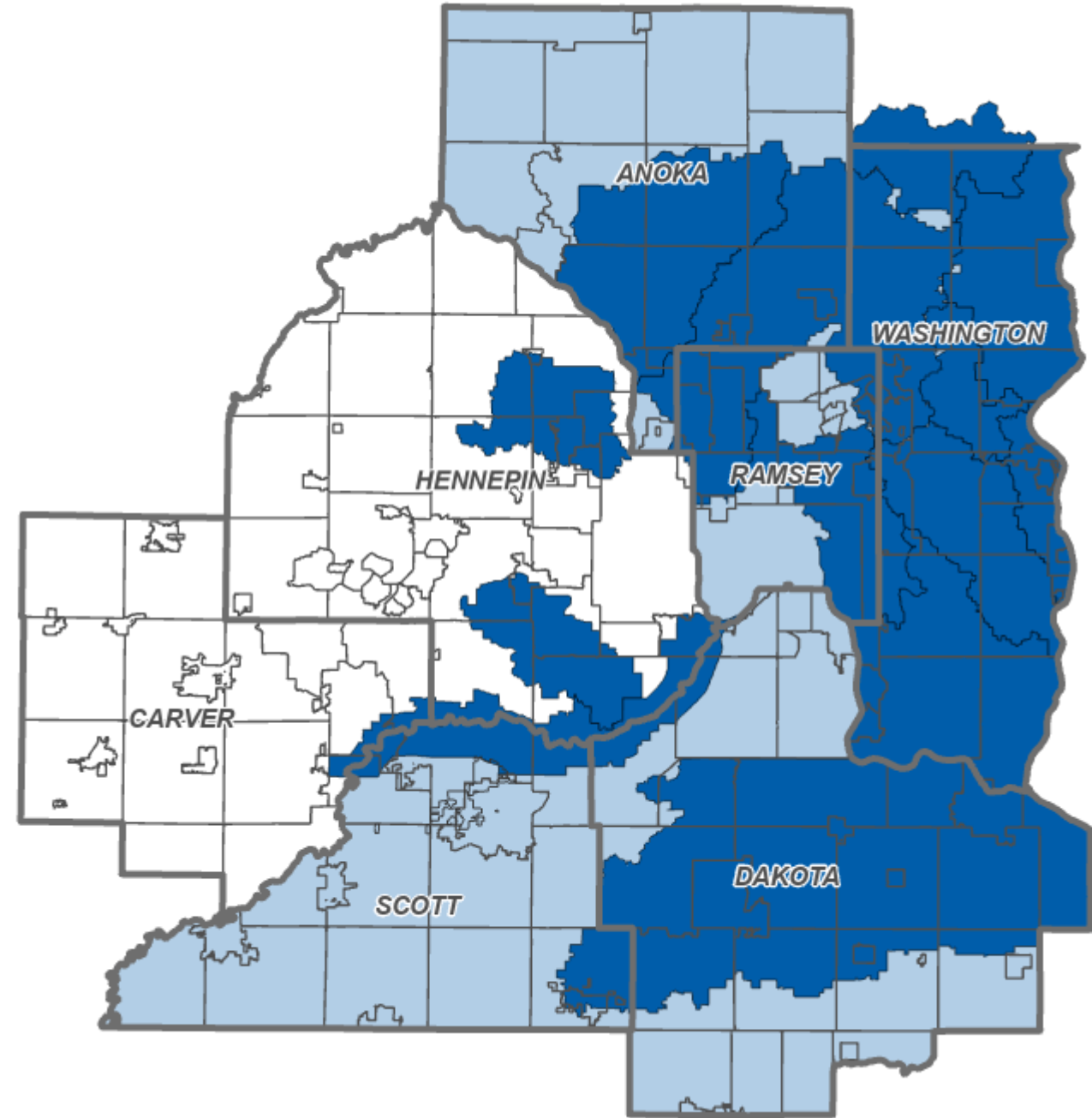
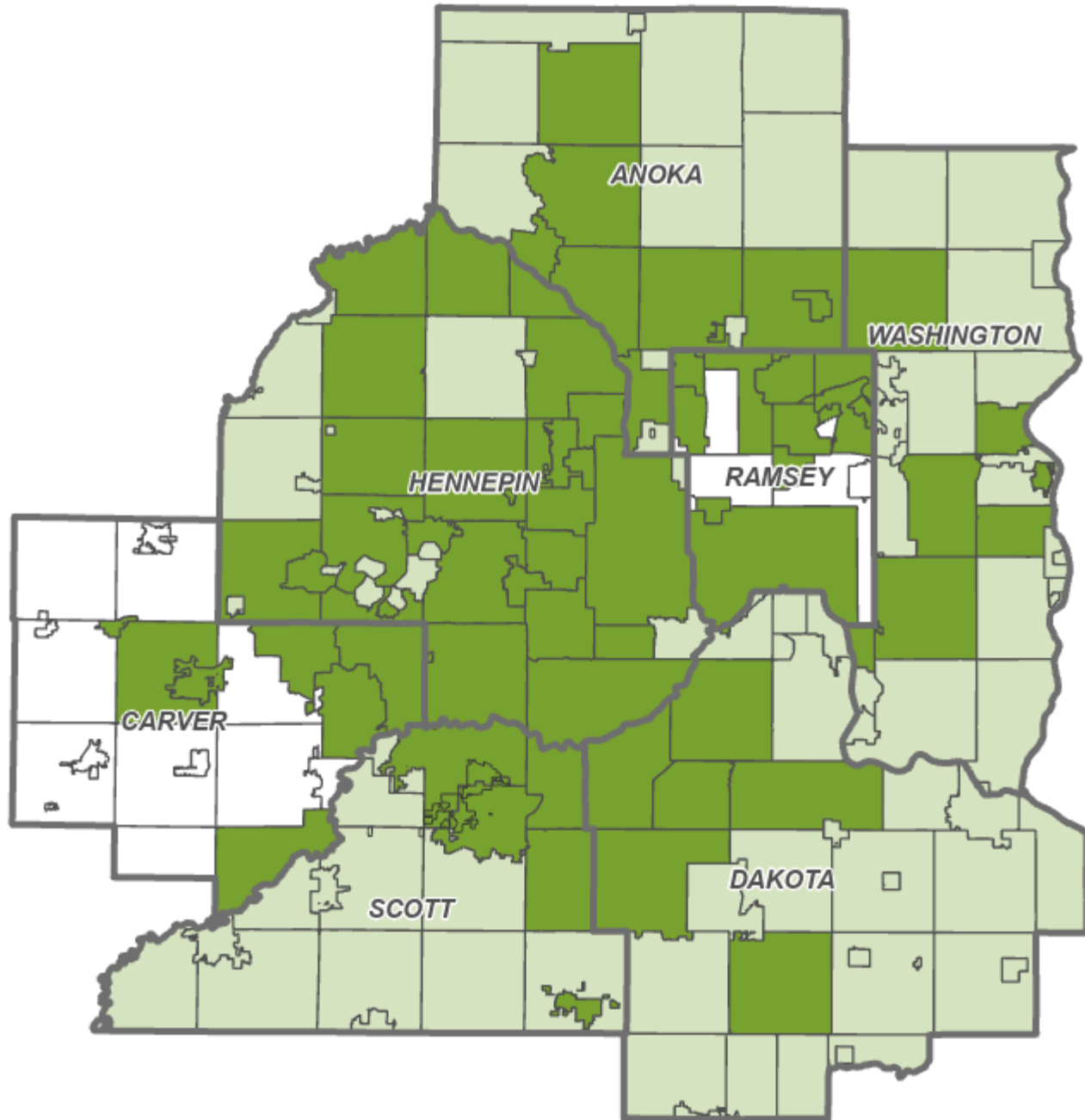
- **Natural system and land use**
 - Watershed Organizations
 - SWCDs and Conservation Districts
 - Community Development and Land Use staff
- **Public water supply**
 - Water supply operators
 - City engineers
 - Public works staff
- **Public health**
 - County staff
 - Staff or organizations supporting private well users
- **Met Council: Water Policy and Planning staff, Community Development staff**

Who contributed ideas?

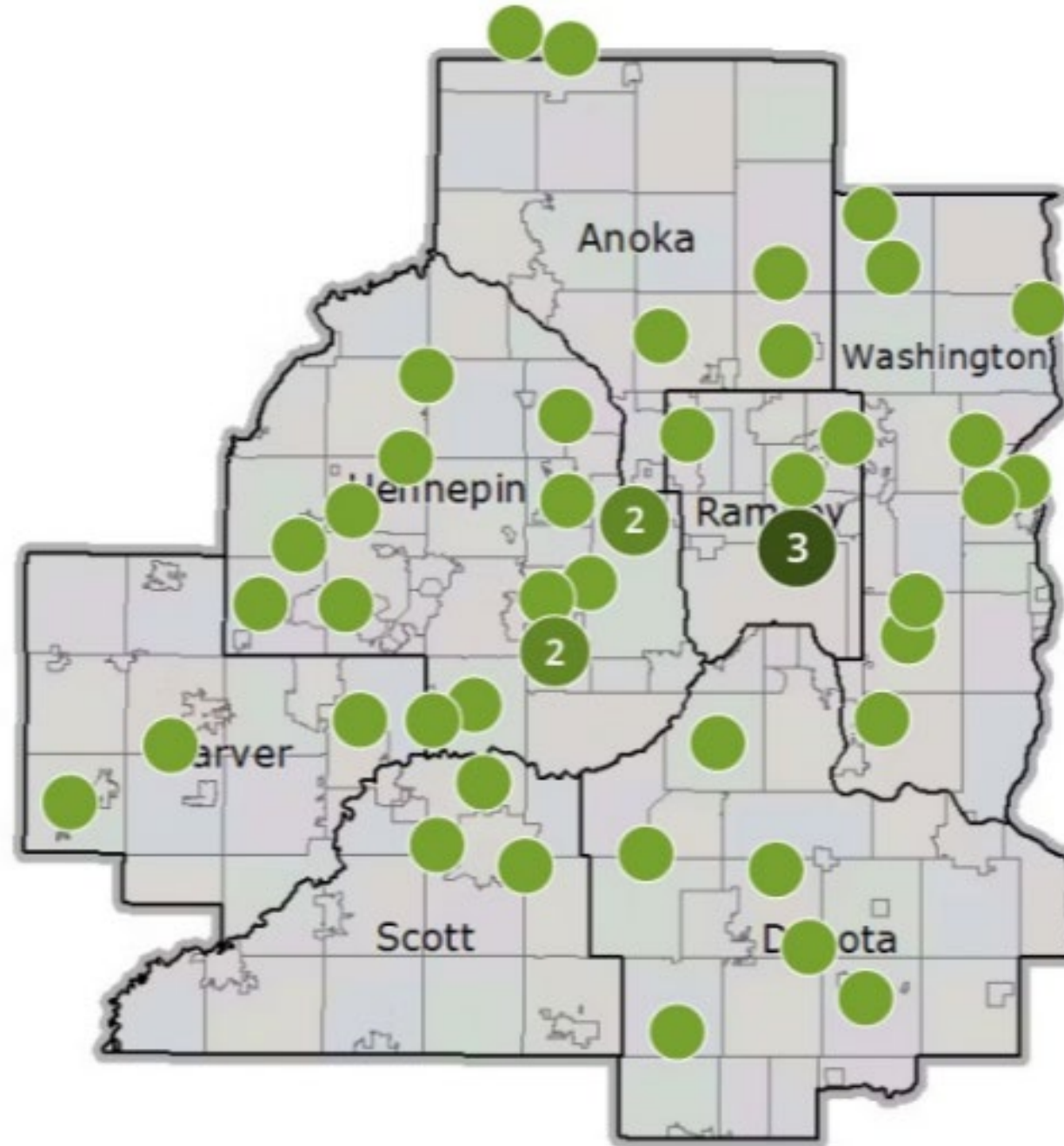
- Overall, around 150 people participated
- 23 engagements over 7 months
- 76 cities and townships represented
- 44 non-community organizations represented:
 - 14 watershed organizations
 - 12 county and county soil water conservation districts
 - 5 state agencies
 - 5 consulting firms
 - 3 private large-volume 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



Who contributed ideas in subregional group workshops?



Who contributed ideas at final regional workshop?



What's the future you're hoping for? 1/2

- The full range of diverse needs are met because **all voices are heard**
- **Clean, safe water for everyone**—regardless of supply type, community size, or personal income. Emerging contaminants are understood and addressed.
- **Adequate supply**—for people, the economy, the function of local ecosystems, and future generations
 - Regional sustainability
 - Using (and reusing) water wisely
 - Increasing infiltration and recharge
 - Surface water features are not impacted by groundwater withdrawals
- **Growth is responsible** and supported by reliable and adequate supply
- Communities and their water supply are **resilient to the impacts of climate change**
- **Source water is protected**
- Tools and data are available to support **informed decision-making and adaptive management**

What's the future you're hoping for? 2/2

- **Collaborative and proactive approaches** within and across communities
 - Local control and implementation with regional planning and resources
 - One water approaches for integrated water management
 - Organizational structures and policies support collaboration and resource sharing
- The **policy framework is streamlined and improved**
- **Increased state and regional support** for planning and plan implementation
- There is **sufficient funding** for water supply--infrastructure, staff, new treatment needs, etc.
- **Public trust and understanding** are enhanced, and a culture shift around water use has occurred (green lawns no longer king)
- There is **consistency across systems**, including public communications, while acknowledging every city is different

Similarities and differences in focus areas by subregion

Priority focus area	West	Northwest	Northeast	East	Southeast	Southwest	Central
Water quantity	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Water quality	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆
Coordination and collaboration*	◆	◆	◆	◆	*	◆	*
Growth and demand	◆	◆	◆		◆	*	◆
Asset management	◆	◆			◆		◆
Changing behaviors and norms*	*	*	◆	*	*	◆	◆
Data and tools	◆			*		◆	◆
Workforce*		◆	*	*	◆		◆
Funding*	*	*	◆	*	*	*	*
Climate change*	◆	*	*	*	*		
Affordability	*						◆

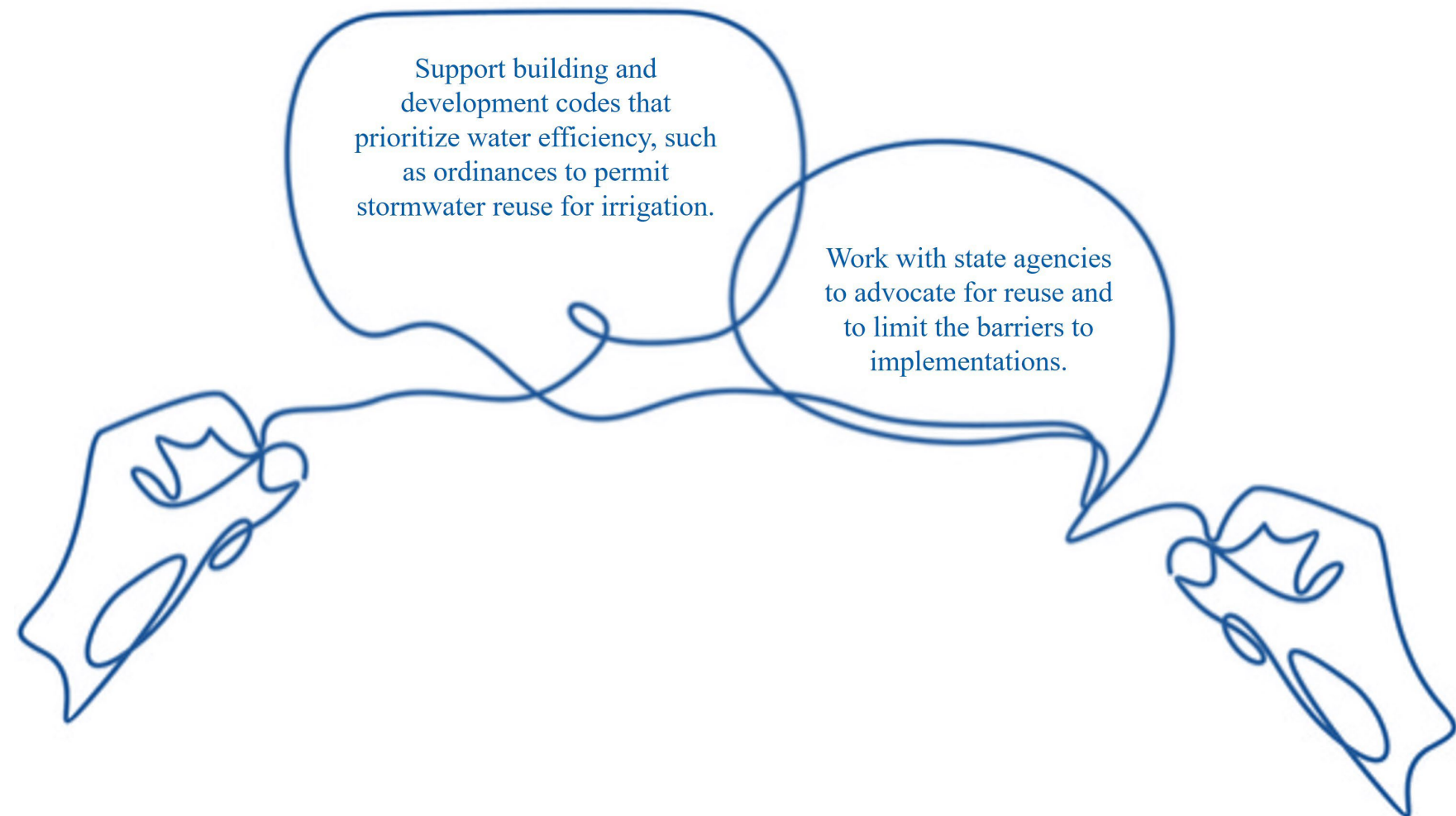
◆ = Priority focus area

* = Incorporated into multiple focus areas as an "implementation consideration"

Focus Areas 1/11

Water quantity

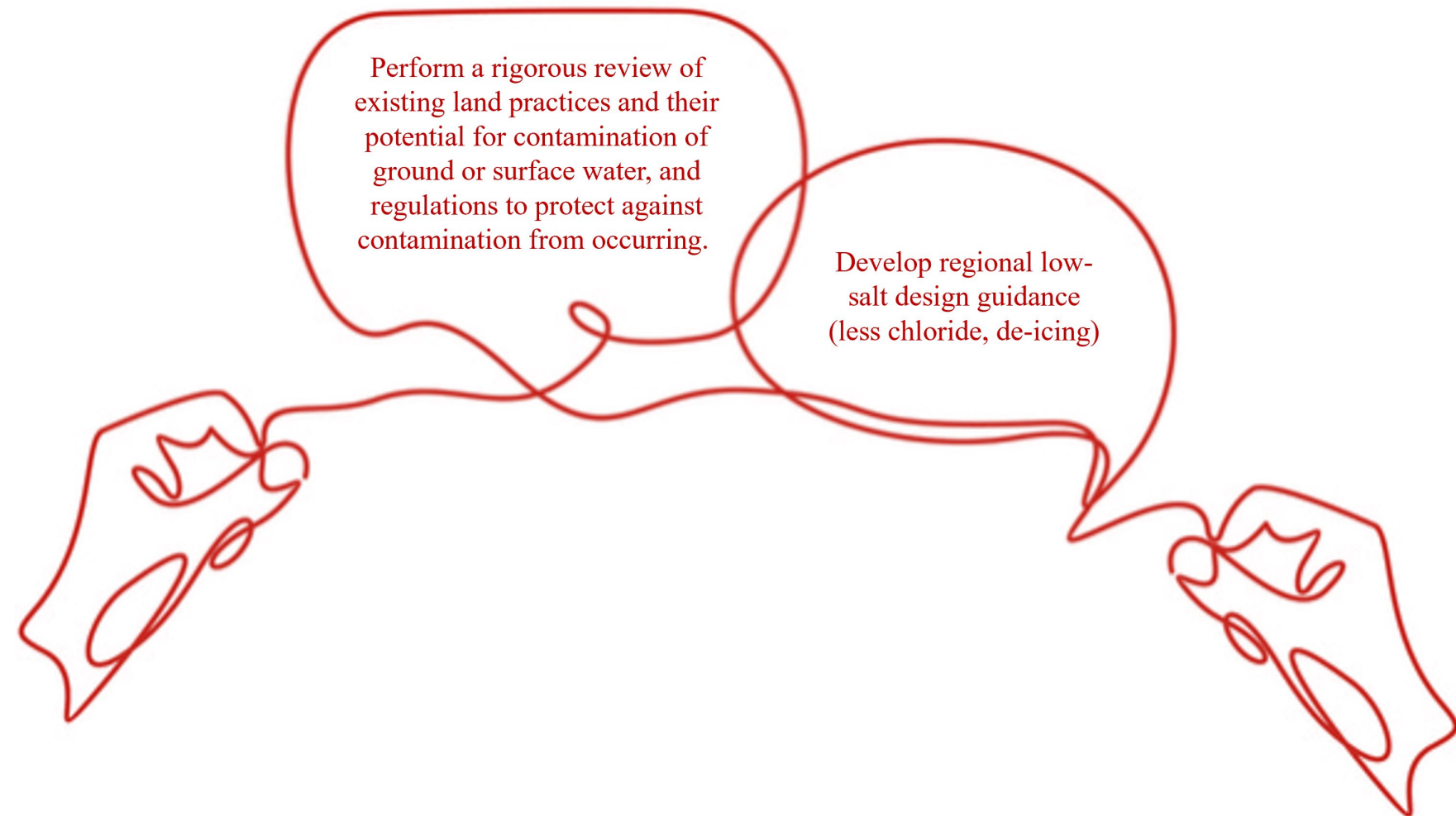
- Conservation and efficiency
- Water reuse
 - Stormwater
 - Gray Water
 - Wastewater
- Recharge
- Alternative sources
- Data



Focus Areas 2/11

Water quality

- CECs
- Chloride
- PFAS
- Agriculture
- Data needs
- Implications of new research and requirements
- Private well user support



Focus Areas 3/11

Coordination and Collaboration

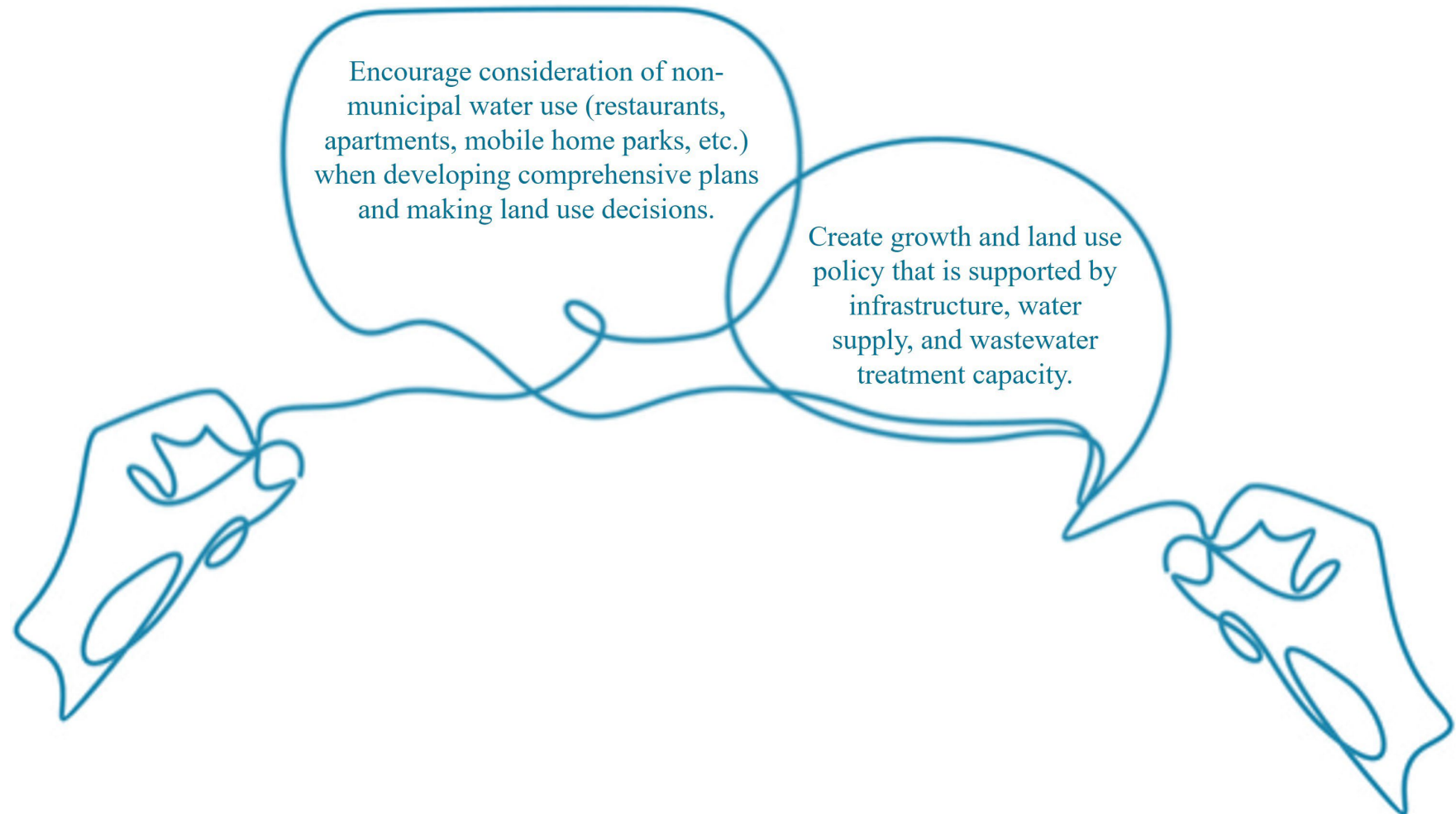
- Land use development and water supply
- Watershed and water supply
- Within and across State Agencies and Met Council
- Within and across cities
- Vertical coordination and collaboration



Focus Areas 4/11

Growth and Demand

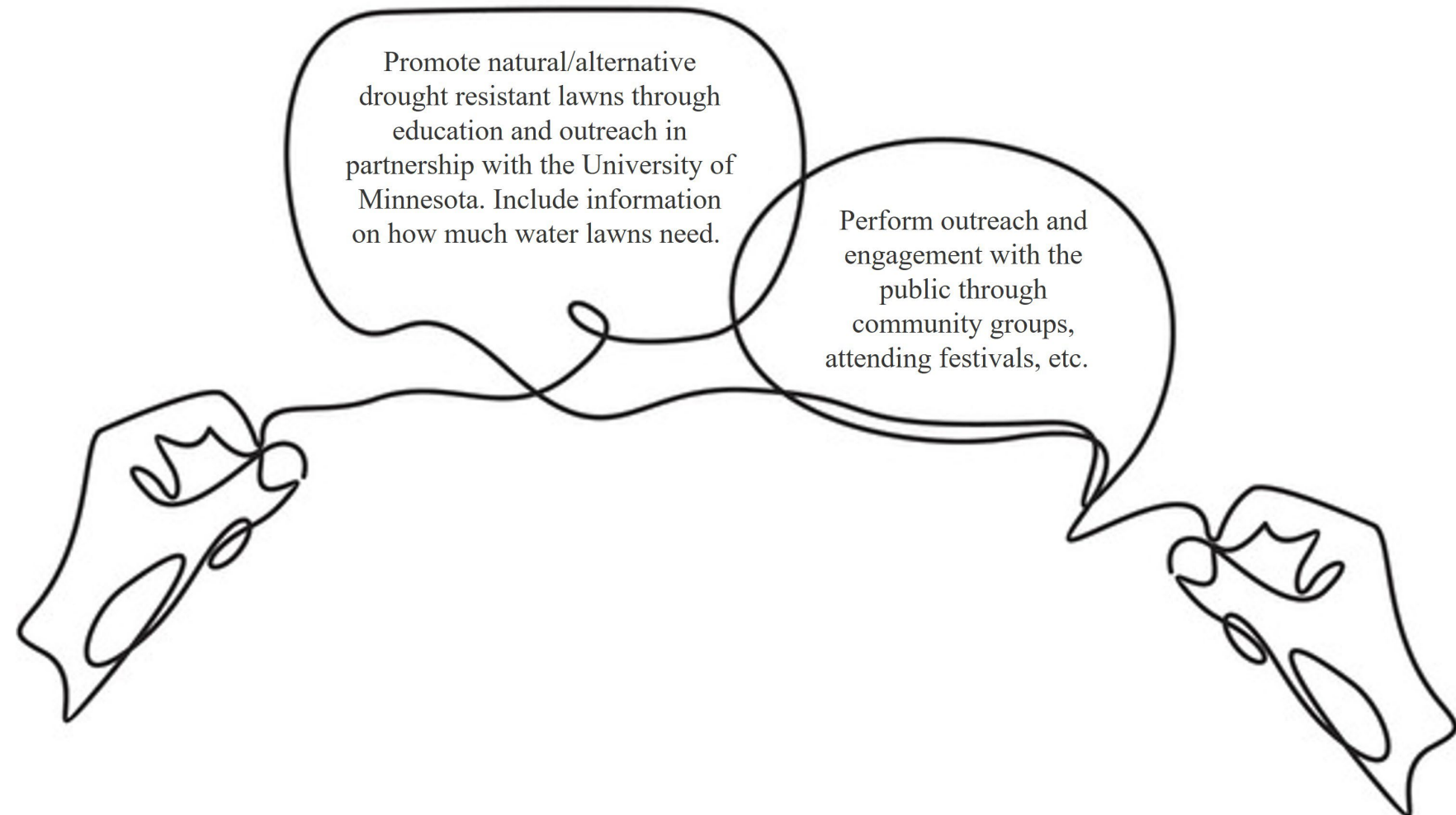
- Land use development and water supply
- Water availability
 - Quantity
 - Quality
 - Secondary/alternative supply



Focus Areas 5/11

Changing Behaviors and Social Norms

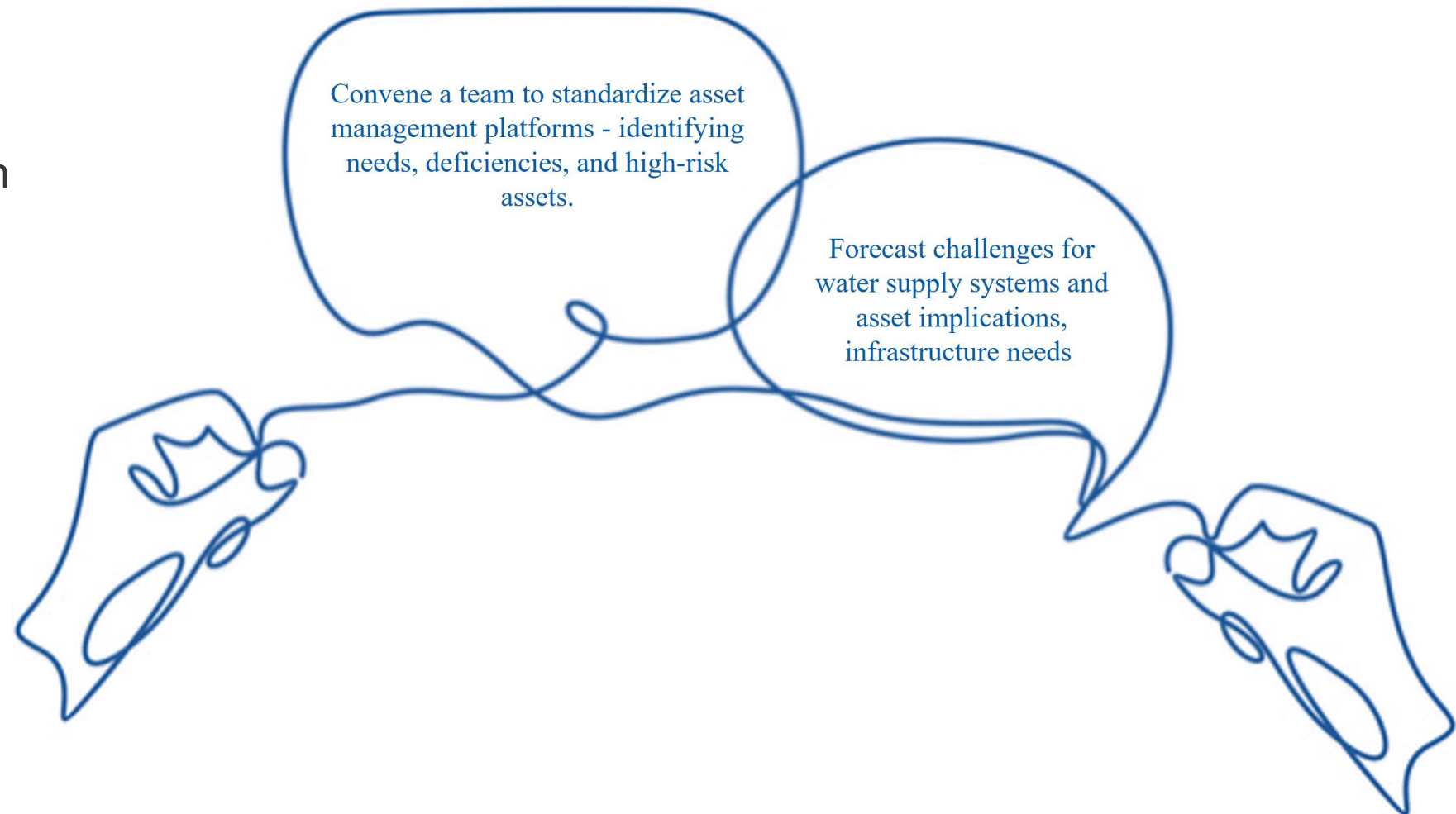
- Shared messaging for education and outreach
- Substantial increase in funding for effective engagement
- Demonstration projects and community leadership
- Relationship-based approaches



Focus Areas 6/11

Asset Management

- Database development and management
- Inventory
- Cross-department collaboration
- Planning
- Funding for maintenance, replacement



Focus Areas 7/11

Data and Tools

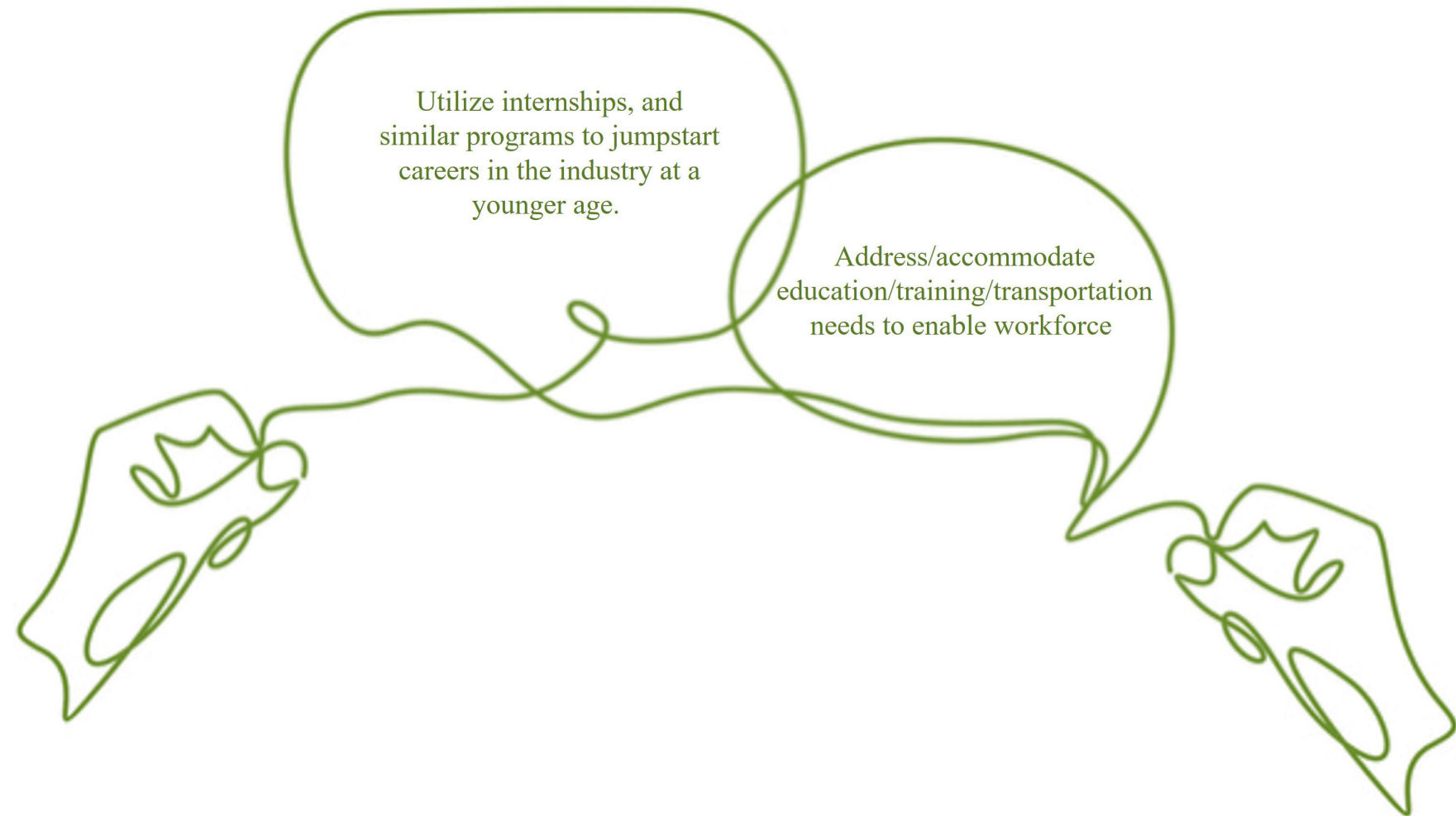
- Increasing access to technical tools and information to support informed decision making
- Providing technical assistance, especially to smaller communities



Focus Areas 8/11

Workforce

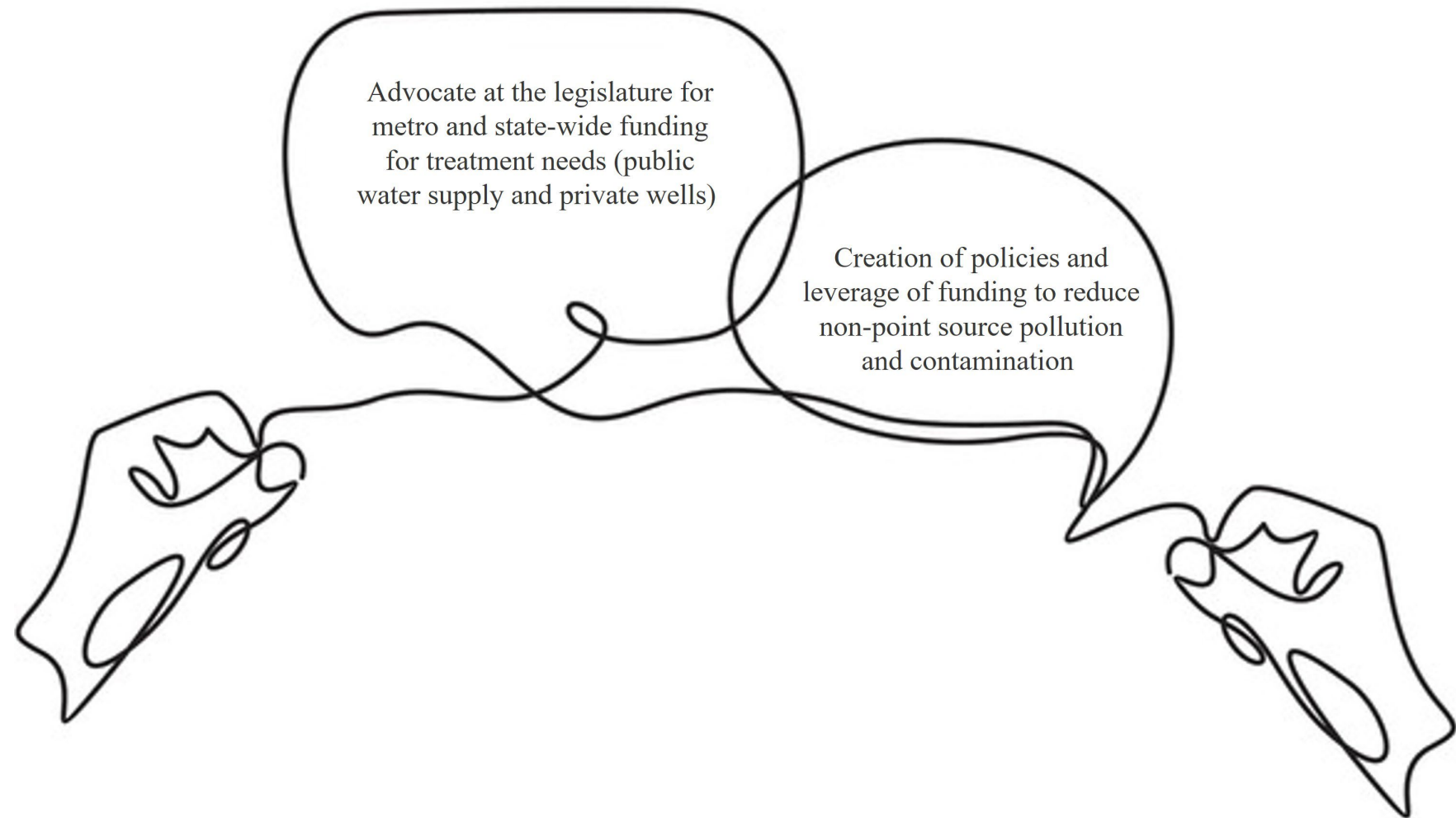
- Holding onto institutional knowledge through retirements
- Diversifying the workforce
- Creating pathways for newer workers
- Connecting with K-12 to increase interest in water workforce for the next generation



Focus Areas 9/11

Funding

- Infrastructure
 - Asset management
 - Treatment upgrades
 - NEW infrastructure
- Staffing
 - Sufficient number
 - Competitive wages
- Workload and programming
 - Education and outreach
 - Collaboration
 - Planning
- Private wells



Focus Areas 10/11

Climate Change

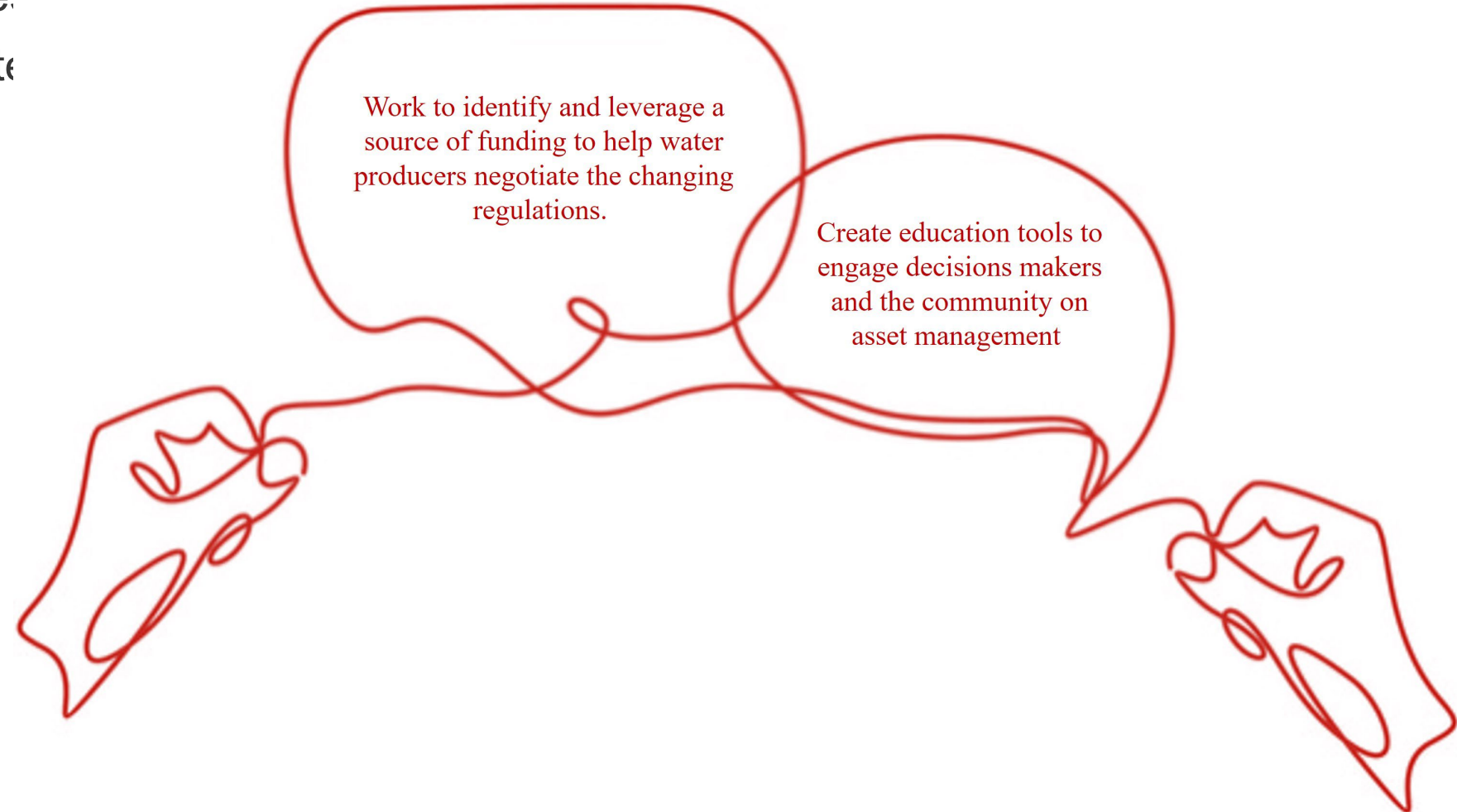
- Drought
- Flooding
- Elongated growing season



Focus Areas 11/11

Affordability

- Balancing affordability with rates
- Equity and access to clean water
- Supplemental funding to offset expectations/needs for rate revenue
- Grants
- Conservation rates



Doing the work 1/3

“Water Supply Planning” involves more than water suppliers

- Communities
 - Water suppliers/operators and city engineers
 - Land use planners and community development staff
- Met Council
- State agencies
- Counties
- Watershed districts and management organizations
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Federal
- Professional organizations
- Academics
- Farmers
- Water drinkers and other users—all of us

Doing the work 2/3

Asks of state agencies

- Research
 - Monitoring and analyses
 - Setting water quality standards
 - Data clearinghouse
- Technical assistance
- Financial assistance (private wells and septic, proactive vs. reactive funding)
- Governmental collaboration to strengthen protections for water supply (state and local)
- Lobbying and legislation (water quality standards, funding)
- Coordinating messaging
- Enforcement

Doing the work 3/3

Asks of Met Council

- Research
- Technical assistance
- Financial assistance
- Convening for governmental collaboration
 - Agencies
 - Subregions
 - Water supply and land use planning
- Lobbying
- Coordinating messaging (education, workforce)
- Demonstration

What people are saying

This sounds like us

It feels like we were listened to

Hopeful

Optimistic

Appreciated the diversity of perspectives

This is a step in the right direction

Learned a lot in every conversation

We need more opportunities like this

Inspired

Next steps

Before Joint MAWSAC/TAC meeting on May 15th, 2024

- **As an individual organization, review the subregional chapter action plans**, particularly actions related to your organization.
 - Confirm if your organization has a role and if the description is appropriate or needs change.
 - Identify other actions where your organization has a key role and what that role is.
- To follow MN Open Meeting Law, **please send your comments only to lanya.ross@metc.state.mn.us** and do not send them to other Committee members. Please do not discuss (either verbally, or by e-mail or text messaging) the content of these documents with other Committee members outside of a publicly noticed meeting where this subject is on the agenda.
 - Staff will summarize and share comments received by May 3rd at the May 15th meeting.
- **Staff will incorporate final recommendations from the ‘Three Plans’ effort into the draft MWSP.**
- **Staff will compile and share complete MWSP for review and discussion** with WPP writing team and with MAWSAC and TAC at May 15th meeting.

Thank you

Jen Kader

Senior Planner, Water Resources Policy and Planning

Lanya Ross

Environmental Analyst, Water Resources Policy and Planning

Maureen Hoffman

Senior Planner, Water Resources Policy and Planning

Greg Johnson

Principal Engineer, Water Resources Policy and Planning

Jen Kostrzewski

Assistant Manager, Water Resources Policy and Planning

