



Metro Area Water Supply Plan

Recap of the process to draft the plan



Metro Area Water Supply Policy and Technical Advisory Committees (MAWSAC & TAC) | October 23, 2024

Lanya Ross

Statutory requirements for metro area water supply planning



Minnesota Statute 473.1565

The Metropolitan Council must carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the metropolitan area

- A. Provide technical information
- B. Make recommendations about roles, streamlining, and funding
- C. Develop a metropolitan area water supply plan that:**
 - Provides guidance for local water supply systems and future regional investments
 - Emphasizes conservation, interjurisdictional cooperation, and long-term sustainability
 - Addresses the reliability, security, and cost-effectiveness of the metropolitan area water supply and its local and subregional components

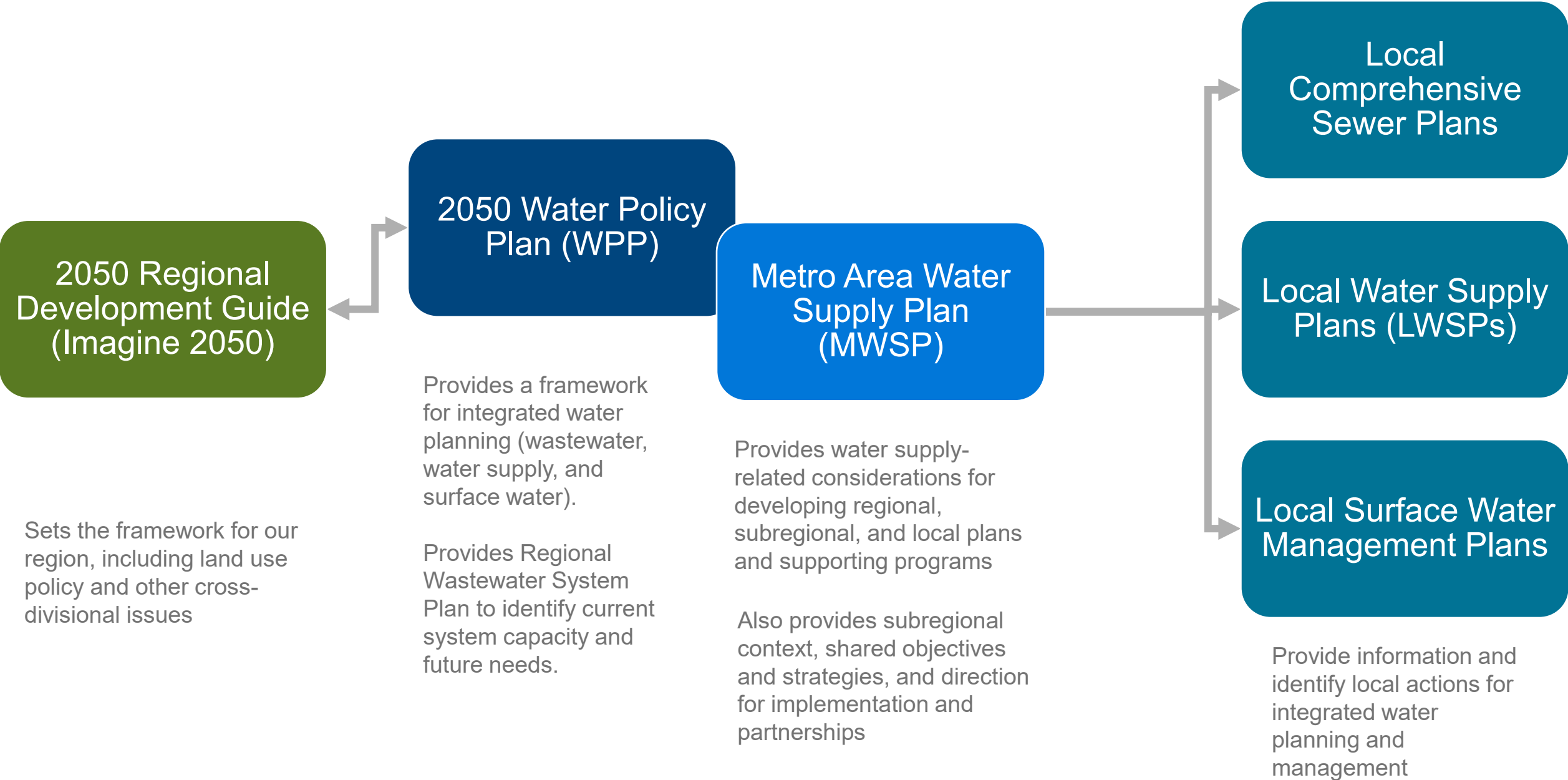
The plan must be prepared in cooperation with and subject to the approval of MAWSAC. TAC will inform MAWSAC.

The Council must consider the work and recommendations of MAWSAC when it prepares its regional development framework.

REGIONAL PLANNING CYCLE



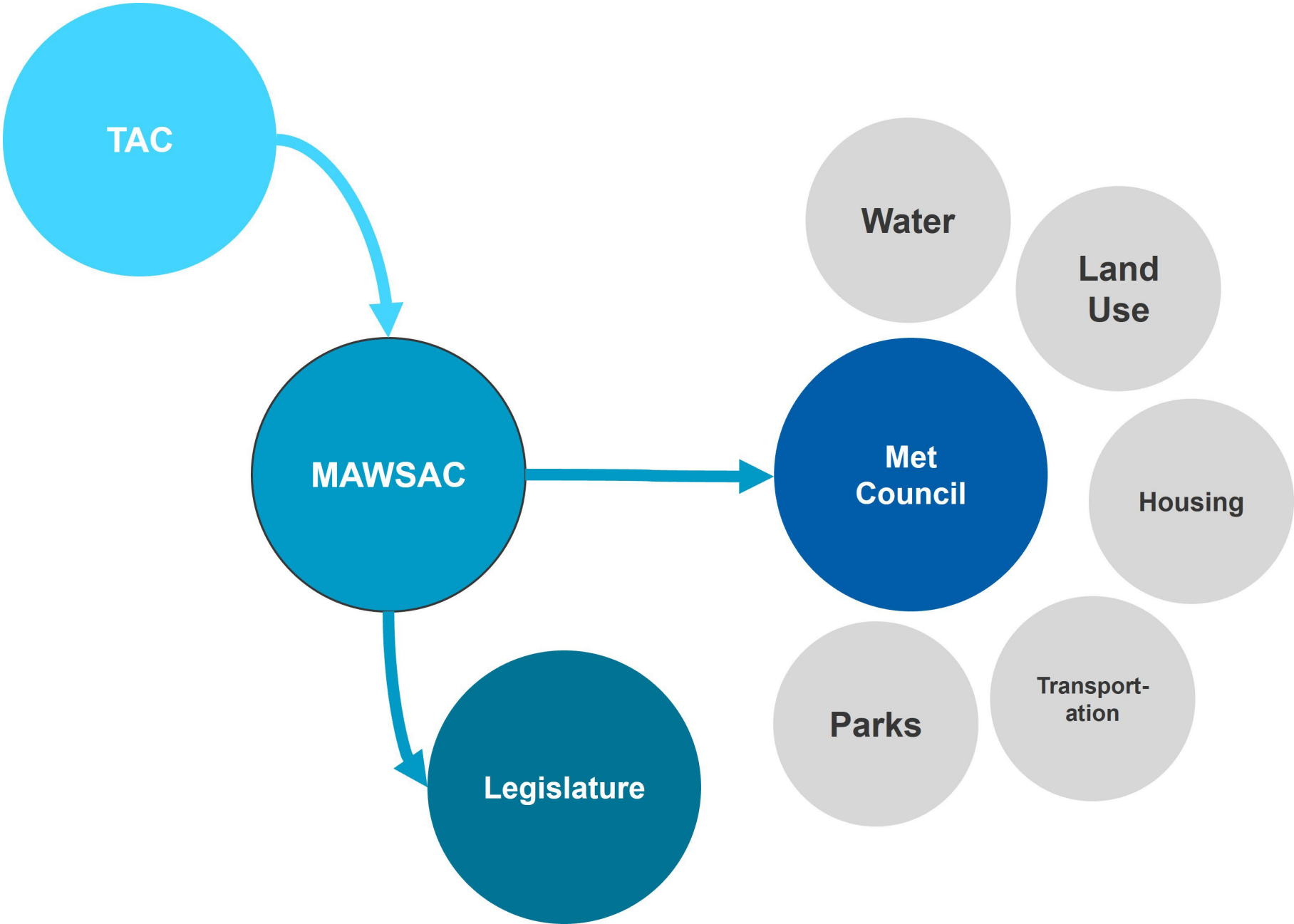
The Metro Area Water Supply Plan is connected to regional and local planning



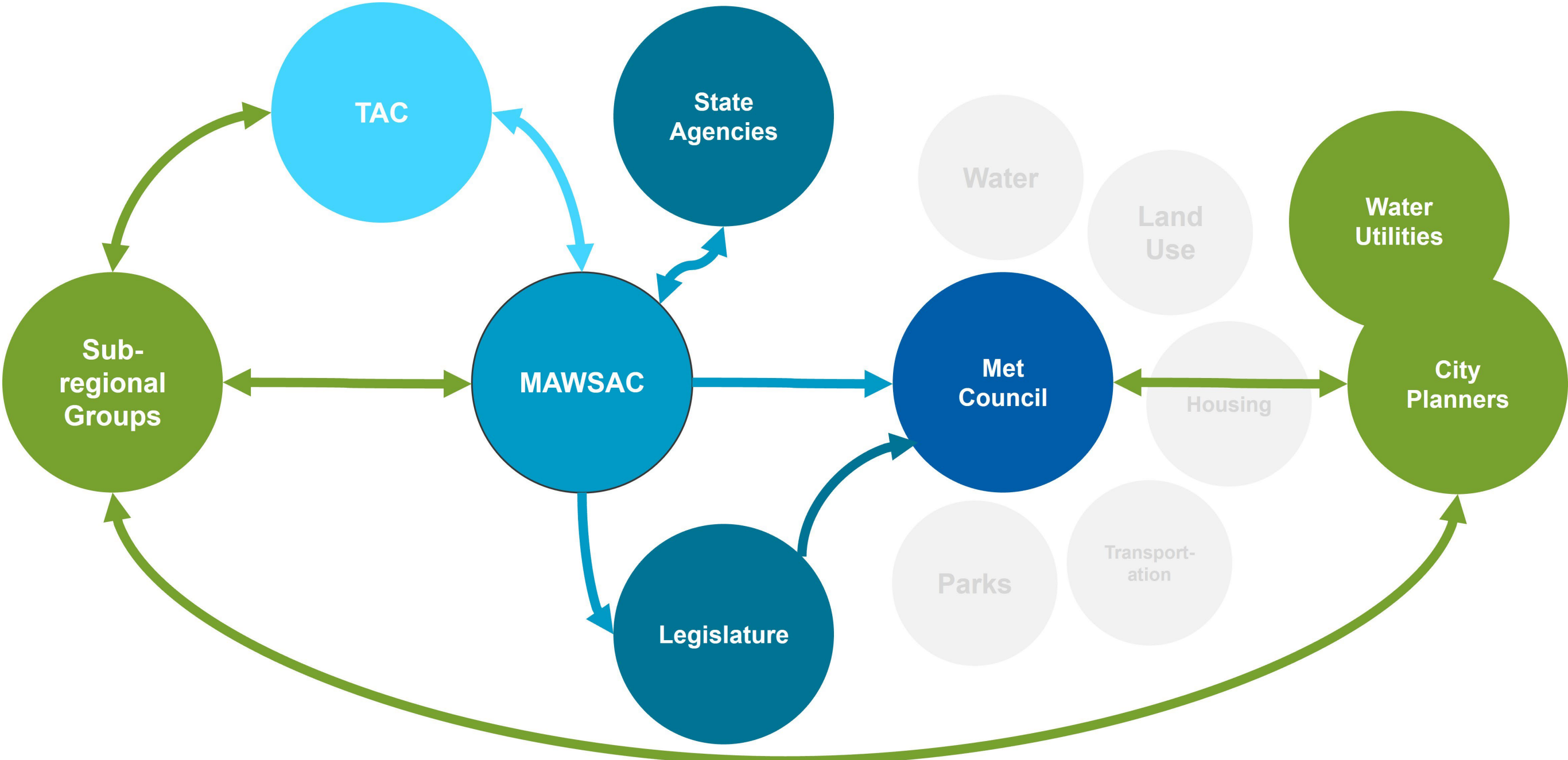
Key roles in regional water supply planning

Met Council <i>Plan for water supply</i>	MAWSAC <i>Assist the Council with water supply planning</i>	TAC <i>Inform MAWSAC (technical)</i>
Regional Development Guide Develops and approves the plan	Regional Development Guide Recommends water supply-related content (ex: vision, goals)	Regional Development Guide Recommends water supply-related content (ex: vision, goals)
Water Policy Plan Develops and approves the plan	Water Policy Plan Involved with the development of water supply-related content (policy focus)	Water Policy Plan Involved with the development of water supply-related content (technical focus)
Metro Area Water Supply Plan <u>Adopts</u> the plan and collaborates to support its implementation <i>The Council is NOT a water supplier or regulatory agency. We do not consider water supply a regional systemm.</i>	Metro Area Water Supply Plan <u>Approves</u> the plan and recommends Met Council adoption	Metro Area Water Supply Plan <u>Recommends</u> MAWSAC approve the plan

MAWSAC input shapes a wide range of state and local work



MAWSAC, with input from TAC, shapes a wide range of state and local work



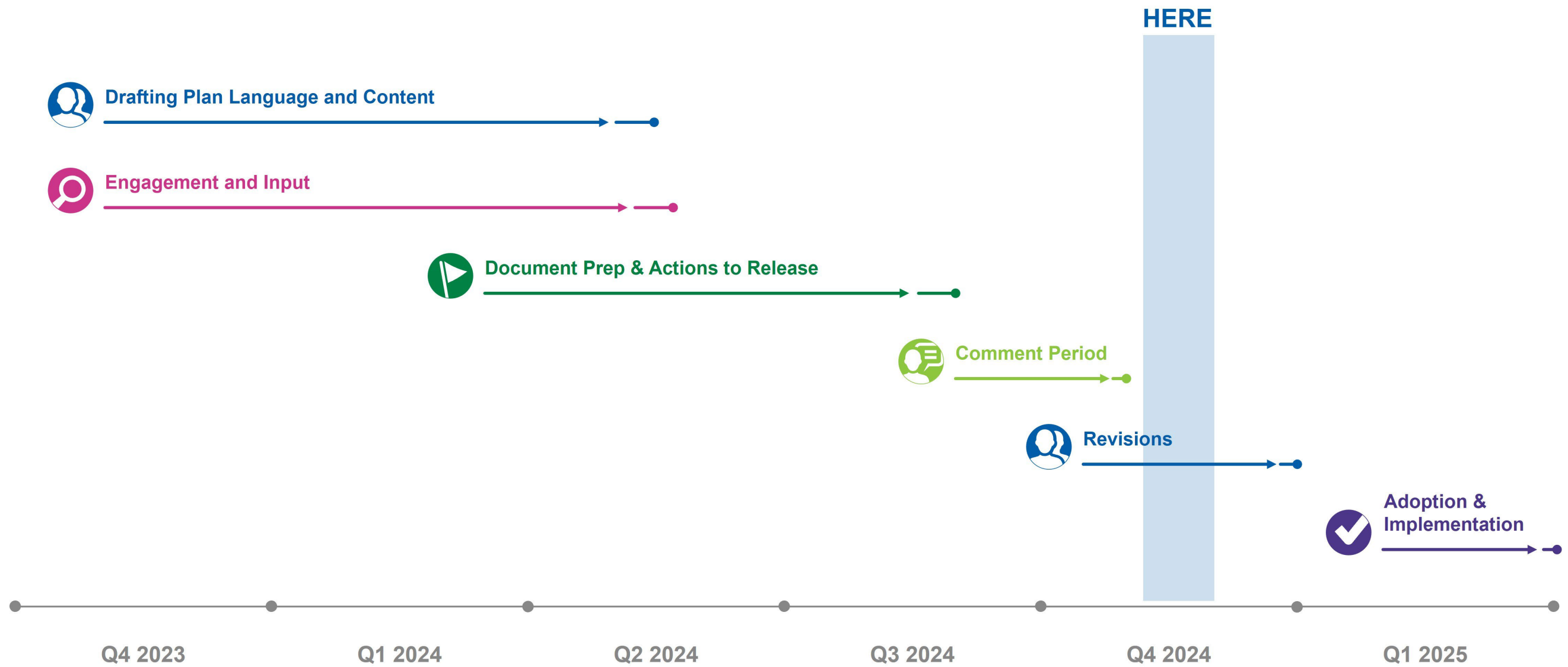
Recap: Process to update the Metro Area Water Supply Plan



Key milestones

- 2020** – Met Council report on 2005-2020 regional water supply planning activities to MN Legislature
- 2021** – MAWSAC and TAC provide initial input on priority issues
- 2022** – MAWSAC and TAC report on water supply planning recommendations to Met Council and MN Legislature
- 2023** – Subregional engagement approach established, and policy drafted based on research papers
- 2024** – Completed subregional engagement and finalized policy for public comment period
- 2025** – Planned Council adoption of MAWSAC-approved Metro Area Water Supply Plan, with Imagine 2050

Timeline for 2050 Water Policy Plan, including Metro Area Water Supply Plan



2022 MAWSAC recommendations

Summary, full report, and other committee work on MAWSAC's webpage:

<https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Water-Supply-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
WATER SUPPLY PLANNING IN THE METRO AREA



METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY, 2022

Subregional input to water supply planning



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

Context and current conditions

Definition of success

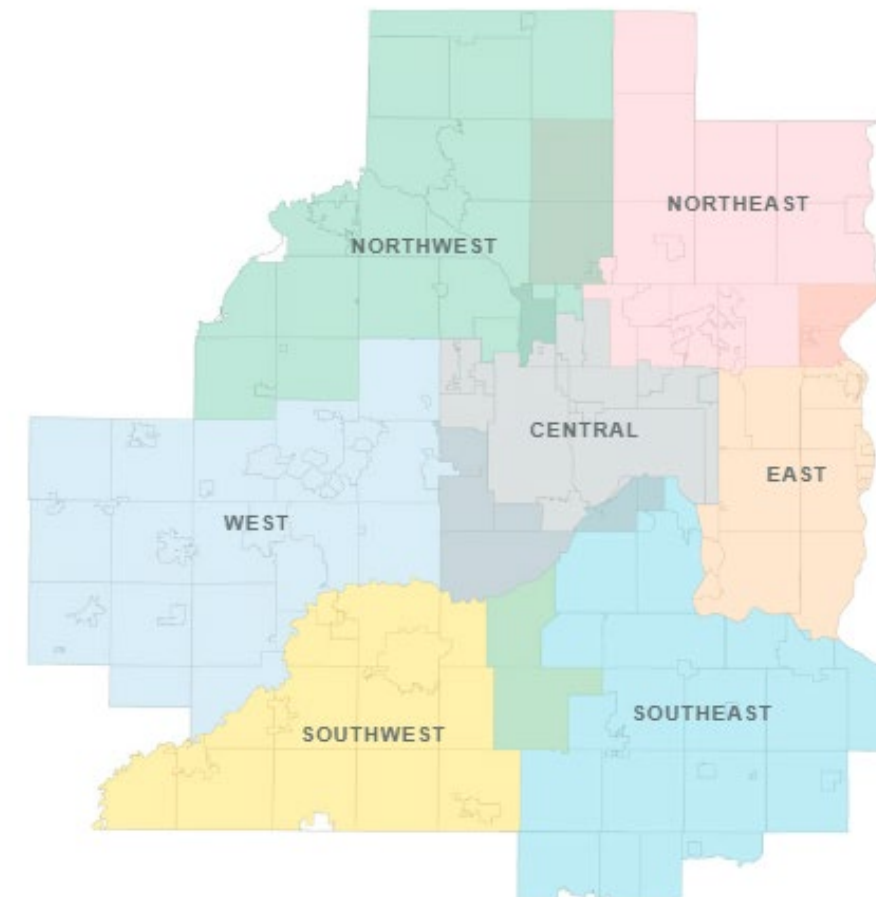
Issues and barriers

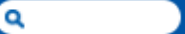
Strategies to address them

- Practices
- Policies
- Partnerships

Timeline/sequencing

Resources needed to sustain effort towards success over time





Water Supply Planning Atlas



<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Basics/Atlas.aspx>

WASTEWATER & WATER	+
Planning	+
Water Supply Planning	+
Water Supply Basics	-
> Metropolitan Region Water Supply Planning Atlas	
Water Cycle	
Regional Groundwater and Aquifers	
Surface Water	
Source Water Protection	

METROPOLITAN REGION WATER SUPPLY PLANNING ATLAS

Our water supply planning atlas is intended to facilitate sustainable water planning and policy discussions and serve as an outreach and education tool.

Regional water supply

While water supplies are **managed locally by communities**, the region's shared water sources do not follow political or property boundaries. One community's water supply challenges influence neighboring communities and the region.

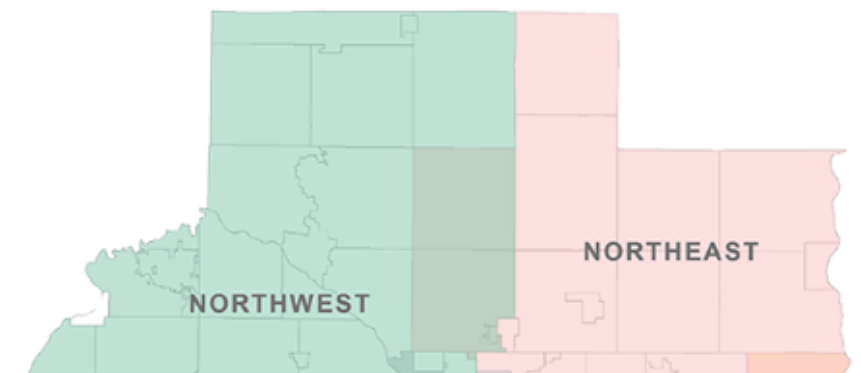
By building a shared understanding of regional water supply challenges and identifying collaborative approaches that address water source and supply system sustainability, the Met Council and local communities can ensure that the water supply needs of current and future generations are met.

Atlas supports water supply planning

The atlas compiles water supply data and information for the region. It also organizes information by subregions — groups of neighboring communities connected by a combination of shared water challenges, hydrogeologic landscapes, and organically developed community water supply planning groups from previous planning cycles.

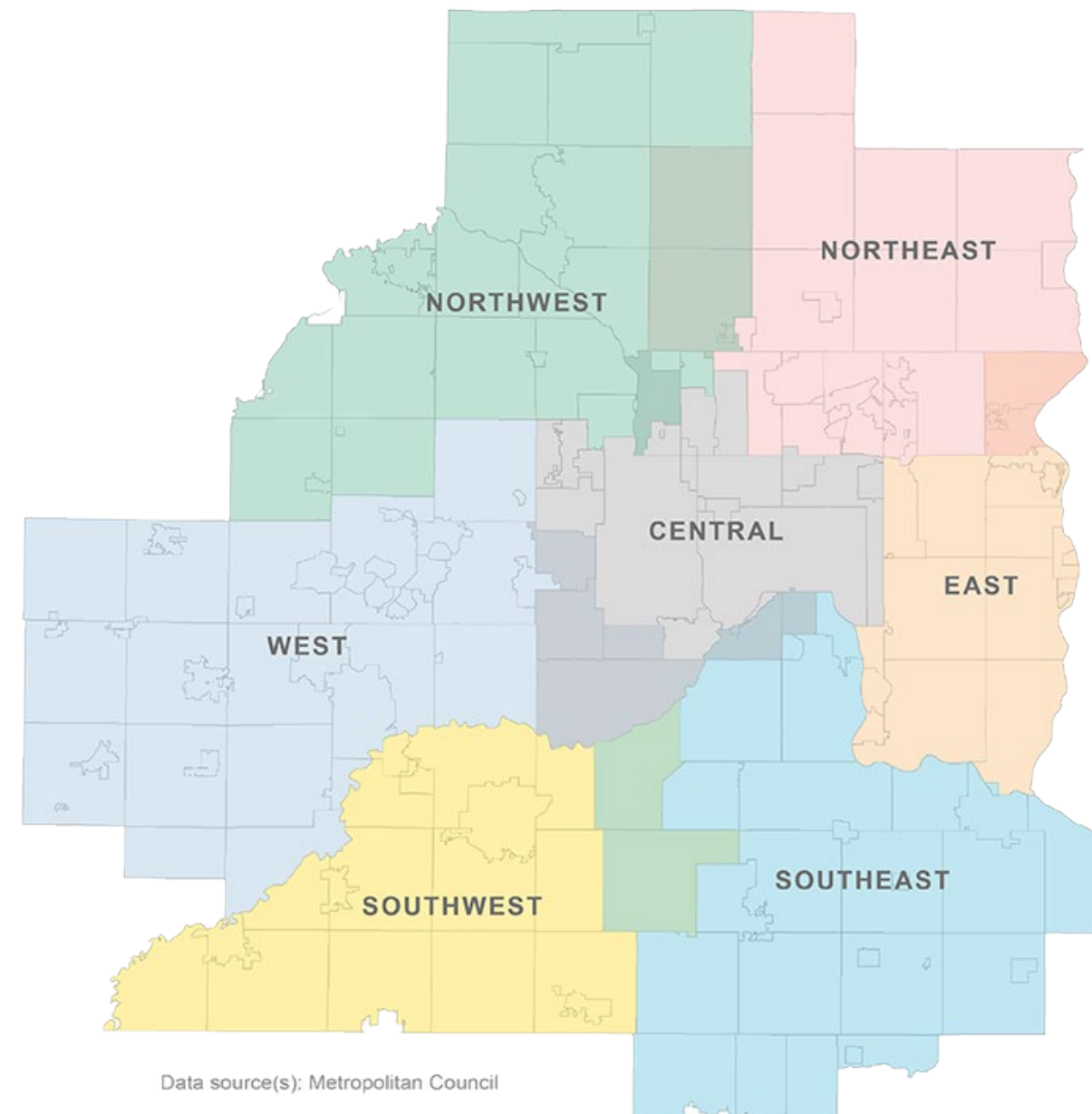
View the full [Water Supply Planning Atlas for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area \(PDF, 123 MB\)](#).

Each subregional atlas contains the regional overview information. The description for each region is in the list below.



Who contributed ideas to subregional chapters?

- 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



Shared interests across subregions

DIFFERENCES BY SUBREGION

"THE WATER RESOURCES ARE THE DIFFERENCE - LEADS TO LOCAL NEEDS/PRIORITIES"

SUBREG. APPROACH + CONVENING TO GETHER STROUB, SUPPORTABLE

Examples of region-wide topics of interest

- Advancing water reuse
- Supporting consistent messaging and education
- Providing technical assistance
- Enhancing workforce development
- Addressing areas with increasing demand
- Leveraging multi-jurisdictional opportunities
- Continuing subregional engagement
- And more!

Summary of subregional engagement shared at [April 9, 2024 MAWSAC meeting \(link to summary report\)](#)

Metro Area Water Supply Plan draft content



Link to draft released for public review

<https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Metropolitan-Council/2024/08-14-2024/2024-192-JT-Item-5.aspx#page=77>

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Thank You

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