

# Subregional Planning Approach

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Plan



## Background

The Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area is home to three million people, over half of Minnesota's population. Securing safe and plentiful water – while protecting the region's diverse water resources – requires coordinated, interdisciplinary, and ongoing effort.

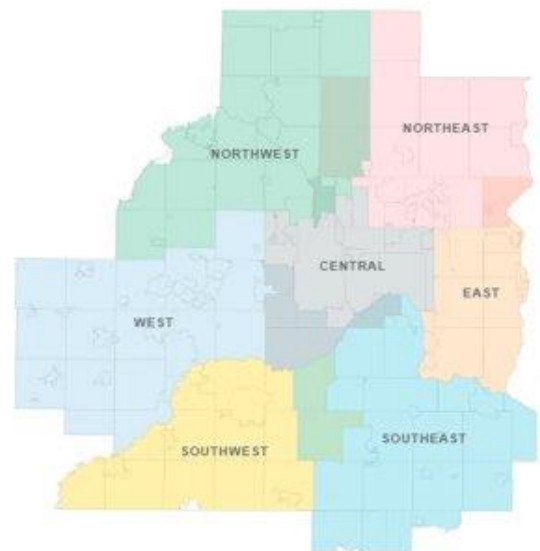
Even though the region is relatively water-rich, communities face a range of challenges as they work to meet current and future water demand. While it is the responsibility and authority of local water suppliers to provide water, a regional perspective is also important, because the effects of local water supply decisions do not stop at community boundaries. Yet, effective action is too big for any one community to achieve alone, and one community's actions impact others. With the region expecting to grow by over 600,000 people by 2050, coordination will continue to be important.

During the last round of regional planning, the Council heard from several stakeholders that one size does not fit all, and the Metro Water Supply Plan should reflect that. Political jurisdictions do not align with the water supply context and communities do not exist in vacuums. Since then, there has been continued and growing interest from communities to plan at the subregional level to account for each subregion's distinctiveness. This more nuanced information would also then round out the description of issues and opportunities common across the region.

## Proposed Approach to Subregional Engagement

Using the subregions proposed in the Water Supply Atlas, the region will be divided into seven subregions, as shown to the right. In each, water resources staff will work with local partners to establish a core team to champion and steward the following process in the coming months:

- Core Team kick off (July-August)
  - o Approach tailoring
  - o Participant identification
- Subregional engagements (August-November) to arrive at clear, shared understandings of the following:
  - o Context and current conditions
  - o Definition of success
  - o Issues and barriers
  - o Strategies to address them
  - o Timeline and sequencing
  - o Resources needed to be successful
- Plan writing and feedback (December-February)



## Anticipated Outcomes

The input received through this process will define the content in the subregion-specific chapters in the next Metro Area Water Supply Plan. Additionally, it is recognized that the interest in subregional engagement extends beyond the creation of the next Regional Development Guide, and participants will be asked to shape what continued engagement, if any, looks like.

**Questions?** Contact Jen Kader, Senior Planner in Water Resources. [Jen.kader@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Jen.kader@metc.state.mn.us), 651.602.1114

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