



# Water Supply Planning Subregional Workshop

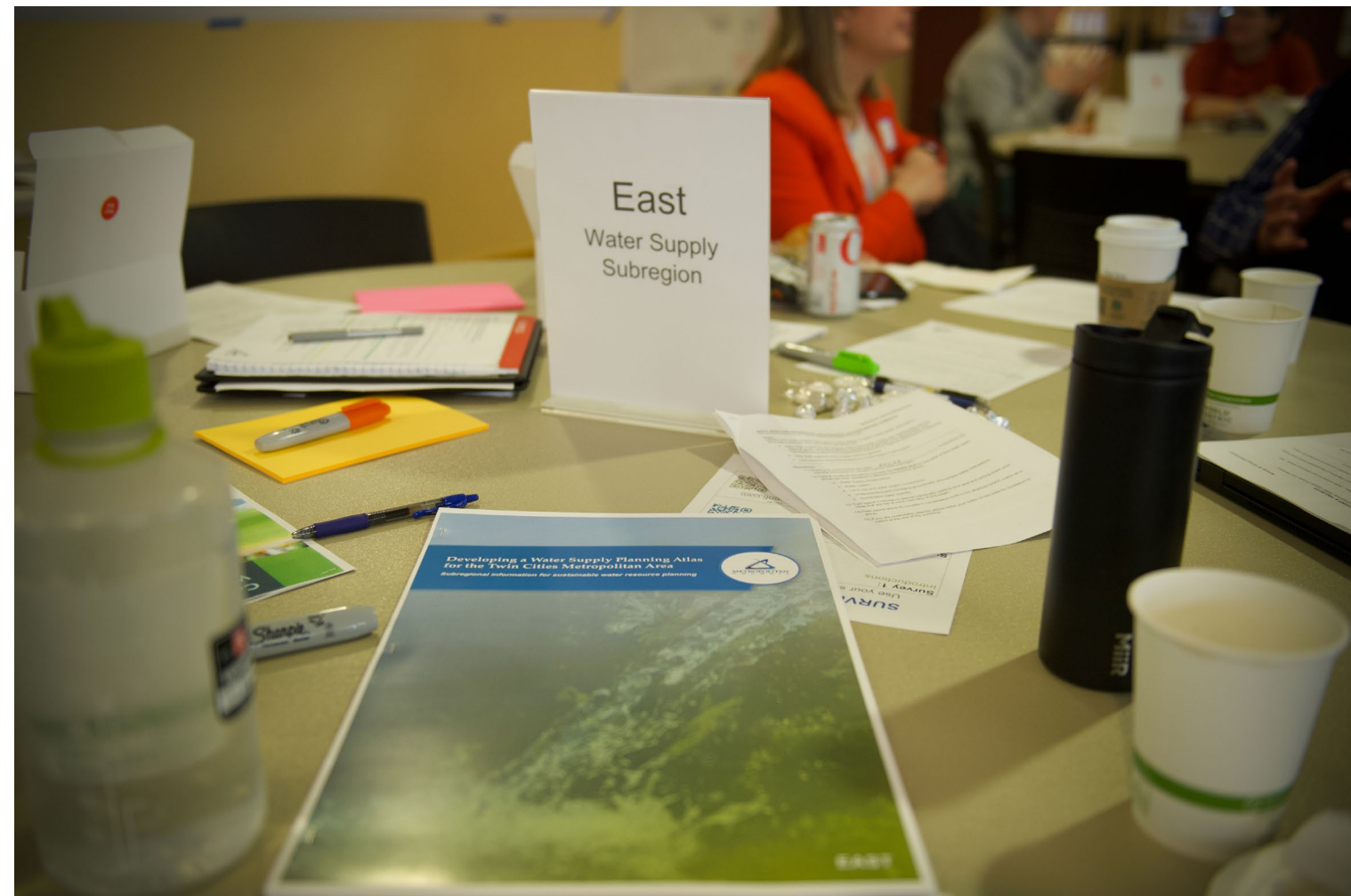


February 29, 2024

# Workshop overview

## Flow of the day

- Welcome
- Regional planning context and Subregional Engagement outcomes
- Workshop session 1: Topic tables for multi-subregion discussion
- Lunch (with UMN turf grass exhibit)
- Workshop session 2: Subregion meetings to revise draft input
- Break
- Workshop session 3: Feedback for other planning efforts
- Next steps



# Workshop overview



## Expectations and principles

- Be present
- Speak up, contribute your thoughts and ideas
- Make space for others to contribute their thoughts as well
- Work towards shared understanding
- We don't need to get to perfection or completion in the conversation today
- Take care of yourself!

# Regional Planning Context

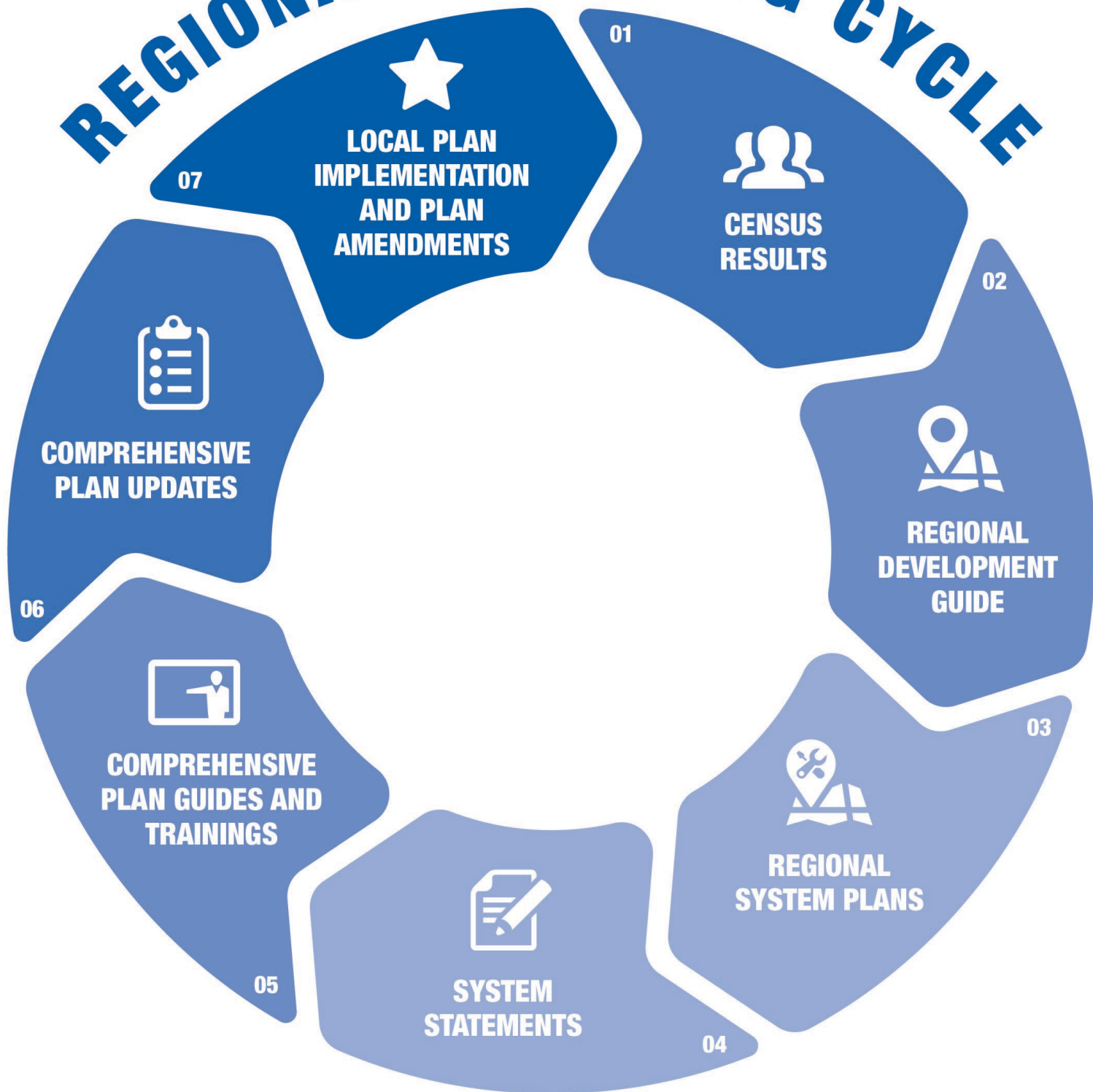
MCES Water Policy and Planning Team

February 29, 2024



**IMAGINE<sup>20</sup><sub>50</sub>**

# REGIONAL PLANNING CYCLE



# ADD REGIONAL PLAN ELEMENTS

## 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

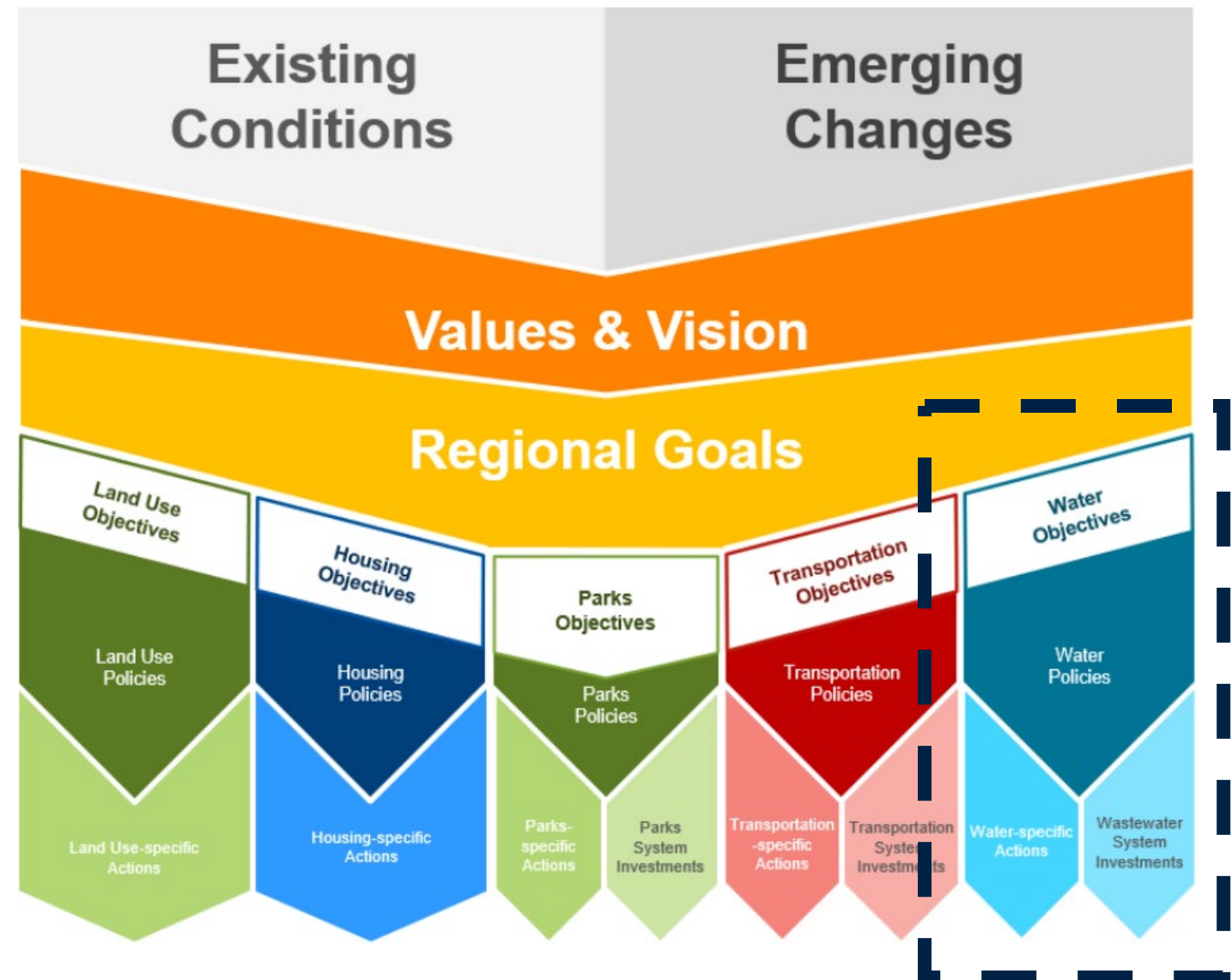
Achievable results that advance regional goals through areas of Council responsibility

## 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





# 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

**MCES Water Policy and Planning Team**

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# Purpose of this effort

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

Context and current conditions

Definition of success

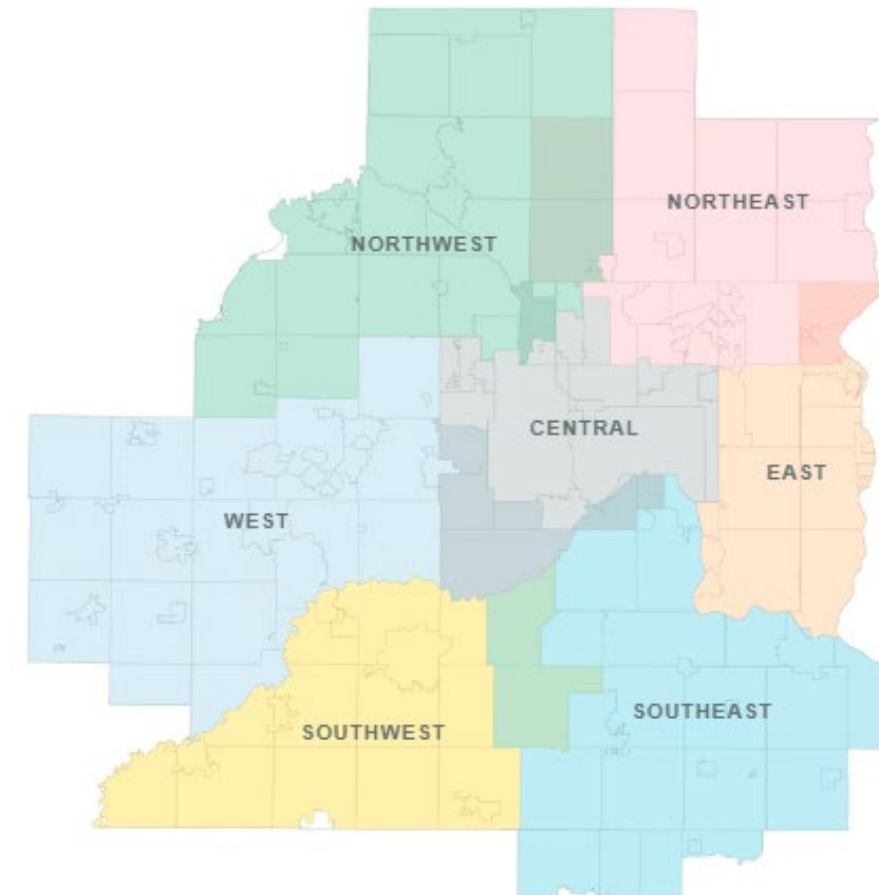
Issues and barriers

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."*



- **Subregional** content and recommendations
- **Regional** recommendations

Metro Area Water Supply Plan



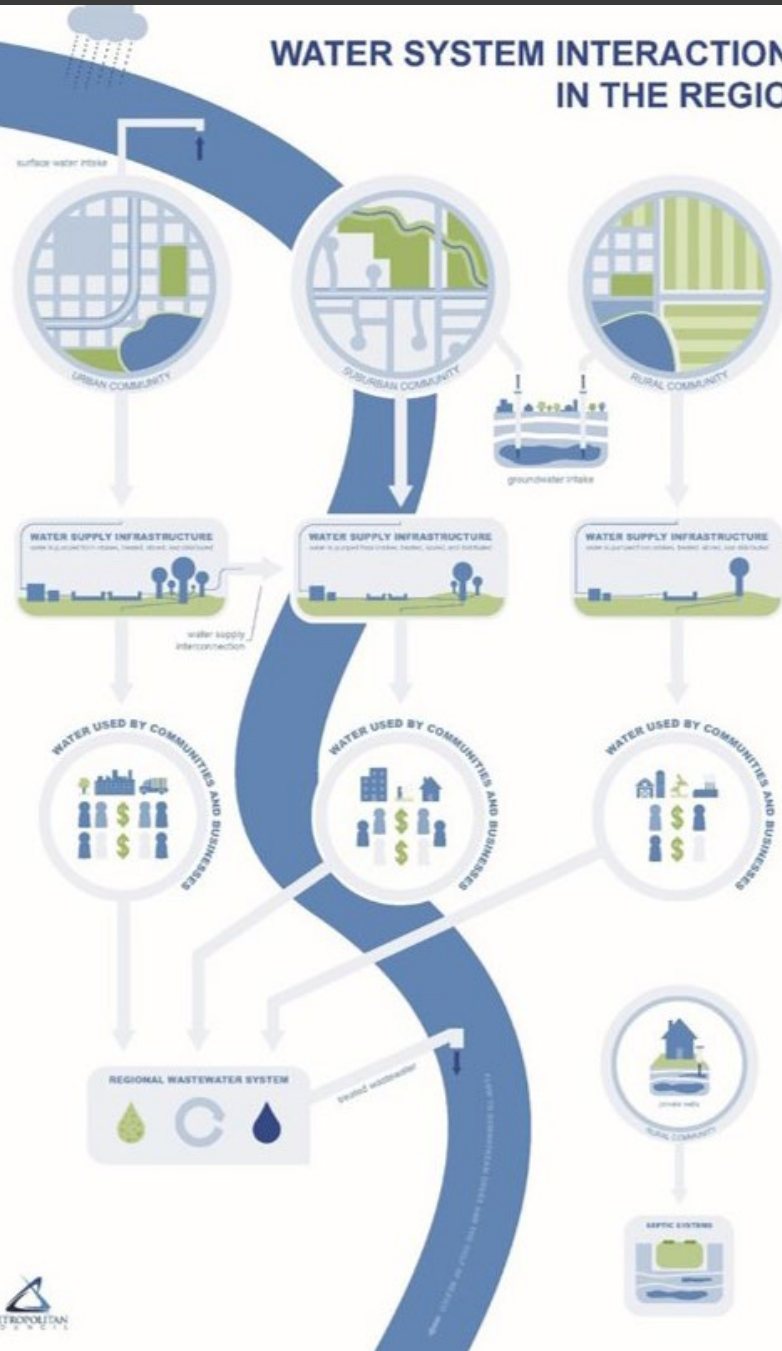
Water Policy Plan



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

# Purpose of this effort

## WATER SYSTEM INTERACTIONS IN THE REGION



## 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 is in the room?

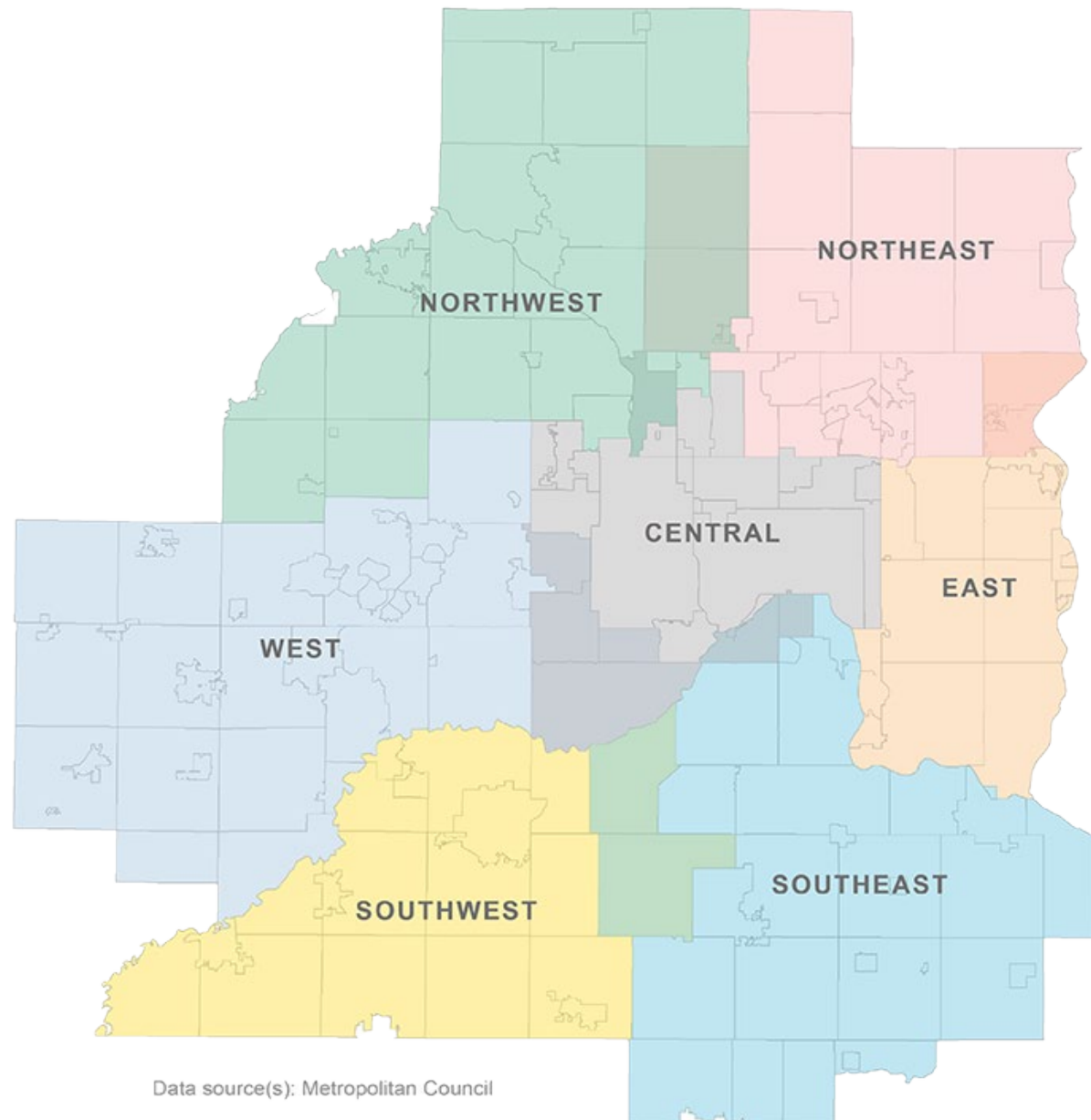
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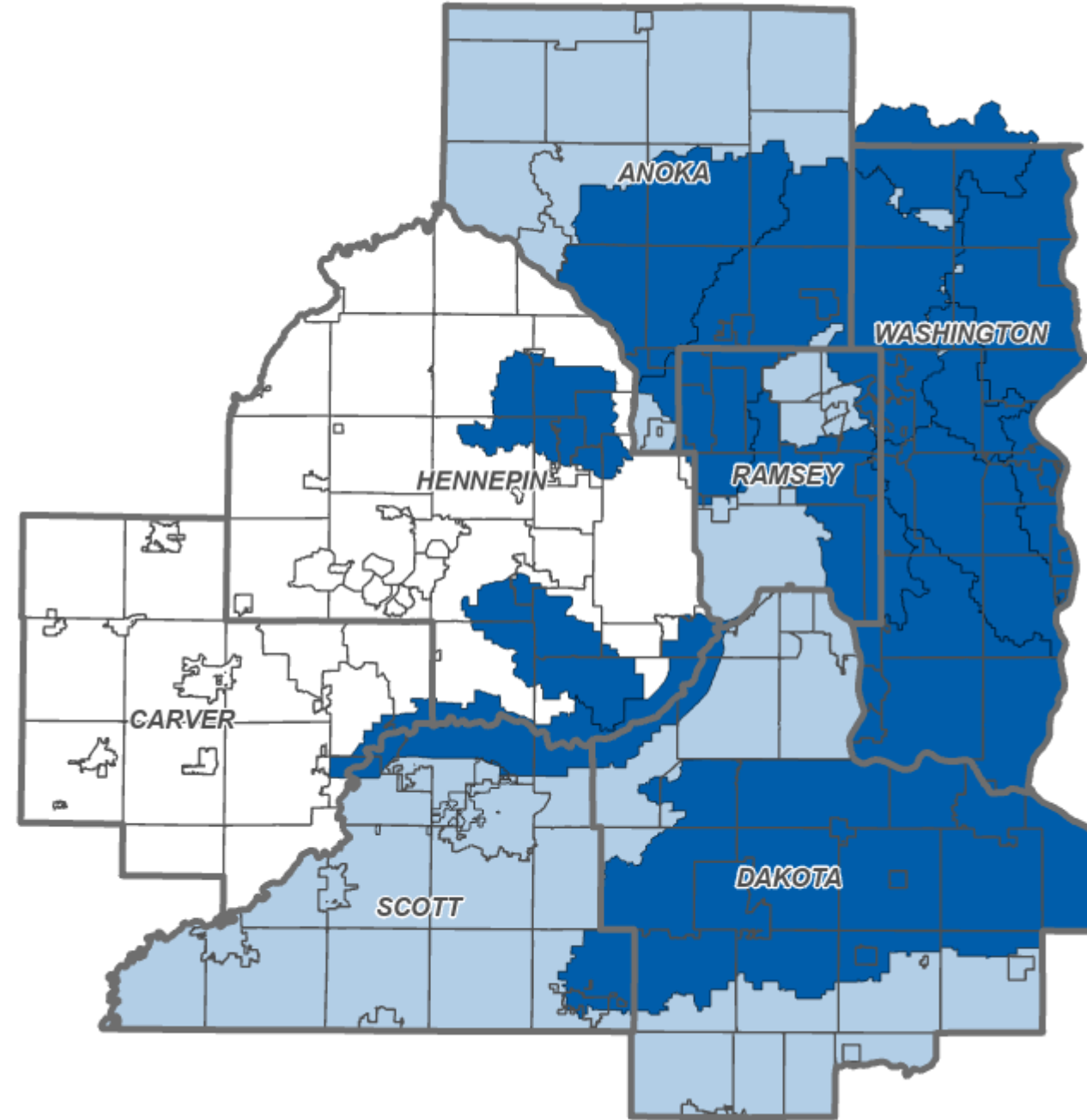
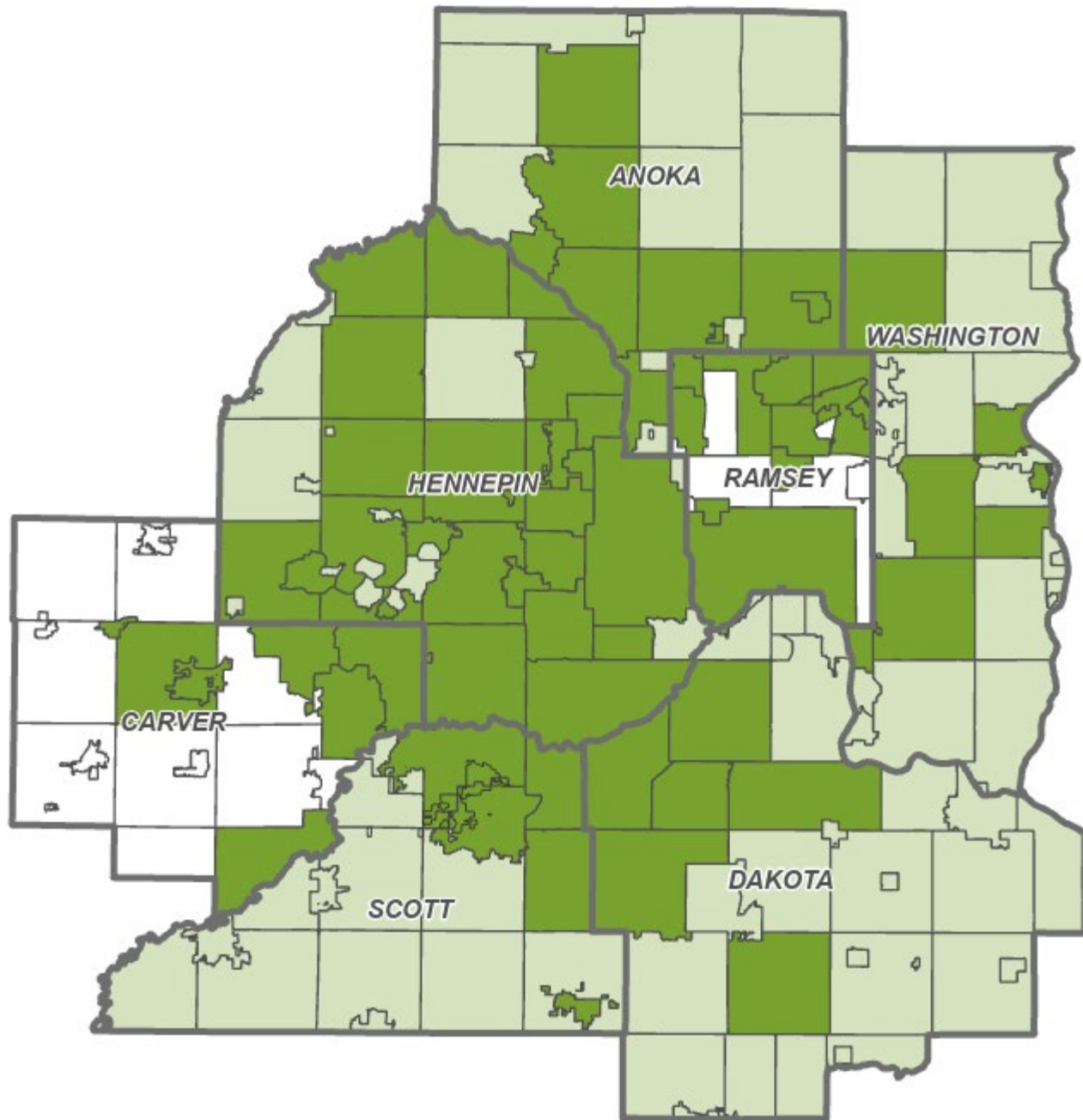


# Who contributed ideas?

- Overall around 150 people participated
- 23 engagements over 7 months
- 72 cities and townships represented
- 41 non-community organizations represented:
  - 10 watershed organizations
  - 8 county and county soil water conservation districts
  - 5 state agencies
  - 4 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?



# 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	*						◆



# Focus Areas

## Water quantity

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

# Focus Areas

## Water quality

- CECs
- Chloride
- PFAS
- Agriculture
- Data needs
- Implications of new research and requirements

# Focus Areas

## 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

## Growth and Demand

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

# Focus Areas

## 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

## Asset Management

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

# Focus Areas

## Data and Tools

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

# Focus Areas

## 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

## 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

## Climate Change

- Drought
- Flooding
- Elongated growing season

# Focus Areas

## Affordability

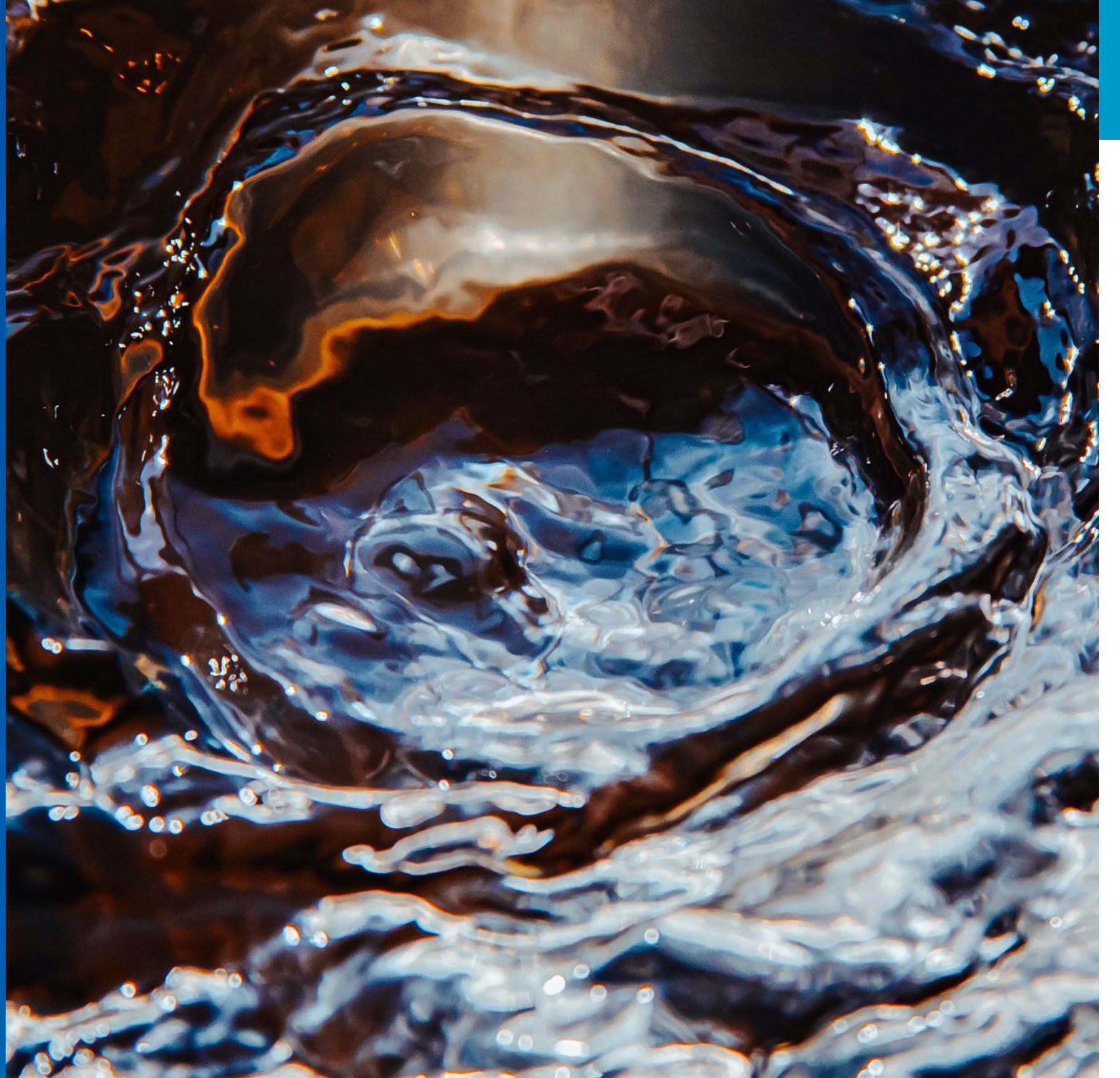
- Balancing affordability with rates
- Equity and access to clean water
- Supplemental funding to offset expectations/needs for rate revenue
- Grants
- Conservation rates

# Doing the work

## “Water Supply Plan” 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—all of us

# Our work today



# Our work today



Workshop Session 1: Focus area discussions across subregions

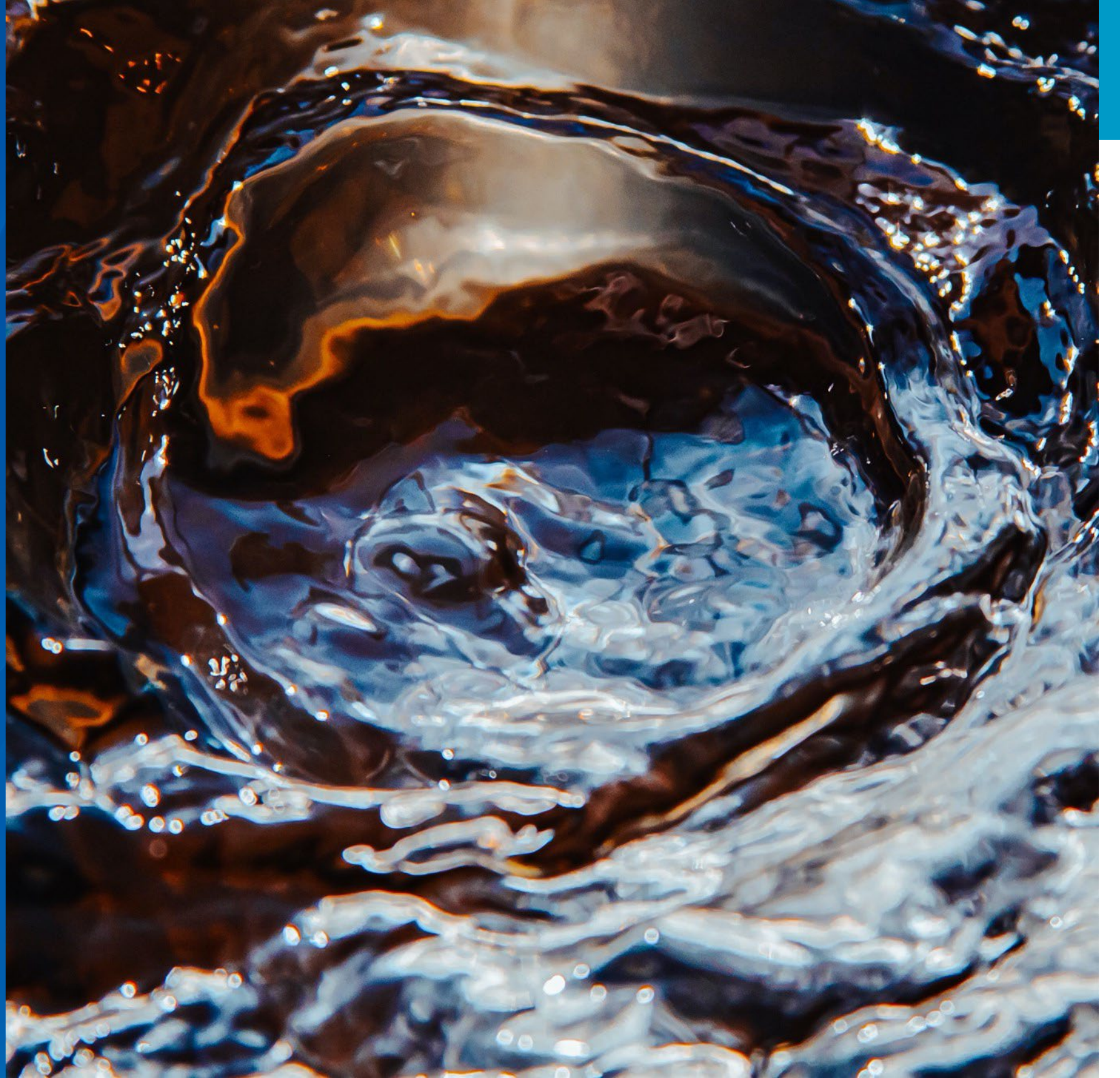


Workshop Session 2: Subregions meeting to revise and add to draft input



Workshop Session 3: Water Policy Plan feedback, and poll regarding possible changes for how various water supply plans are coordinated

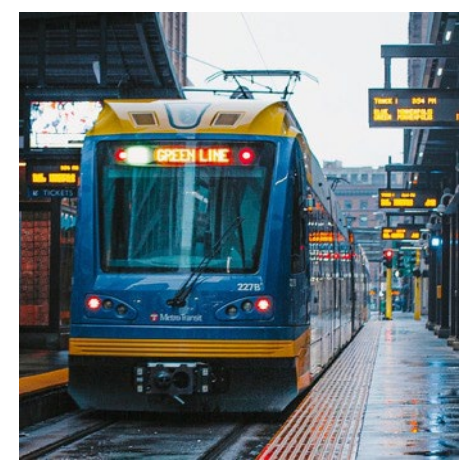
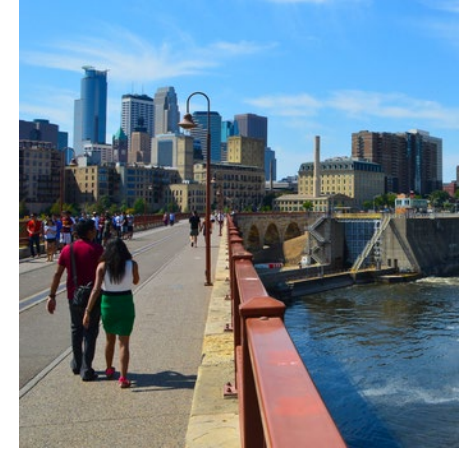
# Water Policy Plan



# Water Policy Plan (WPP)

## Plan Purpose

- Met Council is developing the 2050 Water Policy Plan, which **focuses on ensuring sustainable water resources in the region**. It is a part of and informed by the Regional Development Guide.
- The WPP provides a **framework for integrative water planning** (wastewater, water supply, and water resources) the Metro Area Water Supply Plan, and the Wastewater System Plan.
- It contains water **policies, strategies, and actions** for both the Met Council and our 180+ local governments within the seven-county region.
- WPP policies **will commit the Council** to take action in the areas of long-range visioning and planning, regional system investments, facility management, technical assistance, research and assessment, and partnerships.





# Regional Values, Vision, Goals

## Values

Values are core beliefs or principals that guide the work of the Council, our expectations of partnerships, and our policy and program development.

## Vision

Our vision is what we want to achieve for the region through our policies, practices, programs, and partnerships.

## Goals

Our goals broadly describe the desired outcomes that we want to achieve for the region.

### Cross-Cutting Goals

Goals that require special collaboration across policy and work areas.



# Regional Values (1)



## Equity

We value the people and communities of our region. Our region is economically and culturally vibrant. We also recognize, however, the harm and disparities that injustices, including racism, have created.

We are dedicated to creating systems, policies, and programs that repair and heal past harm, foster an equitable future, and eliminate disparities. Communities that have been marginalized in the past will be at the center of this work in leadership roles.



## Leadership

We value those in our region who inspire and motivate others for positive change. Our region is known for its civic engagement. We need broad and inclusive leadership to help confront the significant challenges we face around equity, climate change, safety, and other pressing issues.

To maximize the potential of our region and its communities, we turn to leadership that is diverse, collaborative, culturally competent, and innovative. We encourage this kind of leadership across all sectors including business, government, non-profit, and education.

# Regional Values (2)



## Accountability

We value being effective in our work and achieving measurable outcomes. Our region is known for its research, initiatives, and collaborations. We must be open to criticism and clearly understand when we are not achieving results or have harmed communities.

We recognize that we can maximize our effectiveness by being in partnership with others. We will also be transparent and flexible so that we can change course when needed.



## Stewardship

We value our region's resources. Our resources include our natural, economic, and financial resources as well as our infrastructure. We recognize that these resources may be vulnerable over time to changing conditions, including from climate change.

We must design our systems and allocate our resources in ways that can be sustained over time and support the needs of future generations.

# Regional Vision

“A prosperous, equitable, and resilient region with abundant opportunities for all to live, work, play, and thrive.”

# Regional Goals

## **Our Region is Equitable and Inclusive**

Racial inequities and injustices experienced by historically marginalized communities have been eliminated; and every person feels welcome, included, and empowered.

## **Our Communities are Healthy and Safe**

All our region's residents live healthy and rewarding lives with a sense of security, dignity, and wellbeing.

## **Our Region is Dynamic and Resilient**

Our region meets the opportunities and challenges faced by our communities and the economy including issues of choice, accessibility, and affordability.

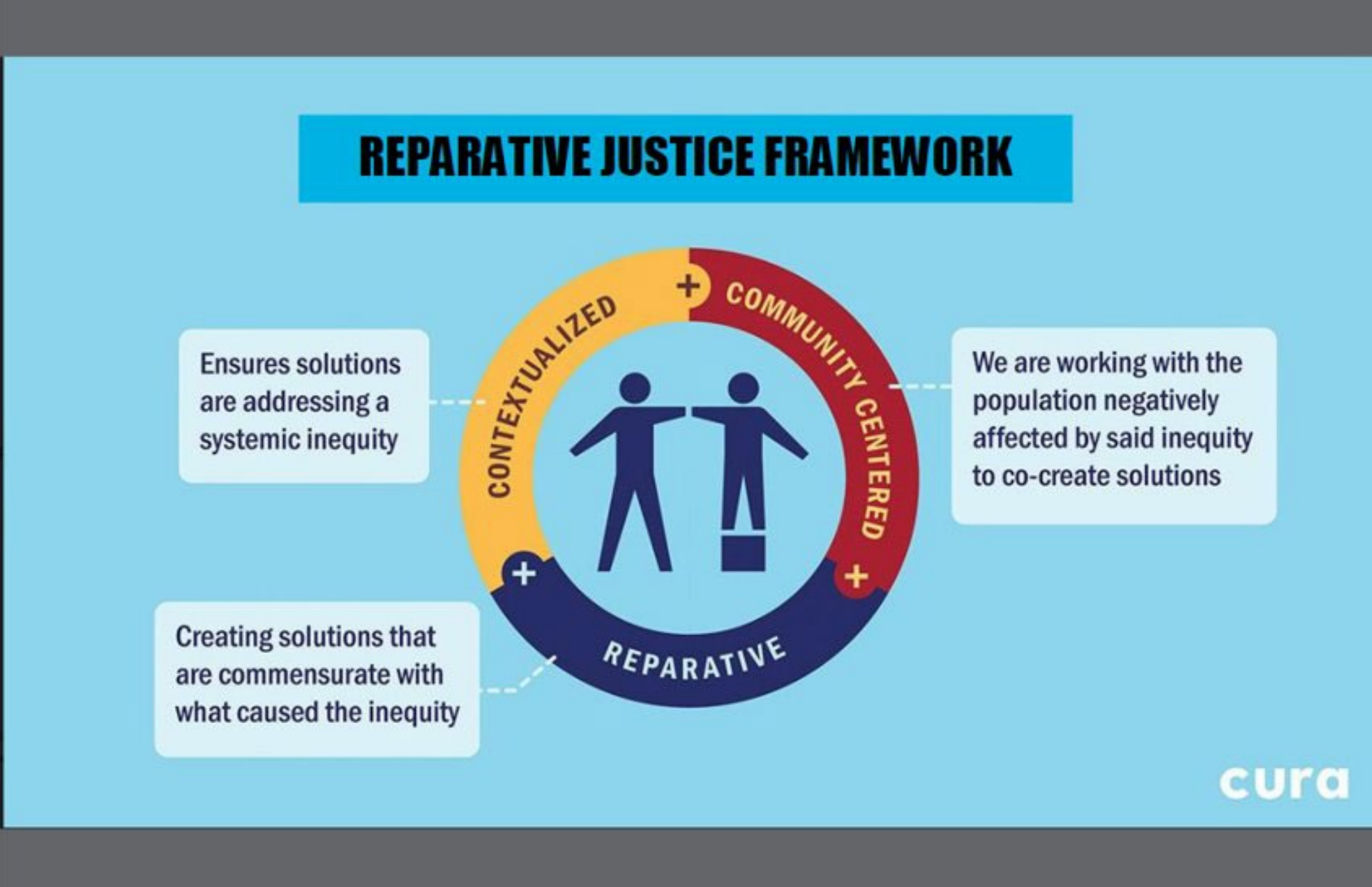
## **We Lead on Addressing Climate Change**

We have mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient to climate impacts.

## **We Protect and Restore Natural Systems**

We protect, integrate, and restore natural systems to protect habitat and ensure a high quality of life for our region.

# Equity Framework



# Water Policy Plan

## Proposed Table of Contents

- Introduction
- RDG connection to water
- Principles, goals, and roles
- Regional water context
- Problem identification
- Policies & actions
- Regional wastewater system plan
- Metro area water supply plan
- Appendices

“Plans are nothing.  
Planning is everything.”

~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

# Draft WPP objectives



**CLIMATE:** Create climate-resilient water sources, ecosystems, and water infrastructure through mitigation, innovative design, and adaptive planning.



**HEALTH:** Protect public and ecosystem health to maintain, restore, and enhance a high quality of life, regional waters, and water services across the region.



**INVESTMENTS:** Water protection, planning, programmatic, and infrastructure investments are optimized for current and future generations.



**EQUITY:** Water benefits and services are accessible and shared amongst all residents and communities.




# Draft Policies

1. Integrate Water Policy
2. Equitable Water Outcomes Policy
3. Water Monitoring, Data, and Assessment Policy
4. Climate Resilient Water Policy
5. Water-Focused, Land Protection, Development Policy
6. Wastewater Service Commitment and Land Use Policy
7. Water Stewardship and Sustainability Policy
8. Water Reuse Policy
9. Water Quality Policy
10. Regional Wastewater Operations and Finance Policy
11. Inflow and Infiltration Policy
12. Water Sector Workforce Development Policy

# Policy template

## Topic Area

Narrative language to set context for policy.

<p><b>Regional Water Policy</b></p> <p>The policies are intended to apply for the whole region, knowing that there are many agencies, organizations, and people connected by water.</p>
<p><b>Desired Outcomes:</b></p> <p>Statements that describe specific changes that will result of the policy.</p>
<p><b>Connected Objectives:</b></p> 
<p><b>Example Actions:</b></p> <p><b>PARTNER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actions that require collaboration with other organizations to enact.</li></ul> <p><b>PLAN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actions that plan to create, protect, maintain, enhance, and restore regional waters and water infrastructure.</li></ul> <p><b>PROVIDE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actions that help the Met Council deliver our water planning and treatment services to the region.</li></ul>



# Three Plans Coordination

Water supply collaboration among DNR, MC and MDH



# Project purpose

## Enhanced agency coordination for water supply

Three water supply-related planning efforts, plus other relevant planning efforts

- Local comprehensive plans
- Wellhead protection plans
- Local water supply plans

Set a clear vision for what the government agencies can do together to secure a safe and sustainable water supply—for today and for future generations.

Clarify roles and functions for each agency and establish a structure, to ensure that we are coordinated in our efforts to meet plan goals and agency missions.

Focus on local comprehensive plans, local water supply plans, and wellhead protection plans, but recognize connections to other water planning efforts.

# Project approach

## High-level work plan

- **What is** (*August – December*):
  - Codify current agency water supply missions, planning requirements,
  - Establish list of internal and external stakeholders, solicit feedback
  - ID overlaps, gaps, key challenges, and opportunities for improvement
- **What could be** (*January – April*):
  - Draft possible solutions/proposed approaches informed by stakeholder input
  - Solicit feedback on possible changes
- **What will be** (*April – June*):
  - Determine final adjustments
  - Develop shared guidance, tools to support coordination of planning efforts (internal and external)
- Overall project timeline: August 2023 – June 2024

# Suggested Changes

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**THANK  
YOU!**

**Looking  
forward....**

Go to **menti.com**  
and enter **9758 8113**

Or use this QR code:





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