

INTEGRATED WATER PLANNING WORKSHOP SUMMARY

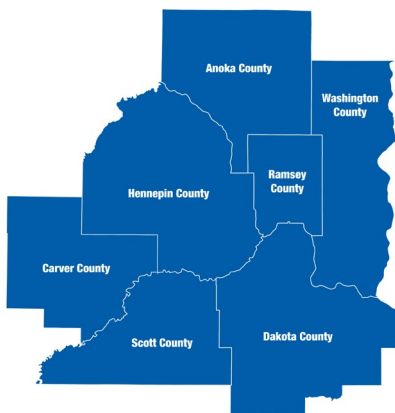
January 7, 2026



The Met Council's mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region.

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The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Met Council operates the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers federal funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

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Executive summary

On January 7, 2026, the Metropolitan Council (Met Council) hosted an integrated water planning workshop. This workshop served as an opportunity to bring together planners, utilities, agency partners, and others to see how their work intersects across water, land use, climate, and other systems—and to leave with clearer insights, relationships, and strategies for tackling shared challenges through integrated planning.

The Met Council has adopted the updated Regional Development Guide, [Imagine 2050](#) – including the Water Resources Policy Plan and Metro Area Water Supply Plan. Through the update process, the Met Council heard from several stakeholders planning must be grounded in local perspectives, because water connects everything and it's a shared responsibility. The Council committed to a more subregional approach—both for developing the plan, as well as in implementation in the years to come.

117 people from across the region signed in at the event. Most had participated in one or more previous subregional engagement events, but several people joined for the first time, bringing the perspectives from an additional five communities and two non-city organizations into the work.

Outcomes included:

- Clearer insight into how different work intersects with water, land use, climate, hazard mitigation, and other systems.
- Stronger relationships across planners, utilities, agencies, and regional partners.
- Sharing practical strategies for integrated planning that support comprehensive planning, water supply planning, wastewater planning, watershed planning, groundwater work, climate goals, to get to our shared vision and goals in Imagine 2050.
- Clearly defined next steps.

Some highlights of the group discussions include:

- Real-world examples of integrated planning from panelists
- Knowledge transfer across subregions

Next steps include:

1. Summary notes from the meeting
2. Resources
 - a. Links to Met Council planning tools and information
 - b. Additional information on the panelists projects
3. Subregional Meetings - Spring

The event ended with some words from the new Chair of the Met Council, Robin Hutcheson. The Met Council is committed to supporting this effort. Our goal remains to support communities and partners through our existing roles by working better together.

Workshop schedule/activities

The workshop began with a welcome and framing by Leisa Thompson, the General Manager of the Met Council’s Environmental Services Division.

Attendees got to know one another through an introductory survey (figures 1 and 2; full results at the end of this document).

Session 1: Council staff presented an overview of the Council’s framework for integrated water planning, connecting it to regional and local comprehensive planning.

Session 2: A panel of local water planners shared lessons learned from integrated planning work.

Session 3: To round out the day, people came together as subregional groups to explore what integrated planning might look like for topics of shared interest.

Measures of participation

117 people signed in, and around 80 submitted survey responses. In addition to representing every county, participants also represented a variety of organization types. One notable gap in representation was the Southwest subregion, including tribal representation.

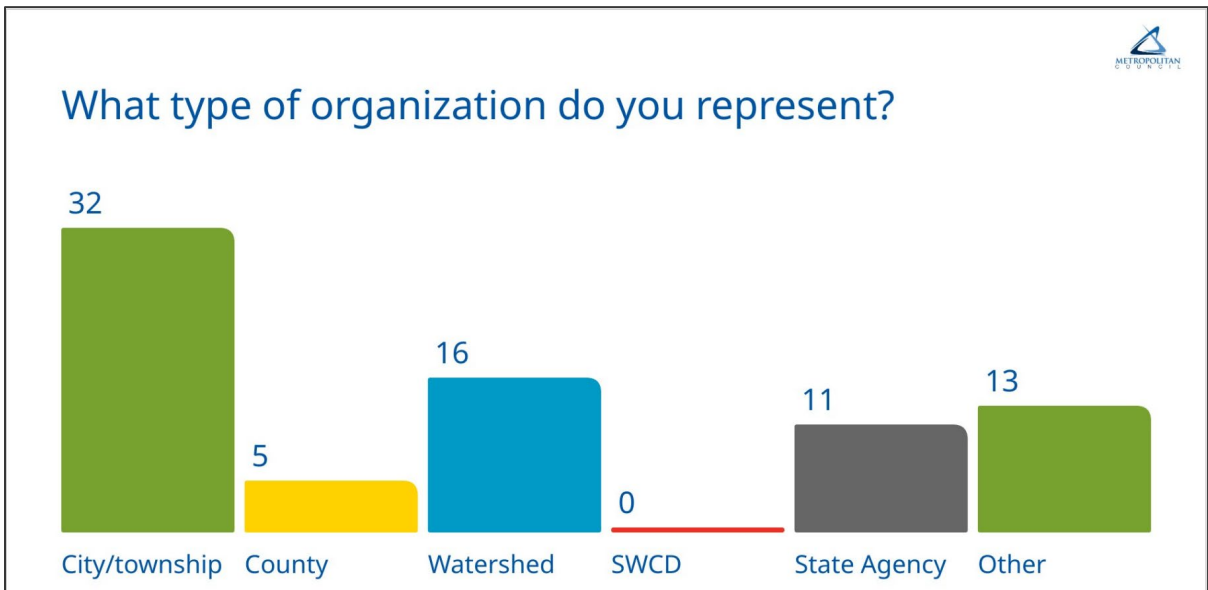


Figure 1. There were a range of water supply perspectives, with a particularly strong showing by cities and townships.



Highlights: Session #1

[Home - Local Planning Handbook](#)

Highlights: Session #2

Panelists:

Liz Boyer, City of St. Paul – St. Paul Climate Action and Resilience Plan

Climate Action and Resilience Plan Update | Engage Saint Paul

Valerie Neppl, Dakota County – Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) Plan

Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE)

James Wisker, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District – Balanced Urban Ecology,

Balanced Urban Ecology - Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD)

Minnehaha Creek Greenway

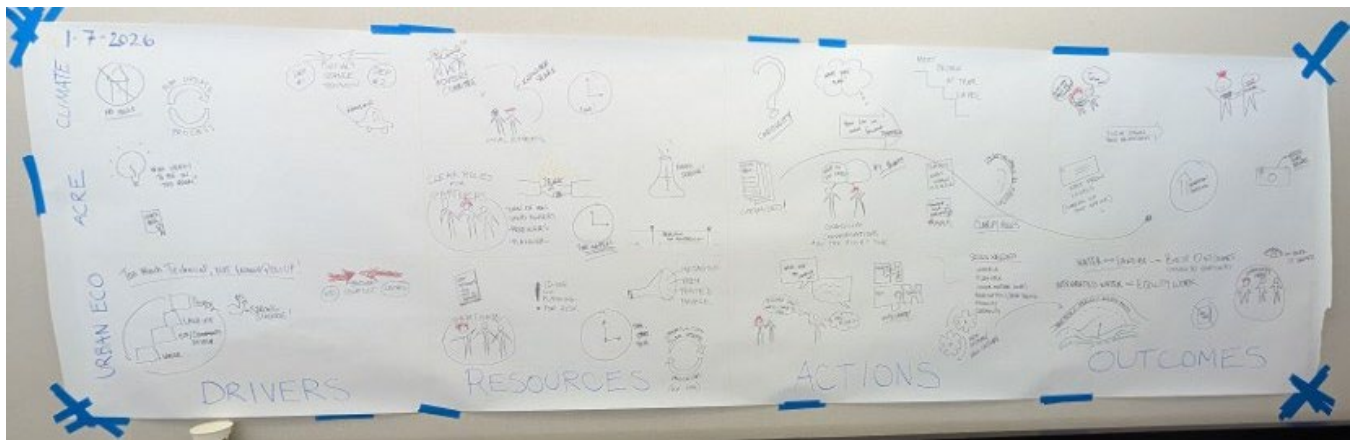


Figure 3. During the Q & A session, graphic facilitators captured some of the ideas shared by panelists.

Some recurring themes emerged, such as sharing knowledge, building trust, having clear roles, and meeting people at their level. An enlarged version of this figure is provided in multiple photos at the end of this document.

A full summary of the panel discussion is provided at the end of this document.

Highlights: Session #3 – Subregional group discussion

In the third and final session, meeting participants moved into subregional groups to explore what integrated planning might look like for topics of shared interest. Each group was asked to define an outcome that could be applied in the community/subregion, name the partners that would be needed to reach the outcome, identify the challenges that exist, and resources needed, and finally what made the journey successful.

Ideas shared in these discussions will be brought to subregional group core teams and will inform proposed/draft work plans for 2026.

Highlights of the group discussions were shared during a full group report out.

Central

Approximately 18 people joined the Central group discussion, representing organizations including cities, counties, public utilities, watershed management organizations, and State agencies.

Some of the priorities/topics discussed included:

- Sustainable water future
- Restorative, natural systems approach to work
- Equal systems / thriving urban ecology
- Restorative vs preventative
- Climate
- Co-ownership of water
- Water literacy

- Water quality
- Infrastructure

Some identified challenges included:

- Workforce
- Aging infrastructure
- Issues we don't yet know how to restore or remediate
- There's always a new cheap pollutant
- Limited time and capacity
- Can be difficult to bring organizations in when they don't see a direct tie to their specific goals
- Balancing green vs gray infrastructure and green/gray tech implementation
- Developers need value added to show up
- Financing
- Displaced and severed intergenerational relationships
- Capitalism

Potential partners were also identified:

- NGOs
- Wakan Tipi (Maggie Lorenz specifically mentioned)
- Indigenous community
- Environmental justice community
- Community / community groups / residents and people in a non-superficial way
- Economic drivers, changemakers, drivers of landscape change
- Developers (how to get them to look at work holistically and long term)
- Legislative representation
- UMN for gray/green infrastructure
- Potential contaminant producers
- Influencers
- Educators
- Spiritual groups
- Recreation users

East

Approximately 8 people joined the East group discussion, representing organizations including cities, counties, watershed management organizations, soil and water conservation districts, and State Agencies.

Some of the priorities/topics discussed included:

- Pervasive PFAS presence in the East metro region.

Some identified challenges to addressing this issue included:

- There are constantly changing conditions around PFAS as it's an emerging issue – technology, communications, regulations, scientific understanding are constantly evolving around this problem, making it hard to keep up with latest developments

- Staff capacity
- Funding
- PFAS not fully destructible
- There are thousands of types of PFAS – can only remove long chain PFAS as of now
- PFAS considered a drinking water issue, not as a One Water issue
- Development and growth in communities – leads to water supply constraints
- Logistics of putting new pipes into the ground
- Different responsible parties—coordinating and collaborating on a response can be difficult
- Firm capacity, no resiliency in some of the water supply systems
- Politics (of science) – at local, state, and federal level

Potential partners were also identified:

- Academic partners – University of Minnesota
- Legislature
- State Agencies – MDH, MPCA (for their private well testing program in particular), DNR (permitting)
- 3M and other corporations
- Local governments – can assist with interconnects, efficiency and conservation of water resources
- Washington County Public Health Department – following their groundwater plan
- Citizens – Private well owners, farmers (may be irrigating with PFAS contaminated water and spreading it around in this way)
- Watershed districts – maybe not directly involved as much since deal more in surface water projects and issues, but may have a role to play in education about PFAS in water sources

Northeast

Approximately 12 people joined the Northeast group discussion, representing organizations including cities, counties, and watershed management organizations.

Some of the priorities/topics discussed included:

- Sustainable water future
- Water supply
- Water equity and meaningful engagement
- Education
- Water conservation
- Public trust

Some identified challenges included:

- Communication (public mistrust, managing expectations)
- Budget constraints and balancing conflicting priorities
- Meaningful and valuable engagement (time consuming)
- Recognizing impacts
- Vocal minority and balancing politics/communication

- Challenges of trying something new
- Water contamination

Potential partners were also identified:

- Watershed organizations
- Cities, townships, and counties
- Community organizations
- Landowners
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- NGOs
- Farmers and agricultural producers
- Tribal nations
- State and regional agencies
- The public
- Schools
- Everyone!

Northwest

Approximately 7 people joined the Northwest group discussion, representing multiple cities.

Some of the priorities/topics discussed included:

- Regional infrastructure needs (dashboard) – Inventory assessment
- Infrastructure funding
- Resilience/redundancy – model/policies for inter-connections

Some identified challenges included:

- Successful engagement/education
- Agency coordination/collaboration
- Competing priorities
- Funding
- Tool to gather info
- Champion to lead the effort

Potential partners were also identified:

- Cities
- DNR
- Met Council
- MDH
- Watersheds
- MnDOT
- Industry
- Professional services firms
- Lawyers
- Stakeholders of water systems
- Elected officials

Southeast

10 people joined the Southeast group discussion, representing organizations including cities, counties, watershed management organizations, soil and water conservation districts, and State agencies.

Some of the priorities/topics discussed included:

- Water reuse investment and implementation particularly in the context of data center developments. This topic was selected for the integrated planning journey exercise
- Water contamination particularly in the context of the Dakota County A.C.R.E. plan and the nitrate issues in rural areas. PFAS and chloride were also mentioned as concerns.

Some identified challenges included:

- Funding
- Reuse water rates - who will pay? and how much?
- Additional infrastructure for treatment and storage
- Lack of resources in small communities
- Local politics / spreading issue awareness
- Lack of trust for residents / misinformation / trustworthy sources of information
- Vagueness of AUARs and ineffectiveness/utility of environmental review for decision-making (both regulatory and the responsible government unit)
- Lack of data for environmental review, permit decisions, and ultimately local decision-making. How much water will data centers really be using? How much can be reused? What are the treatment needs?
- Difficult to identify limitations of groundwater sources. There isn't a single number
- Use impacts change over time and are dependent on ever-changing factors like climate (droughts, heat waves) and industry (new technologies, new demands)
- Impacts to surface waters and surrounding environments / lack of information on the potential benefits of reuse for supporting these features
- Lack of agency leadership amongst water regulators and with the Met Council. There's a large opportunity with wastewater reuse that should be invested in.

Potential partners were also identified:

- Source water experts
- Public works / water utilities
- City / community planners
- Regulators (MDH, MPCA, MN DNR)
- Developers
- Engineers for large water users / Industry experts
- Reuse experts / Examples from other parts of the country where reuse has been implemented
- Residents / community members
- League of MN Cities
- Met Council
- Watersheds

Southwest

The Southwest subregion did not have enough attendees for a breakout session at the workshop.

West

Approximately 15 people joined the West group discussion, representing cities, townships, and watershed districts.

Some of the priorities/topics discussed included:

- **Outcome 1** - Ensure water availability and affordability for all uses.
- **Outcome 2** - Sustainable growth and development (we don't run out of water, it stays clean, it's abundant, reliable, locally available, affordable).
- **Outcome 3** - Regional infrastructure inventory assessment.
- **Outcome 4** - Water Supply - Use West Metro multi-community wellhead protection as a template for water supply planning.
- **Outcome 5** - Outcome Regional stormwater management.
- **Outcome 6** - Water supply distribution redundancy.

Some identified challenges included:

- **Outcome 1** - Ensure water availability and affordability for all uses.
 - Large water users (data centers)
 - Competing/misunderstanding values, priorities, timelines
 - Cost (reuse, city operations, inflation, maintenance)
 - Limited resources (time, staff, money)
 - Plumbing codes/regulatory questions
 - Contaminants including contaminants of emerging concern
 - Private vs public wells
 - Climate resiliency
 - Water focus – drinking water, wastewater, recreation
 - Affordability
- **Outcome 2** - Sustainable growth and development (we don't run out of water, it stays clean, it's abundant, reliable, locally available, affordable).
 - Unintended adversaries
 - Incongruent timelines and priorities
 - Limited resources to allocate time, staffing, money
 - Lack of authority or a champion
 - Uncertainty around geology/geography data
 - No clearing house of data
 - Consensus building among stakeholders
 - Lack of uniformity in resource management
 - Growing demand
 - Individual behaviors, expectations, and perception
 - Financial disincentivizing for conservation

- **Outcome 3** - Regional infrastructure inventory assessment.
 - Public engagement/public education
 - Collaboration amongst agencies
 - Competing priorities
 - Cost – needed funding
 - Resource limitations
 - Consistency of tools from city to city/agency to agency
 - Legal component – need for JPAs
 - The need of a champion
 - Is it reproducible

- **Outcome 4** - Water Supply - Use West Metro multi-community wellhead protection as a template for water supply planning.
 - Separate geographies and study areas
 - Competing suppliers
 - Customer expectations
 - Vulnerability classifications are in conflict

- **Outcome 5** - Outcome Regional stormwater management.
 - Frequency of street sweeping
 - Road salts
 - Proactive planning need in Community Development
 - Pre-planning needed
 - Educating land use planners
 - This is a more efficient use of land
 -

- **Outcome 6** - Water supply distribution redundancy.
 - Criticality of water mains
 - Aging infrastructure
 - Interconnects can be challenging due to different pressures
 - Need for better technology

Potential partners were also identified:

- **Outcome 1** - Ensure water availability and affordability for all uses.
 - Property owners
 - State agencies
 - WMOs
 - Counties
 - Cities/Twps
 - Large water users
 - NGOs (freshwater)
 - Well Owners Association
 - Realtors
 - Need to include children as stakeholders
 - Tribal Nations

- **Outcome 2** - Sustainable growth and development (we don't run out of water, it stays clean, it's abundant, reliable, locally available, affordable).
 - MDH
 - Hennepin County
 - DOLI
 - Met Council
 - DNR
 - Builders/developers
 - Cities/water suppliers/land use planners
 - WMOs

- **Outcome 3** - Regional infrastructure inventory assessment.
 - All cities
 - DNR
 - MDH
 - Met Council
 - WMOs
 - Counties (hazard mitigation)
 - MnDOT
 - Industry
 - Public sector
 - The public
 - Subject matter experts

- **Outcome 4** - Water Supply - Use West Metro multi-community wellhead protection as a template for water supply planning.
 - Municipalities
 - State agencies
 - Met Council

- **Outcome 5** - Outcome Regional stormwater management.
 - Cities
 - Community Development
 - MnDOT
 - Counties
 - Developers

- **Outcome 6** - Water supply distribution redundancy.
 - Cities
 - Water suppliers
 - Engineers
 - DNR
 - Met Council

Panel Discussion Summary

The Regional Workshop for Integrated Water Planning included a panel of presenters followed by a Q & A session. The goal of the panel was to show what effective, equitable integrated planning can look like. Panelists discussed what works, what doesn't, and how those lessons can translate to practical strategies for integrated planning that support comprehensive planning, water supply planning, wastewater planning, watershed planning, groundwater work, climate goals, to get to our shared vision and goals in Imagine 2050.

Panelists:

Liz Boyer, City of St. Paul – St. Paul Climate Action and Resilience Plan

[Climate Action and Resilience Plan Update | Engage Saint Paul](#)

Valerie Neppl, Dakota County – Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) Plan

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James Wisker, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District – Balanced Urban Ecology,

[Balanced Urban Ecology - Minnehaha Creek Watershed District \(MCWD\)](#)

[Minnehaha Creek Greenway](#)

While the panelists presented examples of planning that took place in different geographic contexts (urban, rural, suburban) and for a variety type of projects, consistent themes emerged across presentations and reflections as the panelists answered questions and shared the process and outcomes of their integrated planning. One panelist noted, “there is no playbook for integrated planning,” but the following general themes are important considerations for an integrated planning process

1. A transparent process is key for successful integrated planning.

Panelists all emphasized the need for establishing clear communication and transparency across internal and external partners to establish trust. Developing an outward facing community engagement plan as part of the planning process is key.

One panelist noted; *Building trust pays in dividends.*

2. Relationship building and listening to partners should be prioritized.

The importance of developing “relationship infrastructure” was a common theme shared. Panelists emphasized the importance of spending time listening and trying to see the world through partner’s eyes.

One panelist shared; *Having conversations is the number one priority- not the deadline.*

3. Build in time to be flexible, responsive, and iterative.

Deadlines are real, but panelists all shared that being comfortable with longer time horizons for outcomes was worth it. There was a recommendation to let the plan develop without establishing a rigid one ahead of time to be able to incorporate more diverse and representative ideas.

One panelist noted: *[Integrated planning] takes a lot of time and effort...decision making is messier and a central tenant is conflict... The results though, are more transformative- and can lead to faster community support and partners that feel they own the work making it easier next time.*

4. Be deliberate and thoughtful about making sure the right people and organizations are involved.

Panelists discussed the importance of identifying early who should be involved in planning and then making sure they were in the room. This might involve thinking about what timing and location of planning meetings might work best for those you want involved.

One panelist noted: *It's important to recognize what agency, organization or individuals have the best relationship to your stakeholders and include them in the planning process.*

5. An integrated planning approach shouldn't be a "one off" but instead embedded into an organization's culture.

All the panelists were clear that this approach can be difficult and take time, but that the long-term benefits were worth the investment.

One panelist noted: *Partnership and integration is not a posture or set of talking points... promoting effective engagement and integration- it has become part of our organizational identity.*

6. Integrated planning leads to multiple benefits.

All panelists were clear about the multiple benefits of an integrated planning approach. The relationships built and understandings developed were outcomes that could make the process of future planning easier. When using water as a central integrated element there are also opportunities to benefit not only water systems, but the community as whole, whether through recreational opportunities, health outcomes or other benefits.

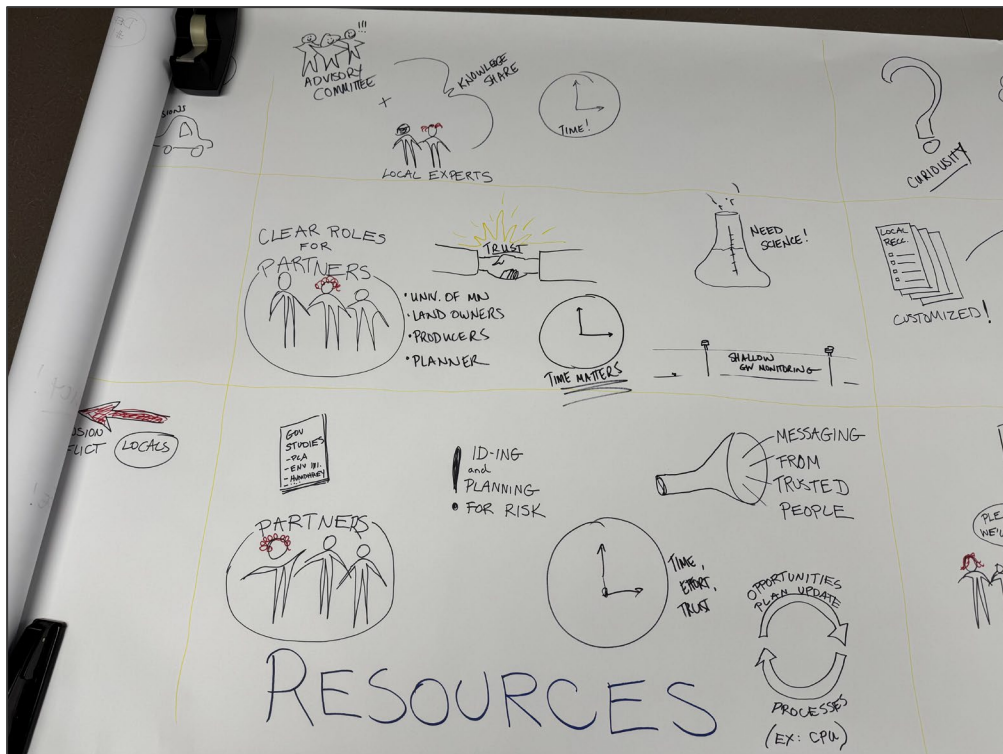
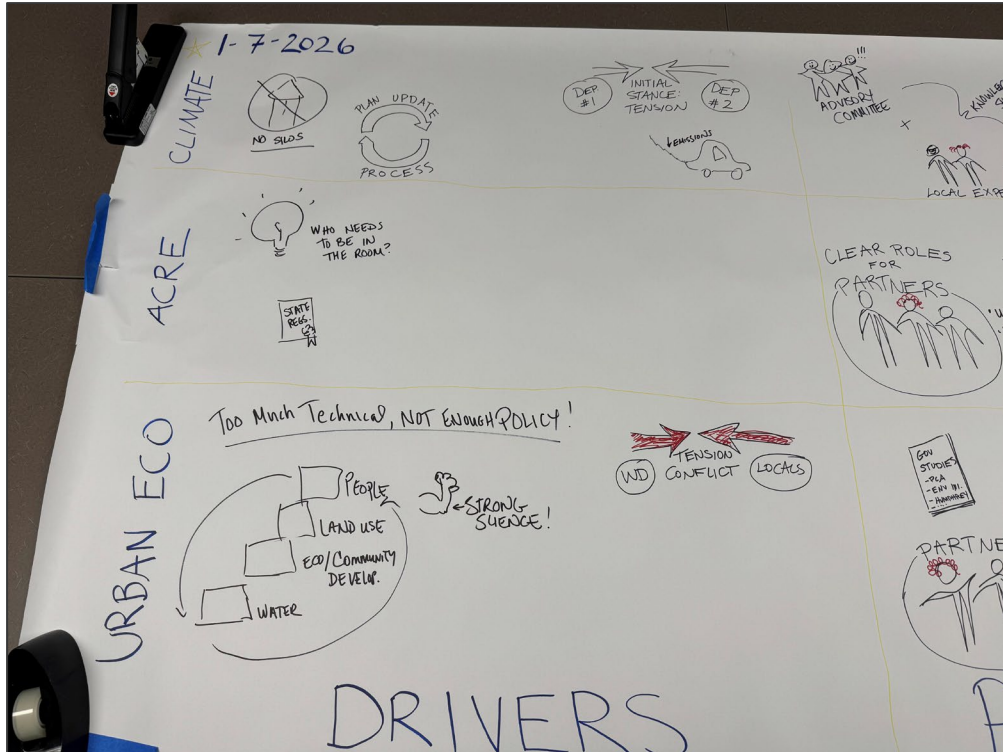
One panelist noted: *Integrated planning is good for the environment and good for the people that live in it.*

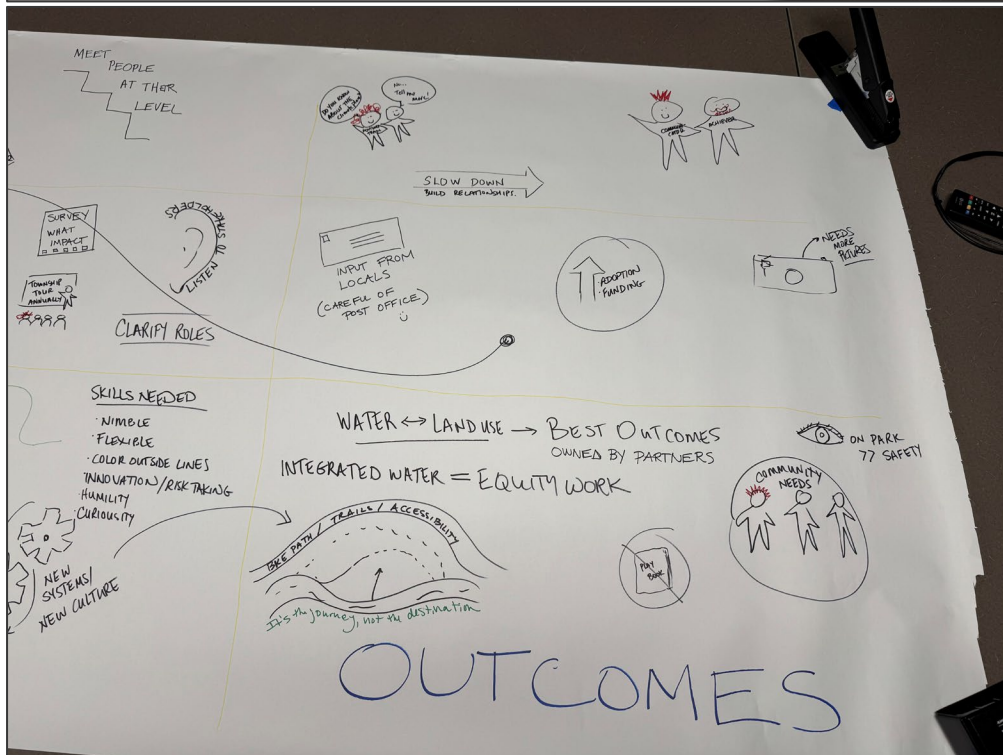
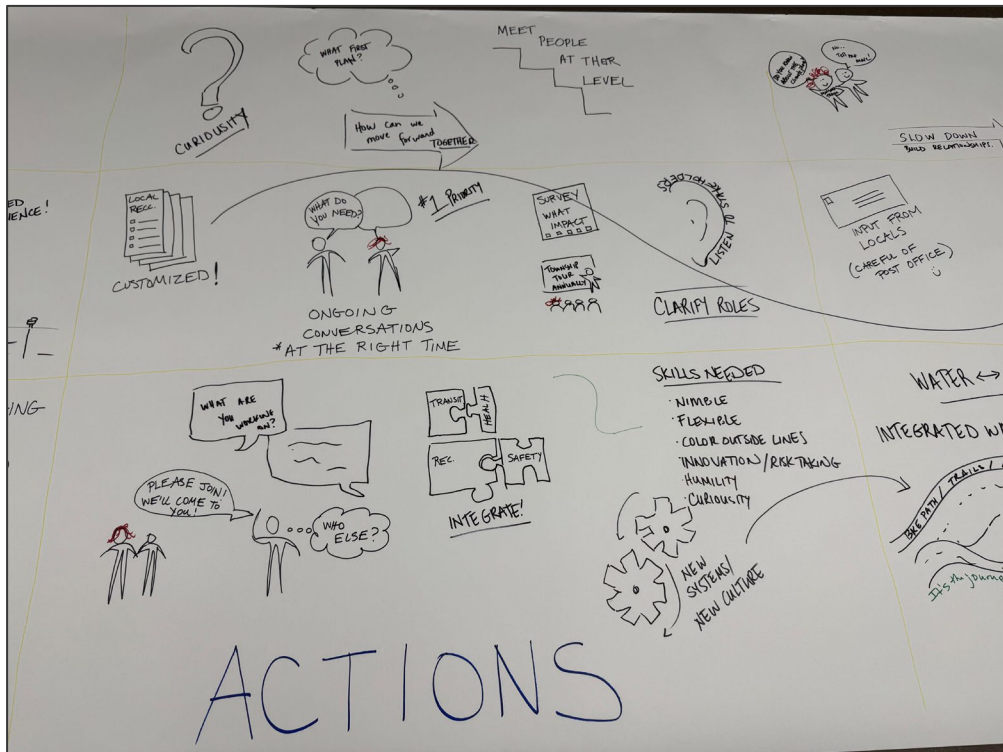
Some concrete actions were shared that carried the major themes of successful integrated planning forward. They included:

- **Advisory committees** that include community ambassadors, as well as content experts are one way to bring in different perspectives. One panelist suggested sustaining the role of advisors as trusted messengers and communicators beyond the planning process.
- **Township tours** are one way to connect with community every year sharing updates and gaining inputs as plans are implemented.
- **Conversation toolkits** can be useful for community groups such as faith communities, books clubs, etc. to discuss priorities and elements of the plan. Providing a vehicle for them to share the outcomes of their discussions, such as a survey platform, is a good way to gather information to inform planning.

Questions for the panelists:

- Why did you decide to do the work the way that you did (integrated approach versus siloed)? What drove your decisions? What were the opportunities?
- What were the critical conversations/critical conversation pathways around water or climate that you experienced? In other words, what are some examples of the conversations held within your organization or with your external partners that were crucial for understanding and integrating their perspectives into your work?
- How did you identify who needed to be in the room, informing and guiding work?
- How does this way of planning or approach to projects benefit everyone across your community? Does it better serve overburdened communities or encourage equitable outcomes?
- What challenges came up that led you to reach out to additional partners inside and outside of your community or watershed?
- What was the biggest lesson you learned? Did your work lead to any organizational structure or process changes?
- Did you find your integrated approach to planning to be valuable? What are the challenges? What are the rewards?





Mural of Subregional Exercise and Presentation Slides

Regional Workshop for Integrated Water Planning



January 7, 2026

Purpose

To bring together planners, utilities, agency partners, and others to see how their work intersects across water, land use, climate, and other systems—and to leave with clearer insights, relationships, and strategies for tackling shared challenges through integrated planning.

Desired outcomes:

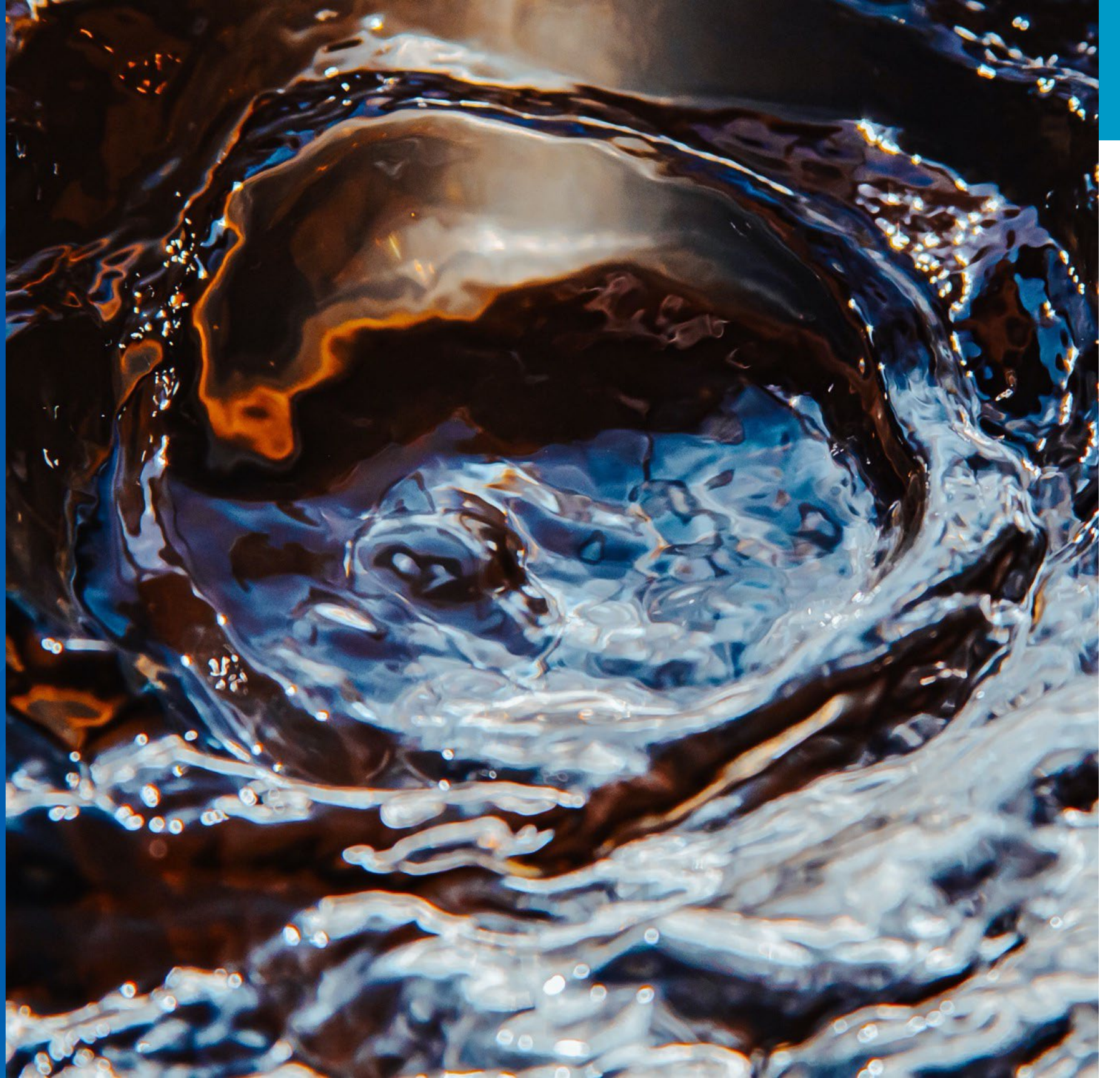
- **Stronger relationships** across planners, utilities, agencies, and regional partners.
- **Clearer insight into how your work intersects** with water, land use, climate, hazard mitigation, and other systems.
- **Practical strategies for integrated planning** that support comprehensive planning, water supply planning, wastewater planning, watershed planning, groundwater work, climate goals, to get to our shared vision and goals in Imagine 2050.

Agenda for the day

- Welcome
- Comprehensive Planning & Integrated Water Planning
- Panel Discussion
- Lunch
- Regional Discussion and Subregional Breakouts
- Next Steps



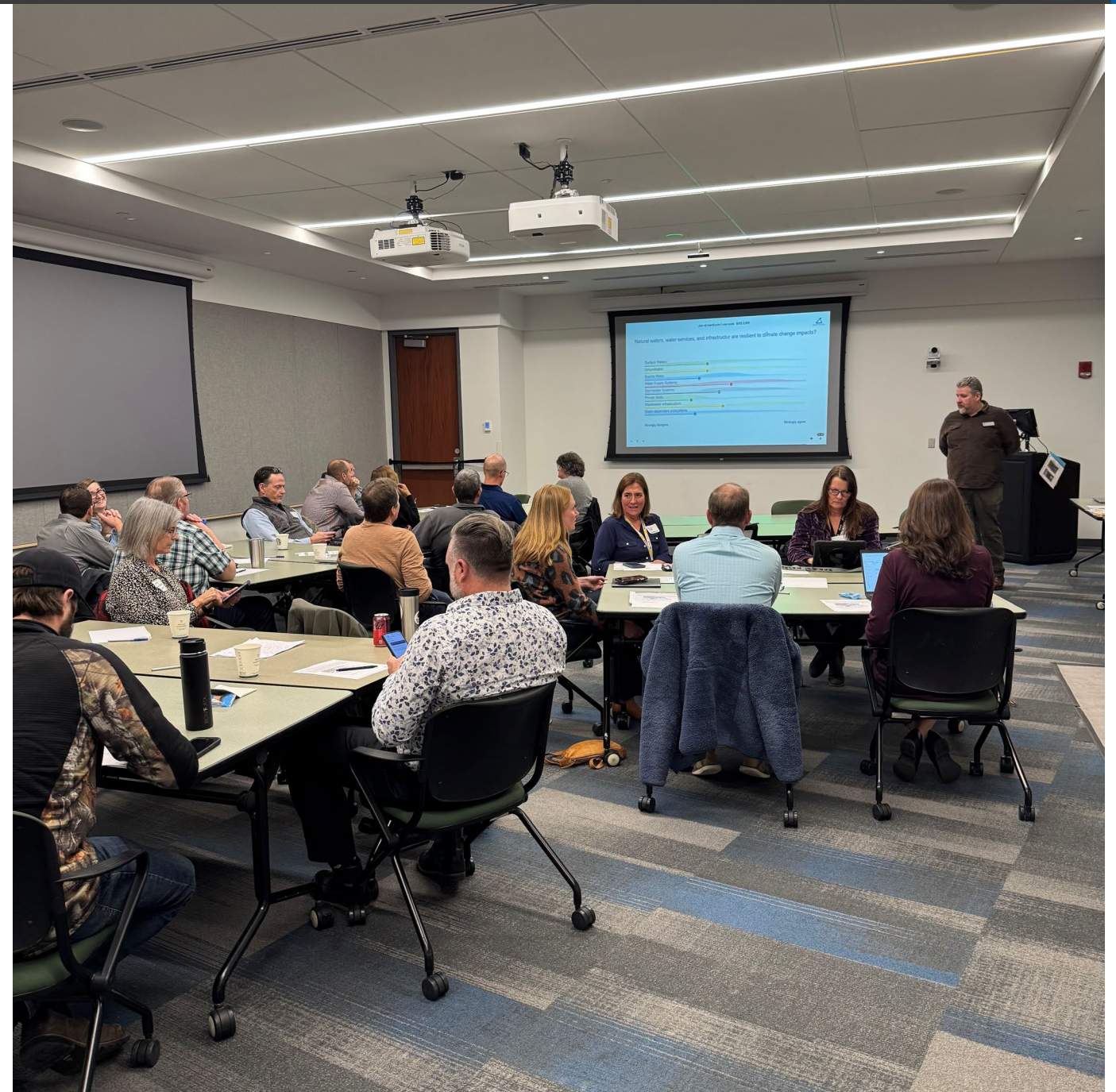
Session 1 Integrated Water Planning and Comprehensive Plans





Subregional engagement has and will shape integrated planning and implementation

- **Perspectives:** Dozens of cities, almost all counties, tribal government, state agencies, about half of the watersheds
- **Common themes:**
 - Affordable, accessible clean water is a concern
 - Infrastructure needs
 - Desire for more education, lack of understanding of needs to deliver services
 - Desire for collaboration



Together, we have a shared vision for the region



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

Regional goals – Imagine 2050

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, access, 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 the people of our region.

Imagine 2050: Water Policy Plan



High-quality water is essential for a healthy environment, thriving economy, and public health.

- Create climate-resilient water resources, ecosystems, and water infrastructure through innovative design and adaptive planning.
- Optimize regional water protection, planning, and infrastructure investments.
- Promote universal accessibility to water services and benefits.
- Maintain watershed-based management strategy that fosters collaboration across political boundaries.
- Integrate water management, from water supply to wastewater systems to surface waters.

Water is crucial for our vision: Policy plan objectives



HEALTH: Natural waters, source waters, water services, and infrastructure are managed, restored, and enhanced to protect public and ecosystem health that ensures a high quality of life in the region.



CLIMATE: The region's waters and water services are protected from and made resilient to the ongoing and future effects of climate change.



EQUITY: The benefits of clean and abundant water and water services are defined by local needs and environmental context, are accessible, and are justly shared by all residents and communities.



INVESTMENTS: Water protection, planning, management, and infrastructure investments are optimized to ensure public and ecosystem health are fully protected now and for future generations.

Water is connected to many elements and vice versa



Land Use

Forecasts, Existing & Future
Land Use, Density, etc.



Housing

Existing Housing Need,
Projected Housing Need,
Implementation



Transportation

Roadways, Transit, Biking, etc.



Water Resources

Wastewater, Water Supply,
Surface Water



Parks and Trails

Regional Parks and Trails,
Local Parks and Trails



Climate

Climate Mitigation &
Adaptation



Natural Systems

Natural Systems Mapping Tool,
Natural Systems StoryMap



Implementation

Implementation

Integrated planning and water



Water planning, management, and operations are collaborative and holistically address the natural and built water cycle.

- **Integrated planning and diverse perspectives:** Integrating the region's water planning within and between jurisdictions can reveal opportunities that have substantial impacts to sustainable water
- **A collaborative holistic approach:** Identifying shared goals and solutions at the intersection of climate, equity, land use, and water
- **Supporting communities:** Grow a coalition to realize equitable and sustainable water outcomes

The region's decadal plan update process: Opportunities and challenges





How do we do what we need to,
and align, leverage, and integrate?

Met Council Planning

Planning Roles

- Long-range development plan and regional policy plans
 - Imagine 2050
 - Transportation Policy Plan
 - Water Resources Policy Plan
 - Regional Parks Policy Plan
 - Housing Policy Plan
- Regional economic framework
- Aligning community and regional plans

City, Township, County Comp Plans



- Communities set the vision for their future
 - Plan for growth
 - Land development and redevelopment
 - Housing
 - Roads and trails
 - Protect natural areas

Minimum Requirements

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

Local Planning Handbook

Regional Planning Process

Community Pages

Required Plan Elements +

Review Process +

Education and Training

Resources +

Welcome to the Local Planning Handbook

The Local Planning Handbook is your essential guide for updating comprehensive plans, offering clear instructions on minimum requirements, interactive tools and maps, community-specific data, and resources for grants and technical assistance.



Community Pages

Access your community's personalized checklist, interactive and downloadable maps (including GIS shapefiles), and a list of affected jurisdictions to ensure compatibility with neighboring plans.



Required Plan Elements

Explore our Plan Element pages to discover minimum requirements, practical tips, and valuable resources that help you create a comprehensive plan.



Submit Online

Submit your Comprehensive Plan Update or Amendment, and track its progress.

Handbook.metrocouncil.org

IMAGINE 2025

Metropolitan Council

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Minimum Requirements

Local Planning Handbook

Regional Planning Process

Community Pages

> Required Plan Elements

Land Use

Housing

Transportation

Water Resources

Parks and Trails

Climate

Natural Systems

Implementation

Review Process

Education and Training

Resources

Required Plan Elements

Plan Element pages outline requirements for your comprehensive plan, ways to get more out of your plan, and resources to support your plan update.



Land Use

Forecasts, Existing & Future Land Use, Density, etc.



Housing

Existing Housing Need, Projected Housing Need, Implementation



Transportation

Roadways, Transit, Biking, etc.



Water Resources

Wastewater, Water Supply, Surface Water



Parks and Trails

Regional Parks and Trails, Local Parks and Trails



Climate

Climate Mitigation & Adaptation



Natural Systems

Natural Systems Mapping Tool, Natural Systems StoryMap



Implementation

Implementation

Water Plans – Comp Plan Components

Local Water Management Plan

- Protect and improve surface and groundwater quality
- Safeguard water-dependent ecosystems
- Plan for and manage flood impacts

Water Supply Plan

- Support clean, reliable water
- Support efficient growth
- Protect water systems

Comprehensive Sewer Plan

- Ensure there is adequate capacity in the system
- Infrastructure is used efficiently
- Inflow & Infiltration is minimized
- Efficiency of private systems and SSTS

Water Planning Technical Assistance

County Groundwater Plans

- Sets priorities, addresses issues, and builds local capacity to protect and manage groundwater
- *Met Council is a review agency

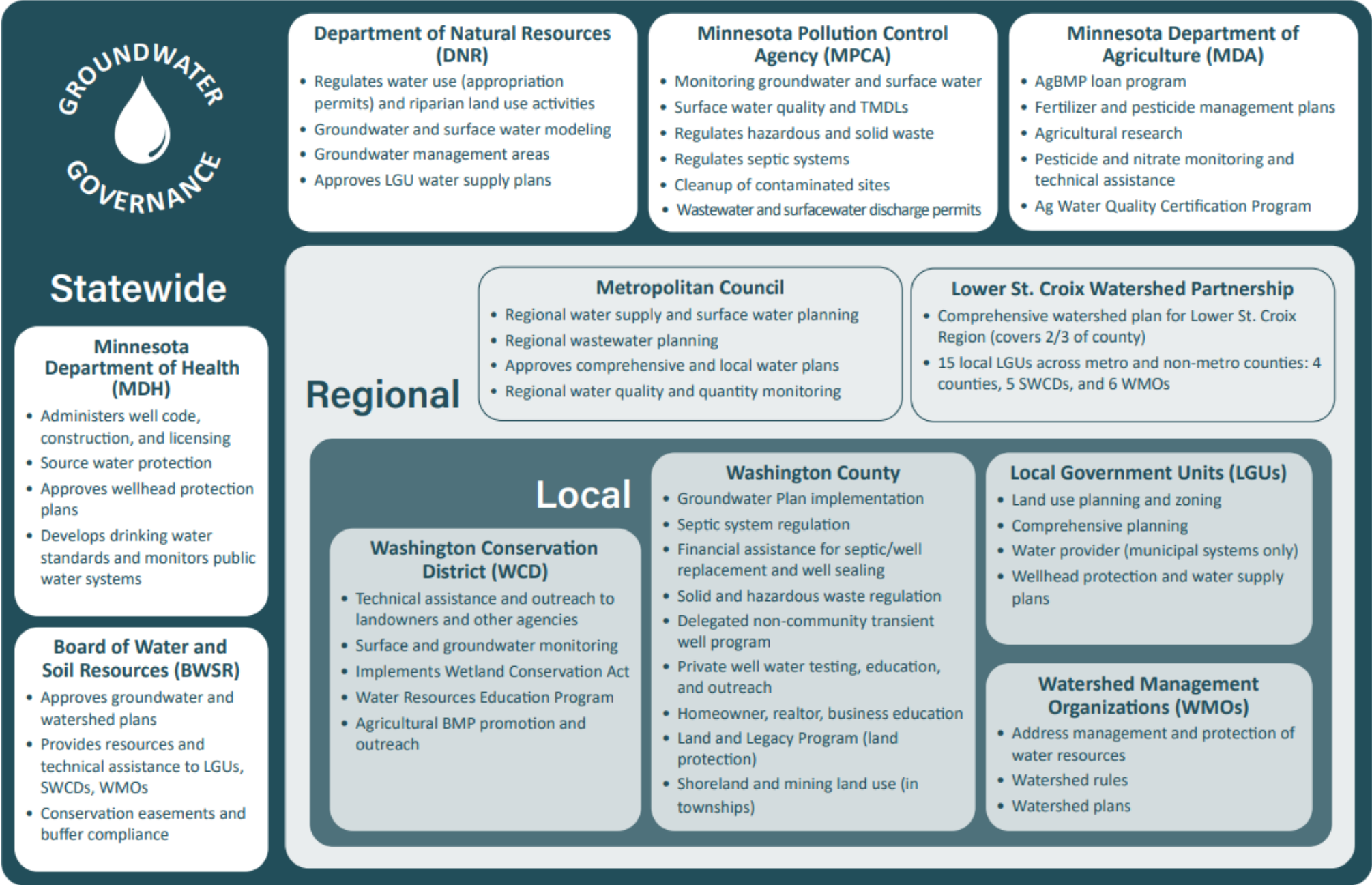
Watershed Management Plans

- Protect, preserve, and improve surface water and groundwater resources
- *Met Council is a review agency

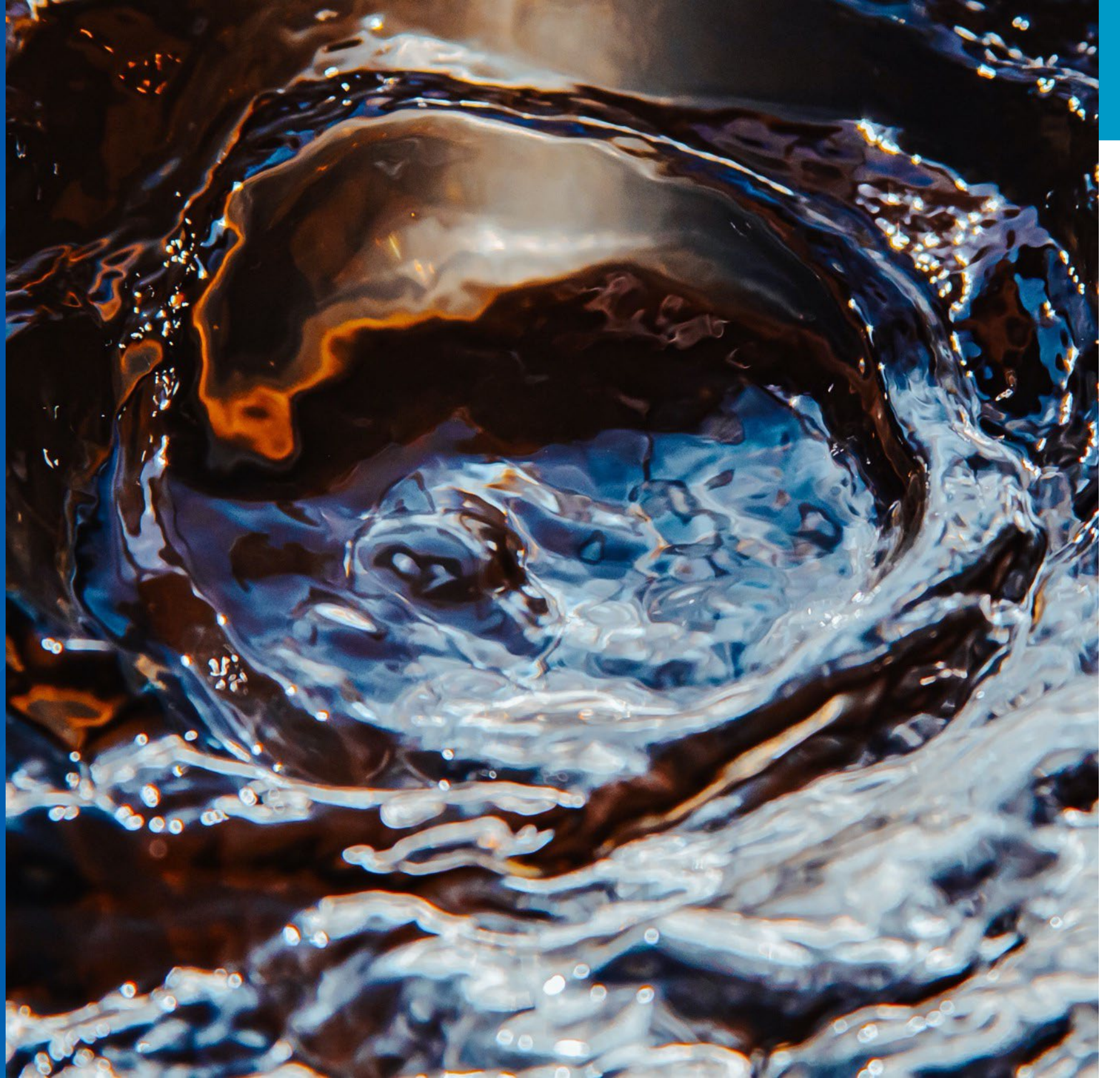
State plans

- Climate Action Framework
- Nutrient Reduction Strategy
- EQB State Water Plan
- Clean Water Fund Interagency Coordination Team

Example: Complexity of planning and implementation in Washington County



Session 2 Panel Discussion



Listening prompts

Inputs: Who and what made the work possible?

Who needed to be involved? What relationships, data, policies, or resources supported the work? What barriers or constraints did they face?

Activities & Outputs: What did they do together?

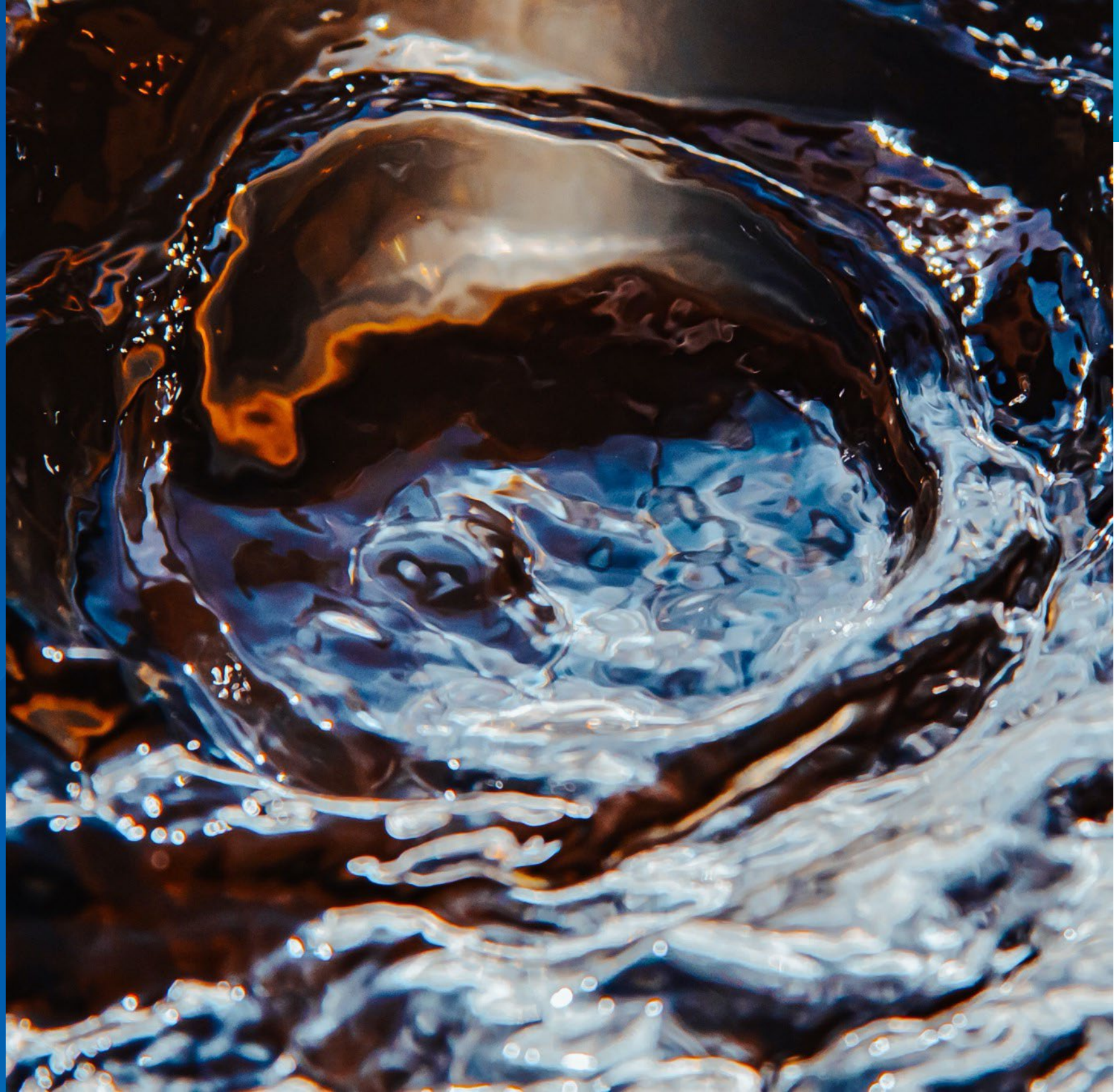
What actions did they take – projects, planning efforts, meetings, partnerships, or policy decisions? How did different roles or systems intersect?

Outcomes & Learning: What changed as a result?

How did they define and measure success? What outcomes did they see (intended or unintended)? What did they learn along the way? What might be long term outcomes of this work?

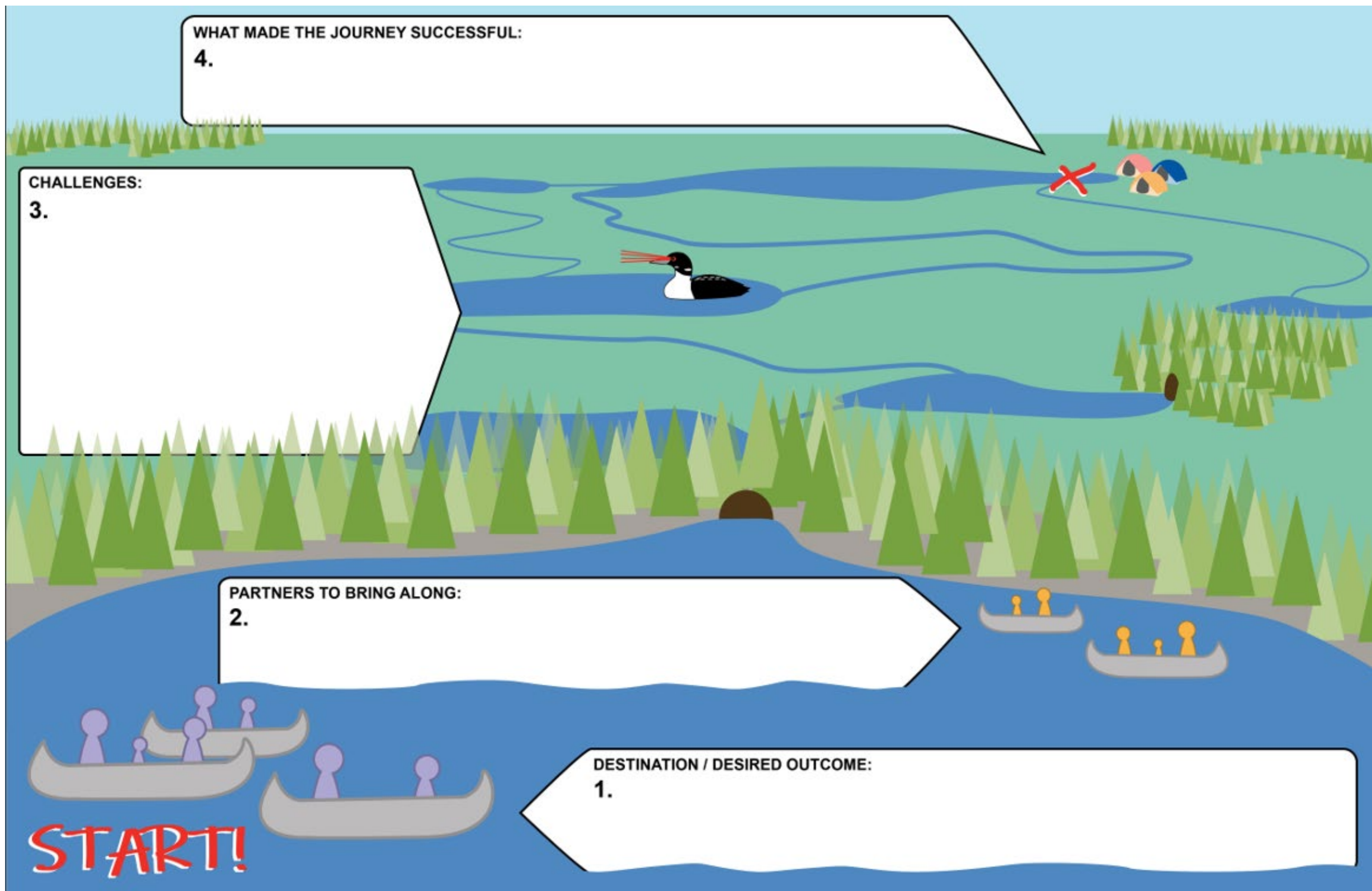
Session 3 Group Exercise

*Please move to
your subregional
group table*



Let's go on a journey





Policy plan objectives



HEALTH: Natural waters, source waters, water services, and infrastructure are managed, restored, and enhanced to protect public and ecosystem health that ensures a high quality of life in the region.



CLIMATE: The region's waters and water services are protected from and made resilient to the ongoing and future effects of climate change.



EQUITY: The benefits of clean and abundant water and water services are defined by local needs and environmental context, are accessible, and are justly shared by all residents and communities.



INVESTMENTS: Water protection, planning, management, and infrastructure investments are optimized to ensure public and ecosystem health are fully protected now and for future generations.

Next Steps



- Summary notes from the meeting
- Resources
 - Links to Met Council planning tools and information
 - Additional information on the panelists projects
- Subregional Meetings - Spring

Thank you

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