



2027 Watershed Management Plan

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting 1 Summary

April 28, 2026 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka

TAC Members Present: Bob Bean, Ross Bintner, Lilly Bowman (for Ben Scharenbroich), Jessica Collin-Pilarski, Melanie Curtis, Jen Dullum, Eric Eckman, Dusty Finke, Erick Francis, Cara Geheren, Madeline Hudek, Mike Kelly, Kristen Larson, Laura Oakden, Mattias Oddsson, Debra Pilger, Amy Riegel, Sarah Schweiger, Elizabeth Stout, Tom Tully, Jessica Vanderwerff Wilson, Brian Vlach, Leslie Yetka

PAC Members Present: Joe Baker, Jeremy Barrick, Alisa Benson, Sue Budd, Kent Carlson, Jesse Dickson, Meg Forney, David Krueger, Jasper Kruggel, Jacqueline Ricks, Michael Schroeder, Lisa Whalen

MCWD Board Liaisons Present: President Sherry White, Vice President Bill Olson

MCWD Staff Present: Brian Beck, Becky Christopher, Samantha Hoppe, Maia Irvin, Corrina Marshall, Kate Moran, James O'Brien, James Wisker

10:00

Welcome and Introductions

MCWD Board President Sherry White welcomed TAC and PAC members, thanking them for participating in the 2027 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) process.

Becky Christopher, MCWD's Director of Policy Planning noted the meeting's objectives:

1. Identify lessons from the past decade and opportunities for improvement
2. Gather input on the areas of interest and desired outcomes to shape the Plan
3. Clarify roles and expectations for committee members
4. Connect and build relationships

Christopher provided a geographic overview of TAC and PAC membership before MCWD Outreach Manager Samantha Hoppe led the group through an introductory Mentimeter activity. TAC and PAC members were asked the following questions, with real-time answers displaying on the screen for the full room:

- What type of agency are you representing?
- How would you describe your role at that agency?

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.



Following Mentimeter, MCWD staff led small groups through additional introductory discussion questions, to understand each member's interest in participating in MCWD's 2027 Plan process.

10:20**2017 Plan Background**

Christopher provided an overview of [MCWD's 2017 Plan](#) as grounding for the next 10-year plan. The 2017 Plan represented a significant shift in approach for MCWD, centered on its [Balanced Urban Ecology](#) (BUE) philosophy, which aligns plans for land and water to create high-impact projects and mutually-beneficial outcomes.

The 2017 Plan has three primary policy themes: partnership, focus, and flexibility. These themes informed MCWD's two-track project implementation approach of [Focal Geographies](#) and the [Land and Water Partnership \(LWP\) Program](#).

Based on water resource issues, opportunities, and regional benefits, the 2017 Plan designated three subwatersheds as focal geographies: Minnehaha Creek, Painter Creek, and Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay (SMCHB). The majority of MCWD's work to-date has occurred in the Minnehaha Creek and SMCHB Subwatersheds, with 15 projects completed between the two that have achieved significant improvements.

MCWD's 2023 LWP Initiative, which included participation from several TAC members, shaped the development of the LWP Program to support partner-led projects, streamlined permitting, and identified opportunities to improve coordination between land use and water planning. Since launching the LWP Program in 2024, three projects have received funding, and several others have received technical assistance and support navigating regulatory challenges.

Christopher noted the 2017 Plan's new direction and approach is working and will be carried forward in the 2027 Plan, but there are also opportunities for refinement, based on community needs and perspectives.

MCWD staff led small groups through discussion questions about their perspectives on MCWD's approach and work since 2017. Key takeaways included:

- There is support for MCWD's focused and regional approach.
- Partners value MCWD's role in thinking at a system-scale across boundaries.
- There is interest in exploring how MCWD can continue to support smaller-scale projects and work outside of focal geographies through the LWP Program.
- MCWD's permitting approach is more streamlined and efficient now.
- Communities value MCWD's technical expertise and assistance.
- Overall, MCWD has become more collaborative and partnership based.

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.



11:00 **BREAK**

11:10 **2027 Plan Scope and Process**

Christopher provided an overview of the four key areas of work that will guide the 2027 Plan's development process:

1. Subwatershed Planning

- a. MCWD will continue work in current focal geographies and expand the approach to the Painter Creek and Long Lake Creek Subwatersheds. The LWP Program will support work in the remaining subwatersheds.
- b. Key deliverables:
 - i. Tailored, actionable subwatershed plans for all subwatersheds
 - ii. 5-10 year CIPs for the four focal geographies
 - iii. Opportunity-based projects for LWP support in other subwatersheds

2. Land and Water Partnership

- a. This work area will carry forward ideas generated during the LWP Initiative to improve land use and water planning integration.
- b. Key deliverables:
 - i. Recommendations for local policies and coordination best practices
 - ii. Pilot interactive map of priority areas to support opportunity screening
 - iii. Framework to support regional stormwater and wetland banking

3. Flood Management Strategy

- a. Recognizing upstream-downstream interactions, this work area will focus on developing a coordinated, regional flood management strategy.
- b. Key deliverables:
 - i. Assessment of current and future flood risk
 - ii. Evaluation of watershed-scale strategies and opportunities
 - iii. Definition of MCWD's role in flood management

4. Metrics of Success

- a. This area of work will inform how MCWD measures success and communicates about its work.
- b. Key deliverables:
 - i. Evaluation framework that connects actions to watershed outcomes
 - ii. 10-year priorities and objectives
 - iii. Defined metrics for MCWD's four strategic goals

In addition to the TAC and PAC, the Plan development process will include subwatershed advisory groups, which will have TAC and PAC members, as well as broader city representation. There will be three subwatershed groups (rural/upper watershed, suburban/middle watershed, and urban/lower watershed), based on cities that have similar land use.

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.



Advisory committee meetings will be held every 2-3 months for two hours at a central location. MCWD's Board liaisons will chair the PAC, while MCWD staff will lead the TAC.

Christopher explained that a four-step process will guide meeting content and discussions with the three advisory groups over the next year and a half:

1. Understand water resource issues and needs
2. Understand land use context and local priorities to support integrated planning
3. Develop implementation priorities and strategies across the watershed
4. Review key sections of the draft Plan

Hoppe led the group through a Mentimeter activity to gather feedback on the Plan scope and process. Questions and answers included:

- How would you like to distribute your time across the Plan's four areas?
 - Overall, committee members indicated the most interest in Land and Water Partnership and Subwatershed Planning, followed by Flood Management, and then the Evaluation Framework.
- Indicate your level of clarity on the Plan process.
 - Overall, committee members indicated a high level of clarity on the committee structures, time commitment, flow of content, and meeting preparation expectations.

MCWD staff led small groups through discussion questions about the Plan scope and process. Key takeaways included:

- The Subwatershed Planning and LWP work areas were of highest interest.
- Unique water resource issues and variable local capacity across the watershed require a tailored approach to partnership.
- Other emerging concerns (chloride, PFOS, data centers) are also of interest.
- Metrics will be important to set goals and determine progress.
- Thoughtful preparation, as well as clear summaries and explanations of how MCWD will use TAC and PAC insights, will steward an effective process.
- MCWD should consider incremental engagement between meetings through surveys and other forms of "homework," to keep information front of mind.

11:55**Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

Christopher provided an overview of upcoming meetings, which will focus on understanding water resource issues and needs. Going forward, TAC and PAC meetings will be separate, and the next meetings will take place during Summer 2026. Christopher thanked everyone for participating and invited committee members to fill out a logistics survey, to help MCWD staff plan future meetings, and to stay for lunch.

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.



2027 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

PAC & TAC — Meeting 1, April 28, 2026



**MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

AGENDA

▶ **Welcome and Introductions**

▶ **2017 Plan Background**

▶ **Break**

▶ **2027 Plan Scope and Process**

▶ **Wrap-up and Next Steps**

MEETING OBJECTIVES

Identify lessons from past decade and opportunities for improvement

Gather input on areas of interest and desired outcomes to shape process

Clarify roles and expectations for committee members

Connect and build relationships

INTRODUCTIONS – MCWD TEAM



Sherry White
President



Bill Olson
Vice President



James Wisker
Administrator



Becky Christopher
Policy Planning



Kate Moran
Policy Planning



Corrina Marshall
Policy Planning



Brian Beck
Research & Monitoring



Samantha Hoppe
Outreach



Maia Irvin
Outreach

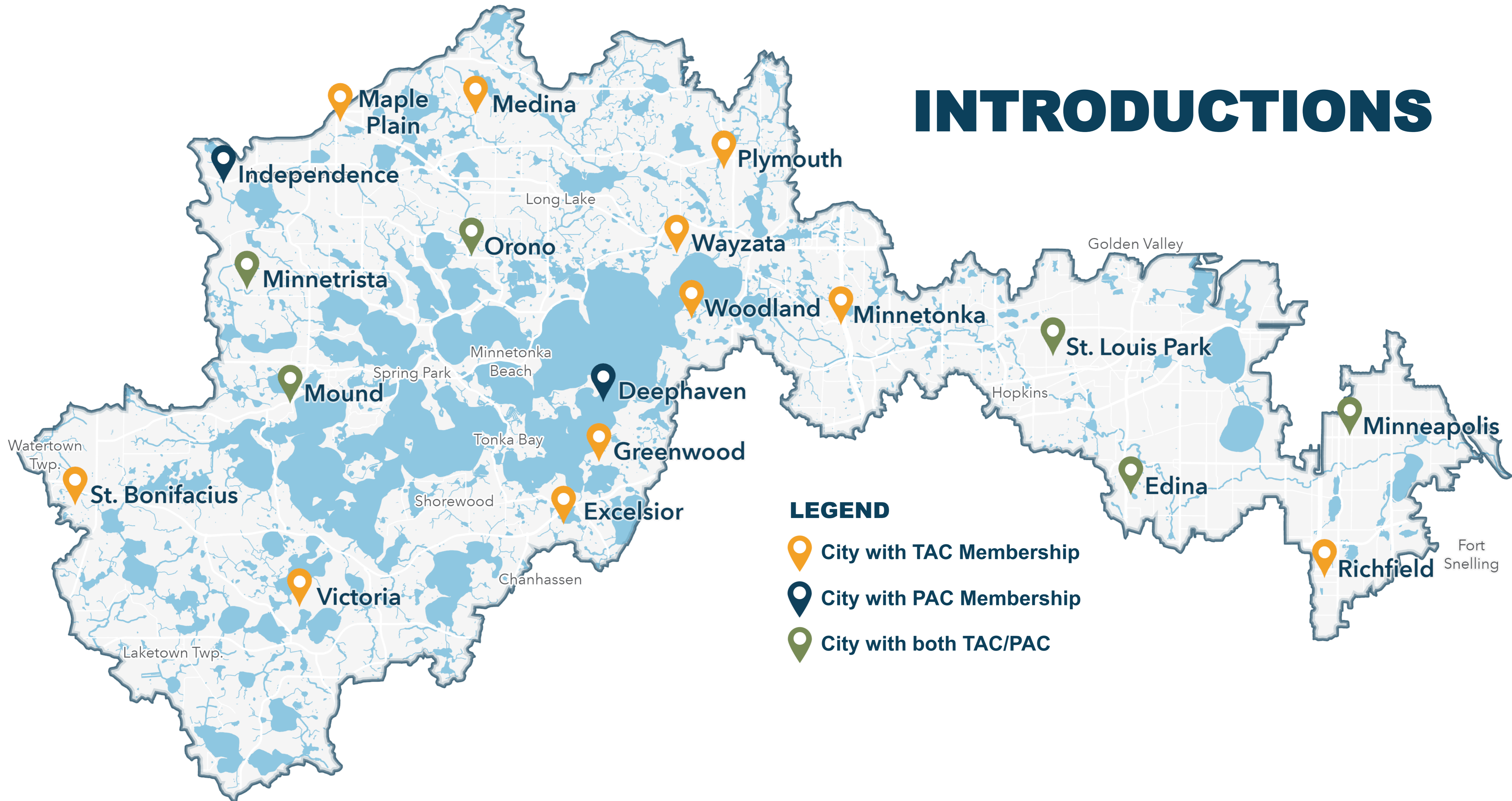


James O'Brien
Outreach






Garrett Monson
Moore Engineering

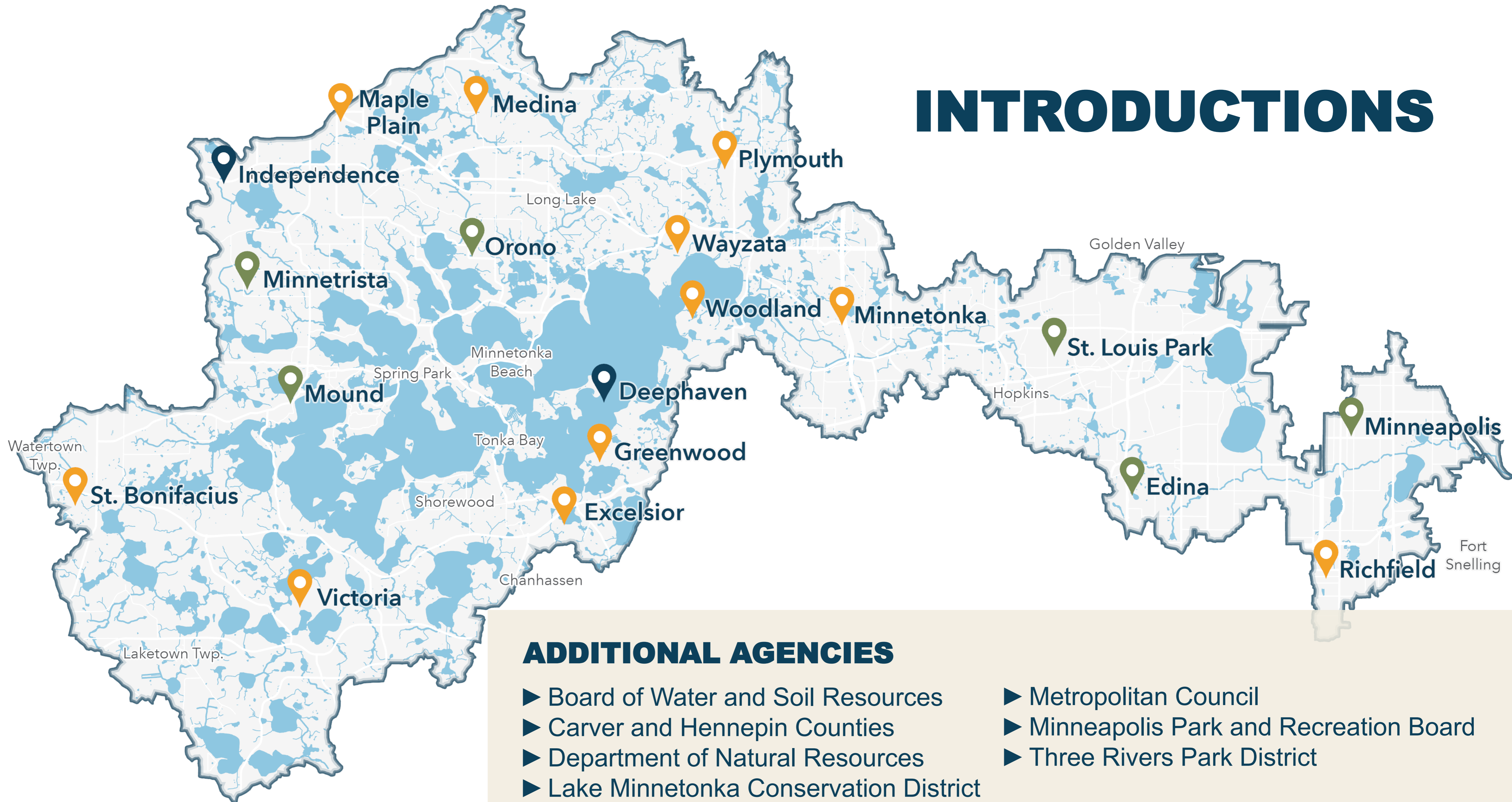
INTRODUCTIONS



LEGEND

-  City with TAC Membership
-  City with PAC Membership
-  City with both TAC/PAC

INTRODUCTIONS



ADDITIONAL AGENCIES

- ▶ Board of Water and Soil Resources
- ▶ Carver and Hennepin Counties
- ▶ Department of Natural Resources
- ▶ Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
- ▶ Metropolitan Council
- ▶ Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- ▶ Three Rivers Park District

TAC Members

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Jessica Vanderwerff Wilson Ross Bintner*	City of Edina	Bob Bean	Cities of Greenwood, Maple Plain, Mound, St. Bonifacius & Woodland
Dusty Finke	City of Medina	Kristen Larson	Carver County
Elizabeth Stout	City of Minneapolis	Amy Riegel Kris Guentzel*	Hennepin County
Eric Eckman Leslie Yetka*	City of Minnetonka	Tom Tully	Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Melanie Curtis Laura Oakden*	City of Orono	Rachael Crabb Madeline Hudek* Debra Pilger*	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Ben Scharenbroich	City of Plymouth	Jami Markle Brian Vlach*	Three Rivers Park District
Mattias Oddsson	City of Richfield	Jessica Collin-Pilarski	Metropolitan Council
Sarah Schweiger Erick Francis*	City of St. Louis Park	Jen Dullum	MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
Cara Geheren	City of Victoria	Ryan Toot	MN Department of Natural Resources
Mike Kelly	City of Wayzata		

PAC Members

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Kent Carlson	City of Deephaven
James Hovland	City of Edina
Joe Baker	City of Independence
Jamison Whiting	City of Minneapolis
Lisa Whalen Jasper Kruggel*	City of Minnetrista
Jesse Dickson Laila Imihy*	City of Mound
Jacqueline Ricks Alisa Benson*	City of Orono
Sue Budd	City of St. Louis Park
David Krueger	Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Meg Forney Michael Schroeder* Jeremy Barrick*	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

**Indicates alternate member*

2017 PLAN BACKGROUND



2017 PLAN: A SHIFT IN APPROACH

A New Vision

Balanced Urban Ecology



Successful, sustainable, livable communities are built on a foundation of integrated planning — planning that recognizes communities as living organisms and takes into consideration all components of the urban ecology.

- Balanced Urban Ecology Philosophy

2017 PLAN: A SHIFT IN APPROACH

A New Vision *Balanced Urban Ecology*



Policy Themes

Partnership

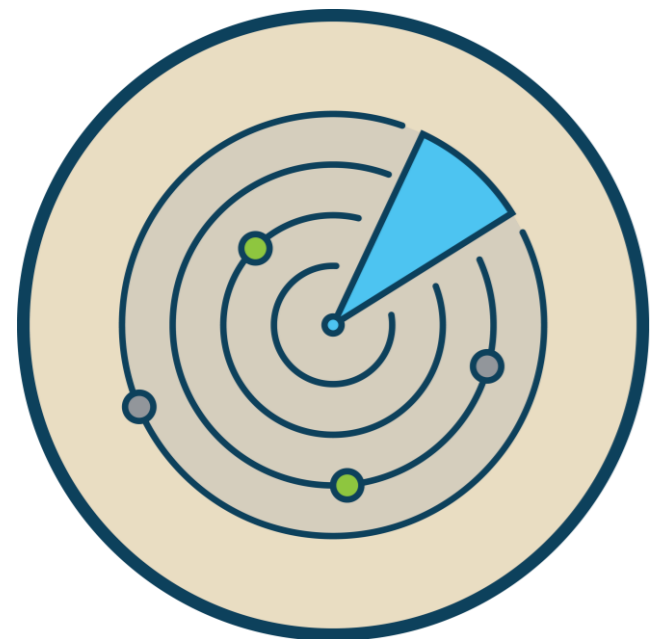
Focus

Flexibility

TWO-TRACK APPROACH

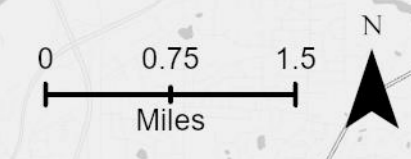
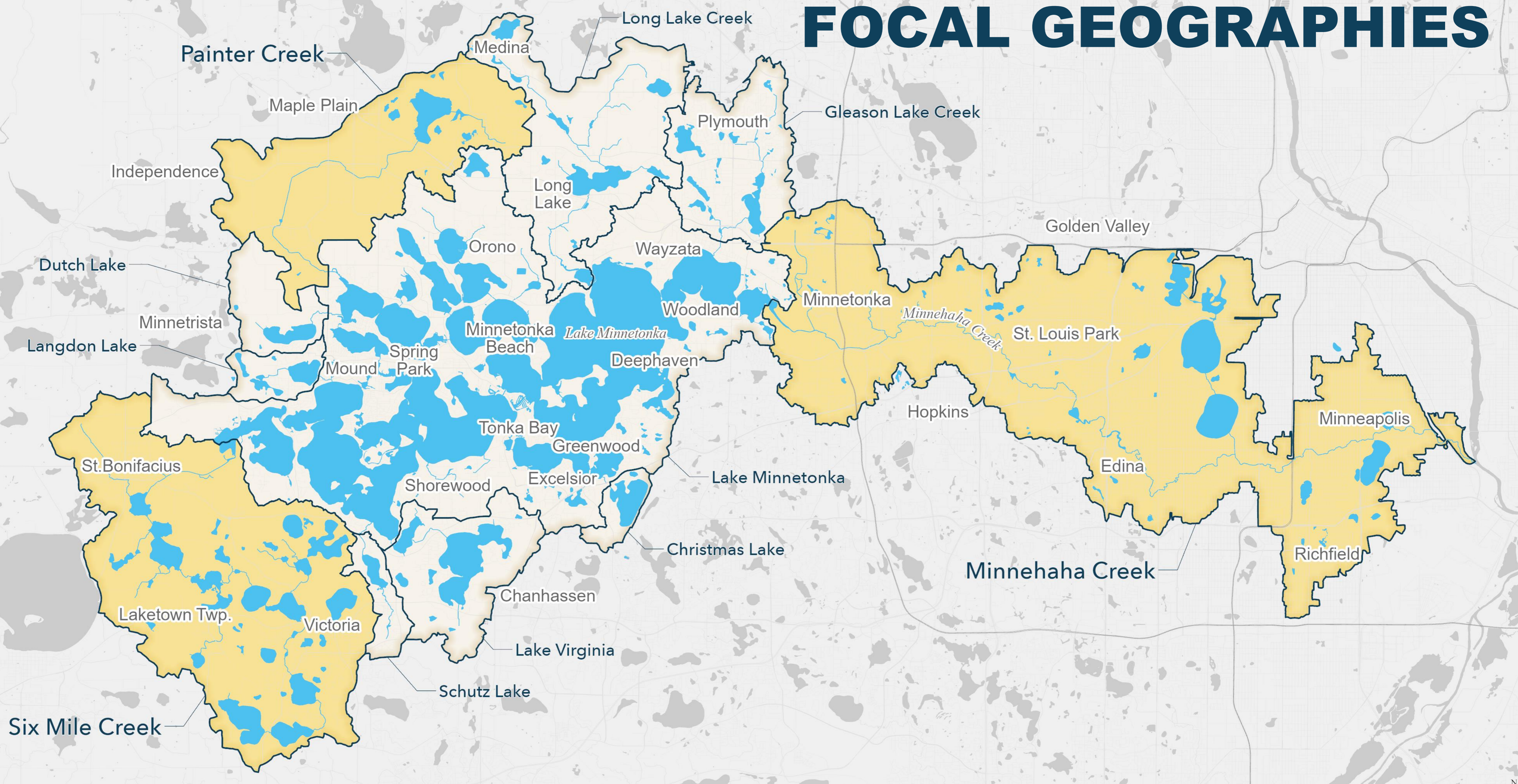


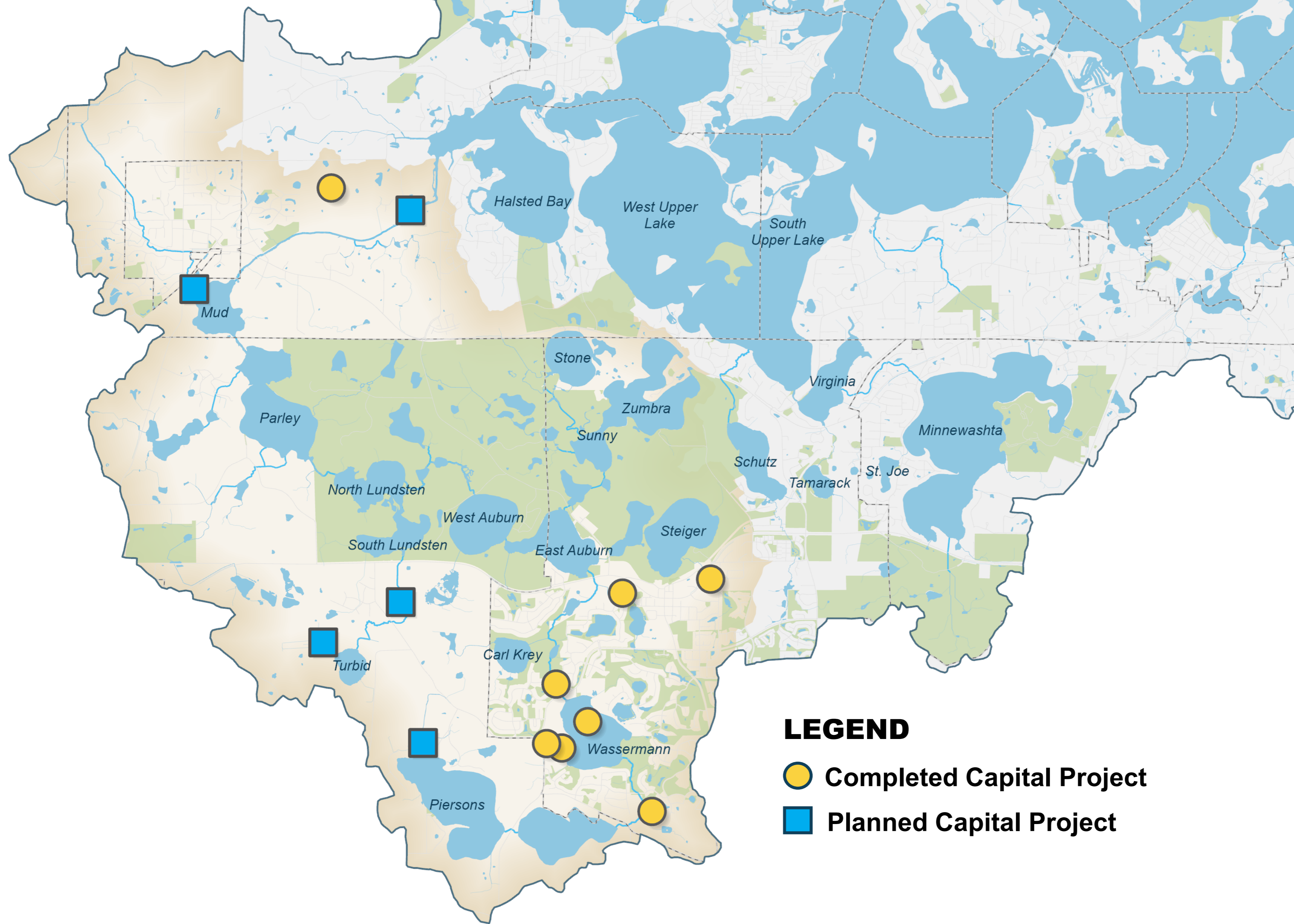
Focal Geographies – focusing in areas of high need to achieve significant, measurable improvements



Land & Water Partnership Program – remaining responsive to needs and opportunities watershed-wide

FOCAL GEOGRAPHIES





LEGEND

- Completed Capital Project
- Planned Capital Project

545 POUNDS
annual nutrient
pollution reduction

190 ACRES
newly accessible
greenspace

124 ACRES
protected
wetlands

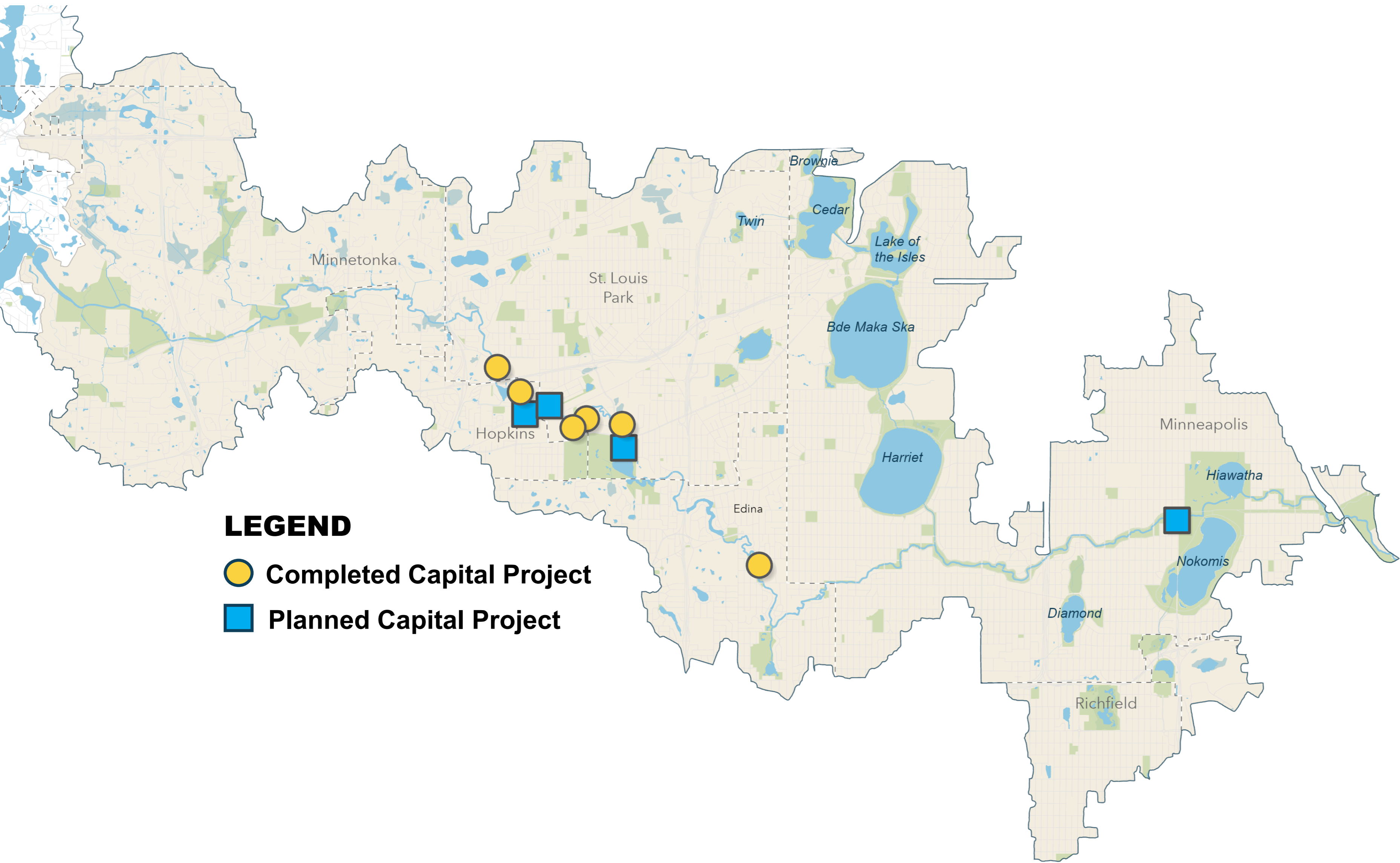
2,488 ACRES
restored in-lake
habitat

\$1.2 MILLION
outside funding
leveraged

SIX MILE CREEK SUBWATERSHED



MINNEHAHA CREEK SUBWATERSHED



150+ POUNDS
annual nutrient
pollution reduction

109 ACRES
newly accessible
greenspace

30 ACRES
wetlands
restored

2.3 MILES
new trails
& boardwalk

1.5 MILES
restored creek
& streambank



LAND & WATER PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE



LWP PROGRAM CREATION



STREAMLINED PERMITTING



IMPROVED COORDINATION



Technical Advisory Committee meeting from MCWD's 2023 Land and Water Partnership Initiative

LAND & WATER PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION



BUILDING ON THE 2017 PLAN


The new direction is working, but it comes with challenges and opportunities for improvement.

PARTNERSHIP

FOCUS

FLEXIBILITY

DISCUSSION

- 
- 1. What benefits have you seen from MCWD's shift in approach over the last plan cycle?**
 - 2. What challenges have you seen, and what are opportunities to improve this approach under the next plan?**
 - 3. How could this integrated planning approach benefit your community/organization?**

BREAK



2027 PLAN SCOPE AND PROCESS



AREAS OF WORK



**Subwatershed
Planning**



**Land & Water
Partnership**



**Flood Management
Strategy**



**Metrics of
Success**

AREAS OF WORK

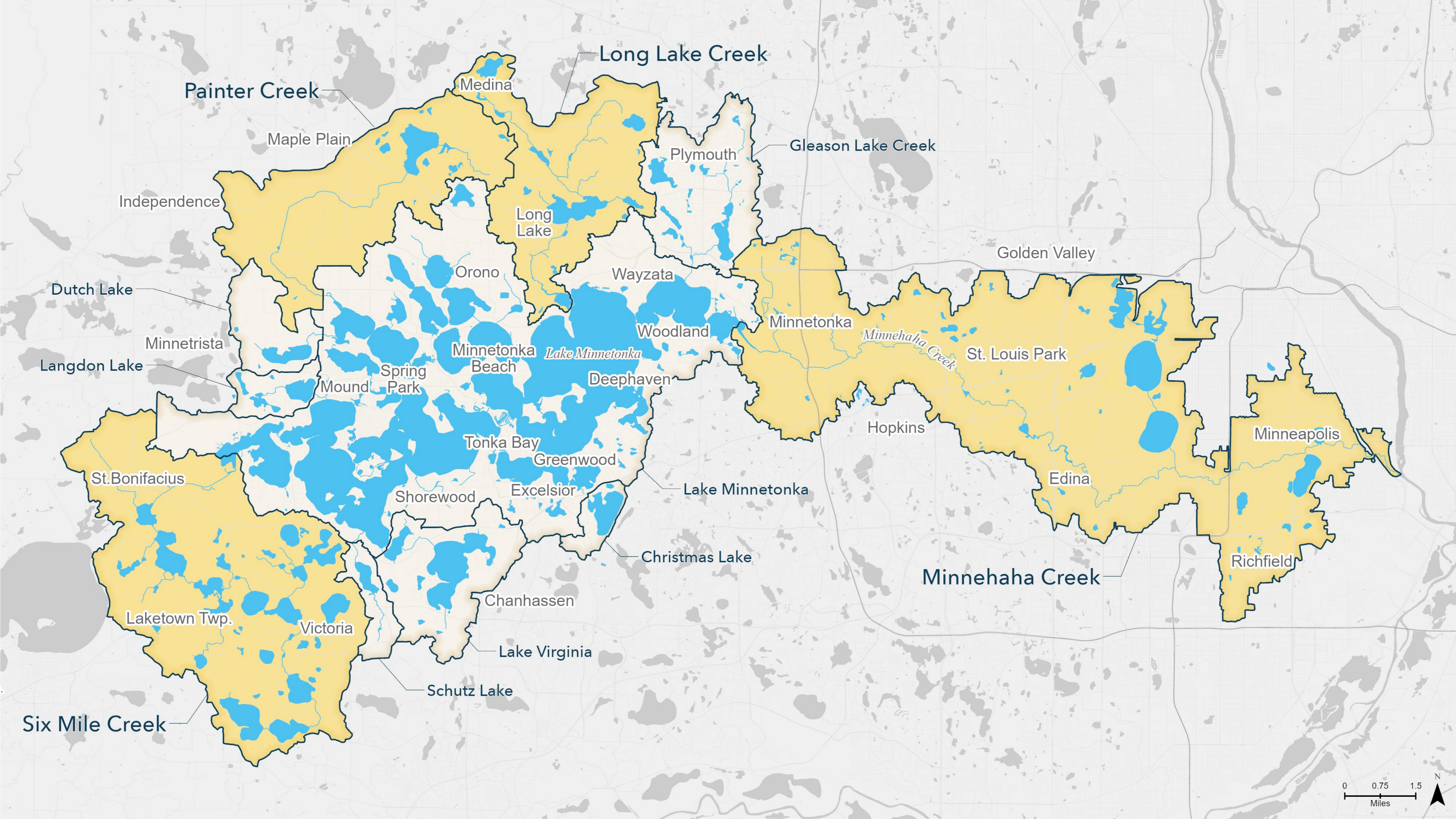


**Subwatershed
Planning**

**Land & Water
Partnership**

**Flood Management
Strategy**

**Metrics of
Success**



Painter Creek

Long Lake Creek

Medina

Maple Plain

Plymouth

Gleason Lake Creek

Independence

Long Lake

Golden Valley

Dutch Lake

Orono

Wayzata

Minnetrista

Woodland

Minnetonka

Langdon Lake

Mound

Spring Park

Minnetonka Beach

Lake Minnetonka

Deephaven

Minnehaha Creek

St. Louis Park

Tonka Bay

Greenwood

Hopkins

Minneapolis

St. Bonifacius

Shorewood

Excelsior

Lake Minnetonka

Edina

Christmas Lake

Minnehaha Creek

Richfield

Laketown Twp.

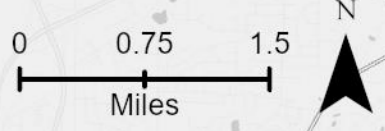
Victoria

Chanhassen

Lake Virginia

Schutz Lake

Six Mile Creek



AREAS OF WORK



Subwatershed Planning

*Tailored, actionable
subwatershed plan*

*5-10 yr CIPs for
four focal geographies*

*Opportunity-based projects
for LWP support*

**Land & Water
Partnership**

**Flood Management
Strategy**

**Metrics of
Success**

AREAS OF WORK



Land & Water Partnership

Policy tools and coordination best practices

Pilot interactive map for opportunity identification

Regional stormwater and wetland banking framework

Subwatershed Planning

Flood Management Strategy

Metrics of Success

AREAS OF WORK



Flood Management Strategy

Assessment of current and future flood risk

Evaluation of watershed-scale strategies and opps

Definition of MCWD's role in flood management

Subwatershed Planning

Land & Water Partnership

Metrics of Success

AREAS OF WORK



Metrics of Success

Watershed-wide evaluation framework

10-year priorities and objectives

Metrics for MCWD's four strategic goals

Subwatershed Planning

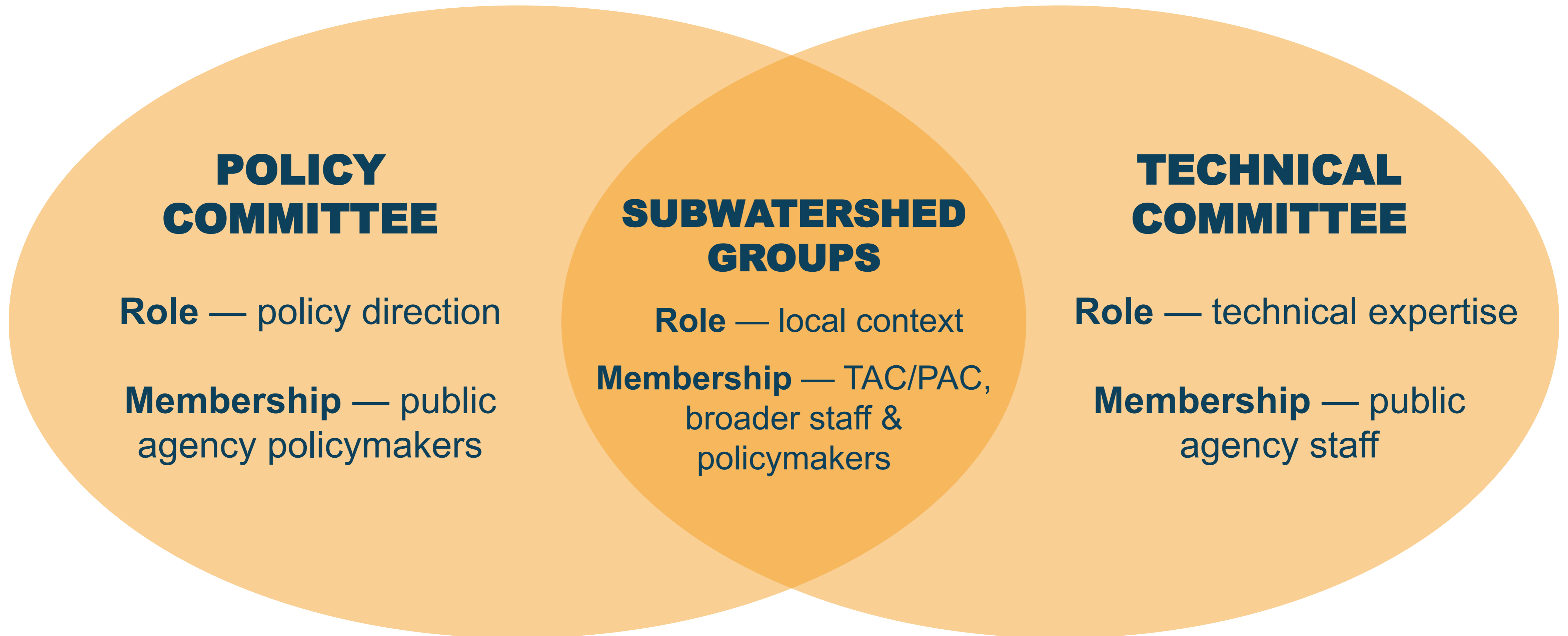
Land & Water Partnership

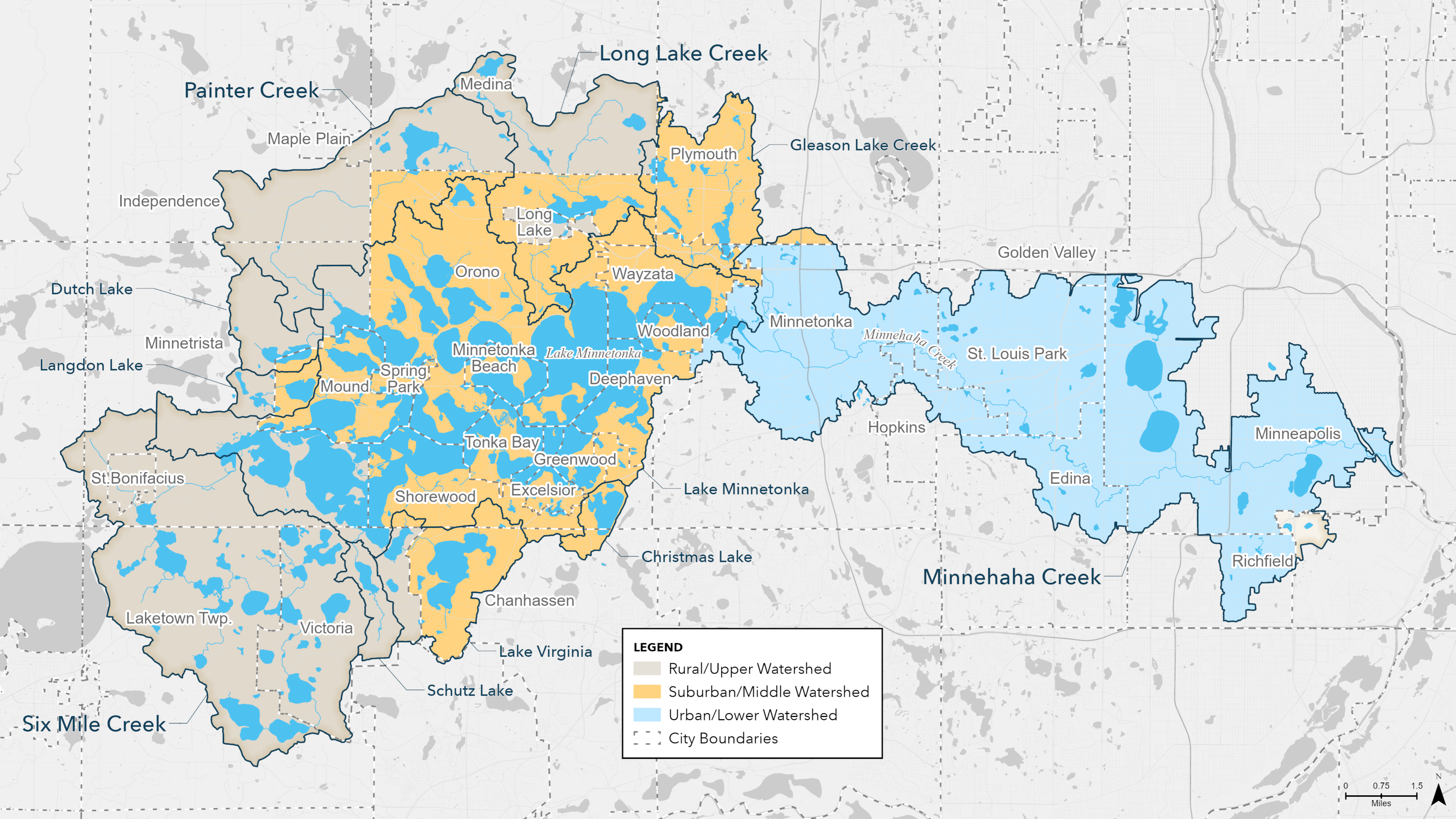
Flood Management Strategy

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



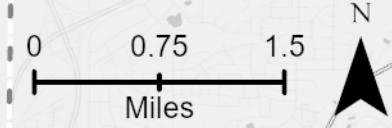
ADVISORY GROUPS





LEGEND

- Rural/Upper Watershed
- Suburban/Middle Watershed
- Urban/Lower Watershed
- City Boundaries



ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Phase	2026-2027 Schedule	TAC	PAC	Subwatershed Groups
Scoping	April	●	●	

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Phase	2026-2027 Schedule	TAC	PAC	Subwatershed Groups
Scoping	April	●	●	
Understanding Water	June	●	●	
	July - Aug	●		

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Phase	2026-2027 Schedule	TAC	PAC	Subwatershed Groups
Scoping	April	●	●	
Understanding Water	June	●	●	
	July - Aug	●		
Land Use Integration	Oct - Nov	●	●	
	Jan - Feb			●

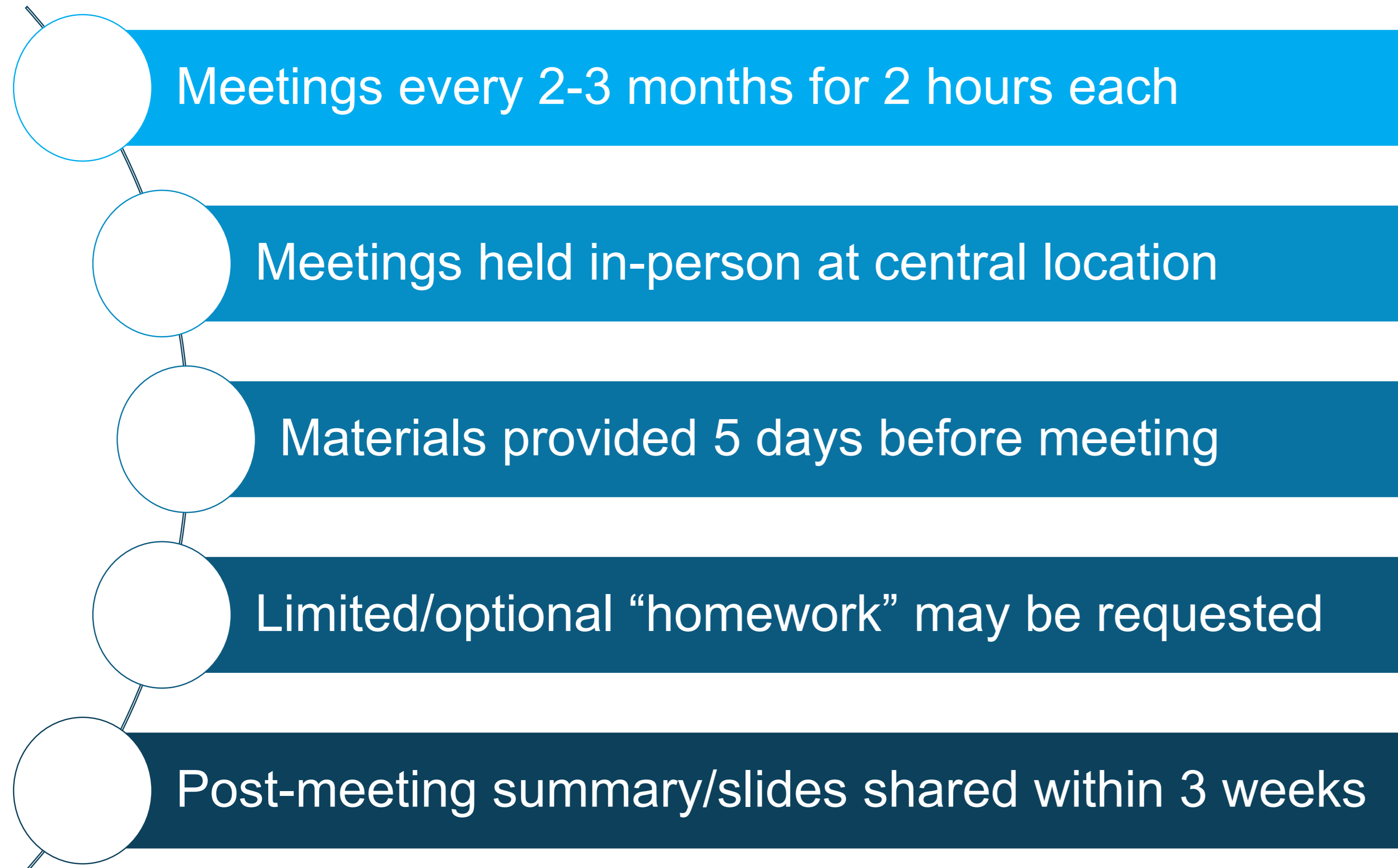
ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Phase	2026-2027 Schedule	TAC	PAC	Subwatershed Groups
Scoping	April	●	●	
Understanding Water	June	●	●	
	July - Aug	●		
Land Use Integration	Oct - Nov	●	●	
	Jan - Feb			●
Developing Strategy	Apr - May	●	●	
	Jun - Jul	●		

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Phase	2026-2027 Schedule	TAC	PAC	Subwatershed Groups
Scoping	April	●	●	
Understanding Water	June	●	●	
	July - Aug	●		
Land Use Integration	Oct - Nov	●	●	
	Jan - Feb			●
Developing Strategy	Apr - May	●	●	
	Jun - Jul	●		
Plan Drafting	Sept - Oct			●
	Nov - Dec	●	●	

MEETING EXPECTATIONS



▶ **Meeting Management**

▶ **Rotating TAC Liaison**

▶ **Role of Alternates**

DISCUSSION



WRAP-UP



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Committee	Month	Plan Phase	Meeting Topic
Technical Advisory Committee	June	Understanding Water	Technical review of watershed issues, flood risk, and future pressures
Policy Advisory Committee	July-August		Discussion of regional priorities, management goals, and policy considerations



THANK YOU!



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

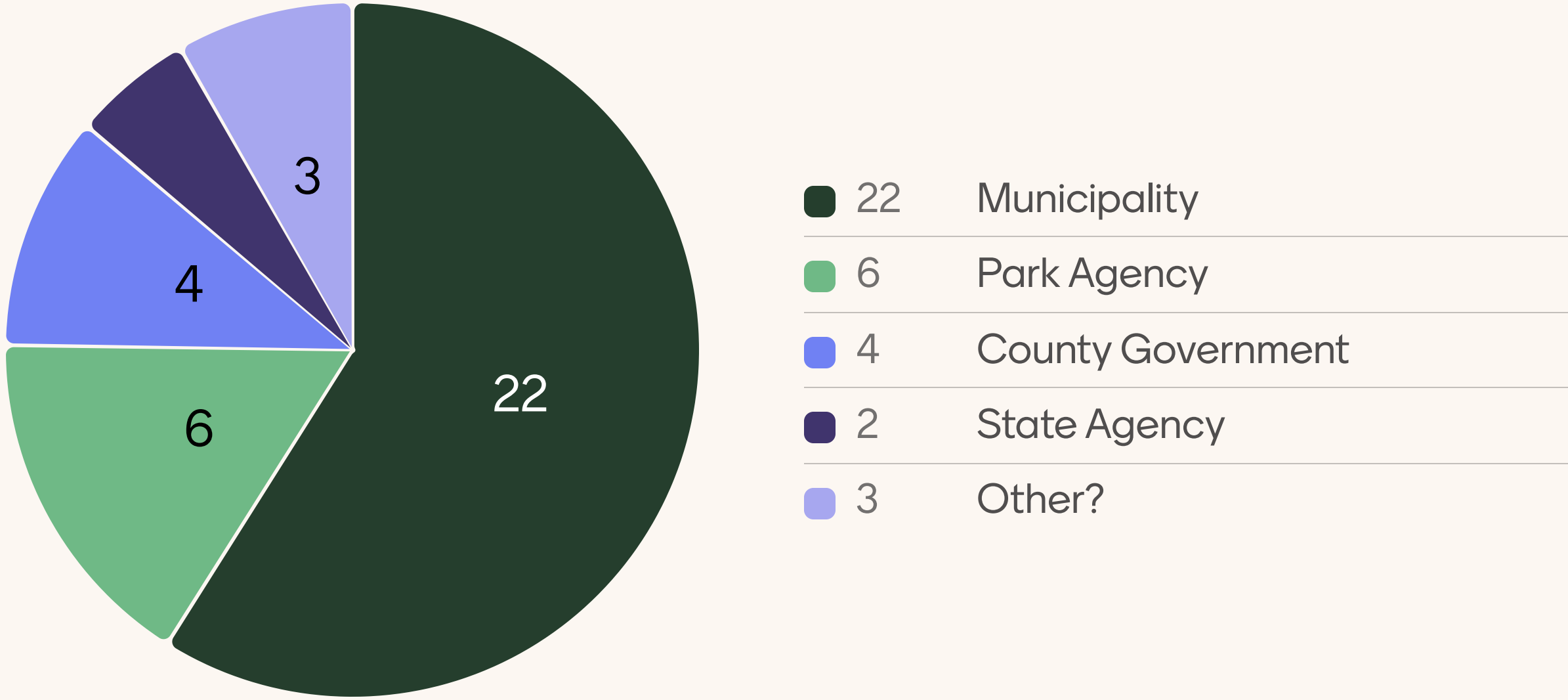
**Scan the QR code to fill out the
TAC and PAC logistics survey**



WELCOME!



What type of agency are you representing?



How would you describe your role at that agency?



8 Water Resource Staff



7 Engineering Staff



5 Planning & Community Development Staff



8 Administration/Management



2 Mayor



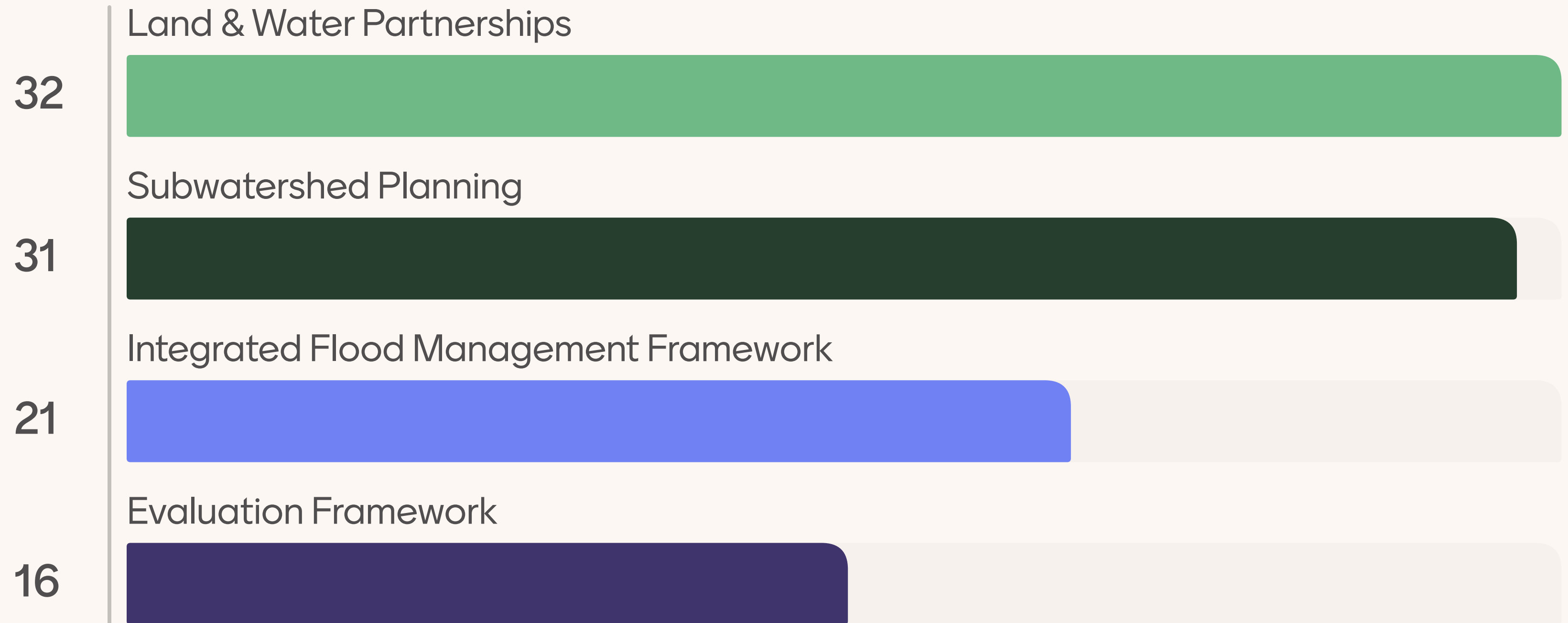
4 Council Member



3 Other?

Small Group Discussion

How would you like to distribute your time across the Plan's 4 focus areas?



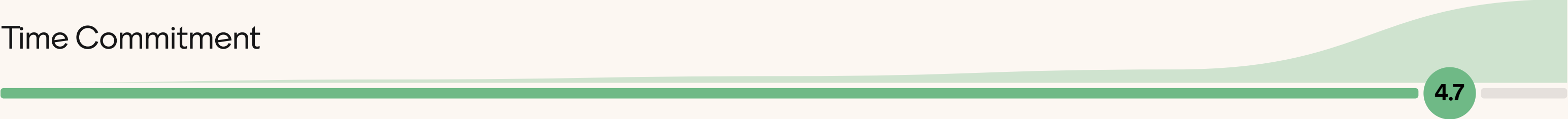
Small Group Discussion

Please indicate your level of clarity on the following elements of the Plan process.

Committee structure



Time Commitment



Flow of Content



Meeting Prep expectations



Not Very Clear

Very Clear

Small Group Discussion



2027 PLAN WORK AREAS

Questions and Deliverables



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD) 2027 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) will be grounded in four areas of work. Throughout the development process, MCWD will collaborate with the Plan's Technical and Policy Advisory Committees to answer key questions that will support the creation of proposed deliverables for each work area.



SUBWATERSHED PLANNING

QUESTIONS

- Where do regional and local water resource priorities align?
- What are strategies and opportunities to address shared priorities?
- How can plans/policies/processes be aligned to achieve shared goals?

DELIVERABLES

- ✓ Tailored and actionable plans for all subwatersheds
- ✓ 5 – 10-year CIPs for MCWD's four focal geographies
- ✓ Opportunity-based projects for LWP support



LAND AND WATER PARTNERSHIP

QUESTIONS

- What are the barriers to implementing integrated planning?
- What are the potential solutions to these barriers?
- What resources can be developed to support integrated planning?

DELIVERABLES

- ✓ Policy tools and coordination best practices
- ✓ Pilot interactive map for opportunity identification
- ✓ Regional stormwater and wetland banking framework



FLOOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

QUESTIONS

Where are the current and future flood risks?

What are the most effective strategies and opportunities to reduce flood risk?

What is the District's role in flood management across the watershed?

DELIVERABLES

- ✓ Assessment of current and future flood risk
- ✓ Evaluation of watershed-scale strategies and opportunities
- ✓ Definition of MCWD's role in flood management



METRICS OF SUCCESS

QUESTIONS

How should MCWD evaluate its work and measure success?

What are the regional project and policy implementation priorities?

What can be accomplished during this plan cycle?

DELIVERABLES

- ✓ Watershed-wide framework to evaluate progress
- ✓ Priorities and objectives for the next decade
- ✓ Metrics for MCWD's four strategic goals

STAY INFORMED

Find updates, packet materials, and meeting summaries for the Technical and Policy Advisory Committees at MCWD's website below.



minnehahacreek.org/about-the-district/committees

