DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply Planning Updates

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Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) | March 26, 2026

Why require water supply plans?

- Future development plans rely on water availability
- Flag potential issues to prevent conflict
- Prepare for emergencies
- Evaluate costs and benefits of different options



Statutory requirements: 103G.291

- Projected demand
- Water system adequacy
- Planned system improvements
- Existing and future sources
- Natural resource impacts or limitations
- Emergency preparedness
- Water conservation
- Supply and demand reduction measures
- Allocation priorities consistent with 103G.261

Connection to comprehensive plan

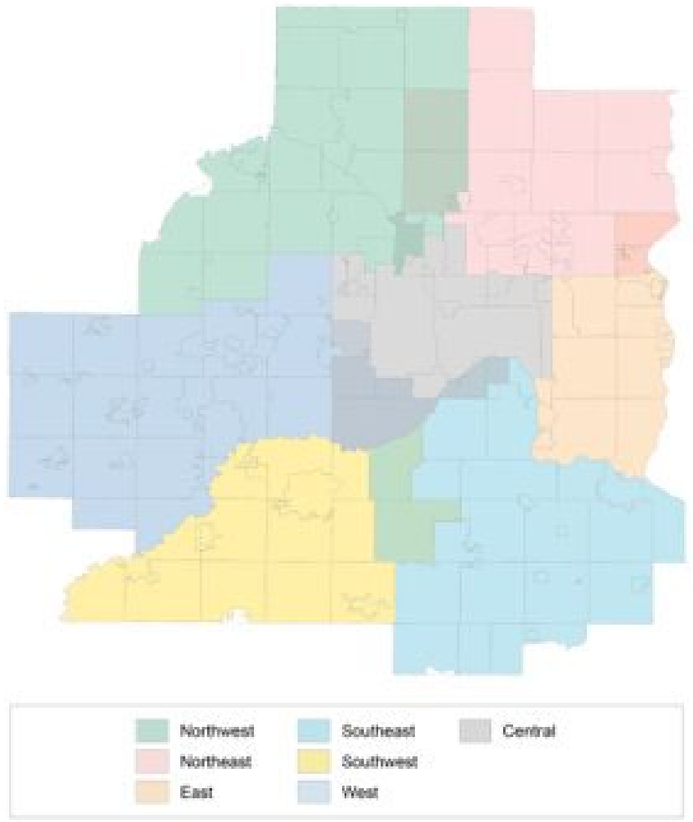
Minnesota statutes, sections 103G.291 and 473.859

The comprehensive plan is a community's vision of how it wants to grow and change through 2050 — how it will develop its land, redevelop older areas, ensure adequate housing, provide roads and sewers, protect natural areas, and meet other community objectives.

The water supply plan described in 103G.291 is a required component of the comprehensive plan.

What’s different?

- Online form and Excel workbook
- Less redundant information collection
- DNR will provide a "planning packet“ and guidance
- Due dates over a longer time for the entire state, starting with the Metro and any suppliers requesting amendments
- Encourage regional collaboration



Where we started

Resource Type	Resource Name	Risk	Risk Assessed Through *	Describe Resource Protection Threshold or Goal *	Mitigation Measures or Management Plan	Describe How Thresholds or Goals are Monitored
☐ Trout stream		☐ None anticipated ☐ Flow/water level decline ☐ Degrading water quality trends ☐ Impacts on endangered, threatened, or special concern species habitat ☐ Other:	☐ Geologic atlas or other mapping ☐ Modeling ☐ Monitoring ☐ Aquifer testing ☐ WRAPS or other watershed report ☐ Proximity (< 5 miles) ☐ Other:	☐ Not applicable ☐ Additional data is needed to establish ☐ See report: ☐ Other:	☐ Not applicable ☐ Change groundwater pumping ☐ Increase conservation ☐ Other:	☐ Not applicable ☐ Newly collected data will be analyzed ☐ Regular check-in with these partners: ☐ Other:
☐ Aquifer		☐ None anticipated ☐ Flow/water level decline ☐ Degrading water quality trends ☐ Impacts on endangered, threatened, or special concern species habitat ☐ Other:	☐ Geologic atlas or other mapping ☐ Modeling ☐ Monitoring ☐ Aquifer testing ☐ Proximity (obwell < 5 miles) ☐ Other:	☐ Not applicable ☐ Additional data is needed to establish ☐ See report: ☐ Other:	☐ Not applicable ☐ Change groundwater pumping ☐ Increase conservation ☐ Other:	☐ Not applicable ☐ Newly collected data will be analyzed ☐ Regular check-in with these partners: ☐ Other:

Wellhead Protection (WHP) and Source Water Protection (SWP) Plans
Complete Table 11 to provide status information about WHP and SWP plans.

The emergency procedures in this plan are intended to comply with the contingency plan provisions required in the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) Wellhead Protection (WHP) Plan and Surface Water Protection (SWP) Plan.

21

Table 11. Status of Wellhead Protection and Source Water Protection Plans

Plan Type	Status	Date Adopted	Date for Update
WHP	☐ In Process ☐ Completed ☐ Not Applicable		
SWP	☐ In Process ☐ Completed ☐ Not Applicable		

WHP – Wellhead Protection Plan **SWP –** Source Water Protection Plan

F. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Please note that any wells that received approval under a ten-year permit, but that were not built, are now expired and must submit a water appropriations permit.

Adequacy of Water Supply System
Complete Table 12 with information about the adequacy of wells and/or intakes, storage facilities, treatment facilities, and distribution systems to sustain current and projected demands. List planned capital improvements for any system components, in chronological order. Communities in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area should also include information about plans through 2040.

The assessment can be the general status by category; it is not necessary to identify every single well, storage facility, treatment facility, lift station, and mile of pipe.

Please attach your latest Capital Improvement Plan as **Appendix 4**.

Table 12. Adequacy of Water Supply System

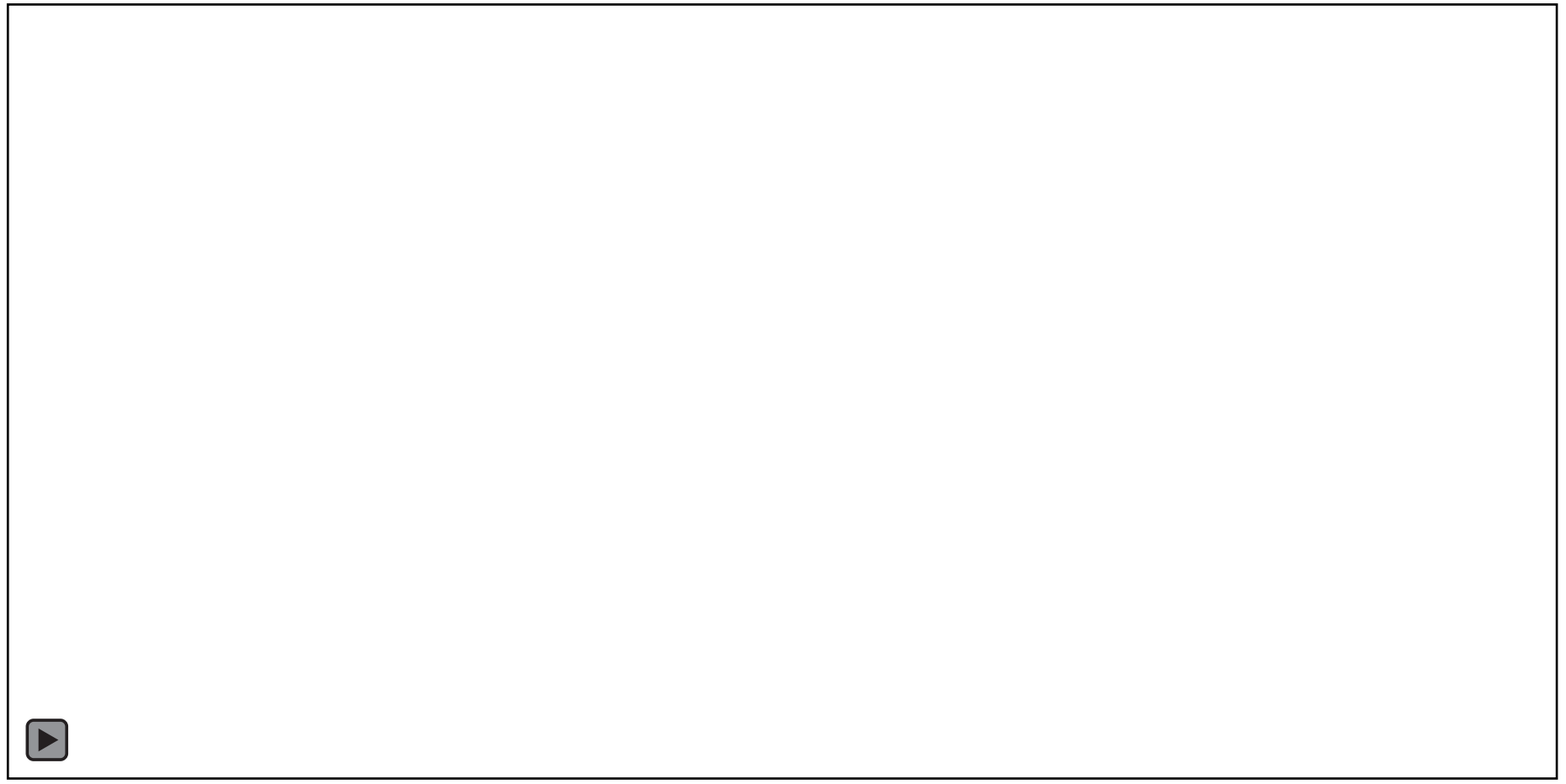
System Component	Planned action	Anticipated Construction Year	Notes
Wells/Intakes	☐ No action planned - adequate ☐ Repair/replacement ☐ Expansion/addition		
Water Storage Facilities	☐ No action planned - adequate ☐ Repair/replacement ☐ Expansion/addition		
Water Treatment Facilities	☐ No action planned - adequate ☐ Repair/replacement ☐ Expansion/addition		
Distribution Systems (Pipes, valves, etc.)	☐ No action planned - adequate ☐ Repair/replacement ☐ Expansion/addition		
Pressure Zones	☐ No action planned - adequate ☐ Repair/replacement ☐ Expansion/addition		

22

Qualtrics survey platform

- Clear navigation
- Survey logic
- Queryable, consistent format
- Version control

Video on the right illustrates online format and user navigation.



TAC beta testing after Feb. 12, 2026 meeting

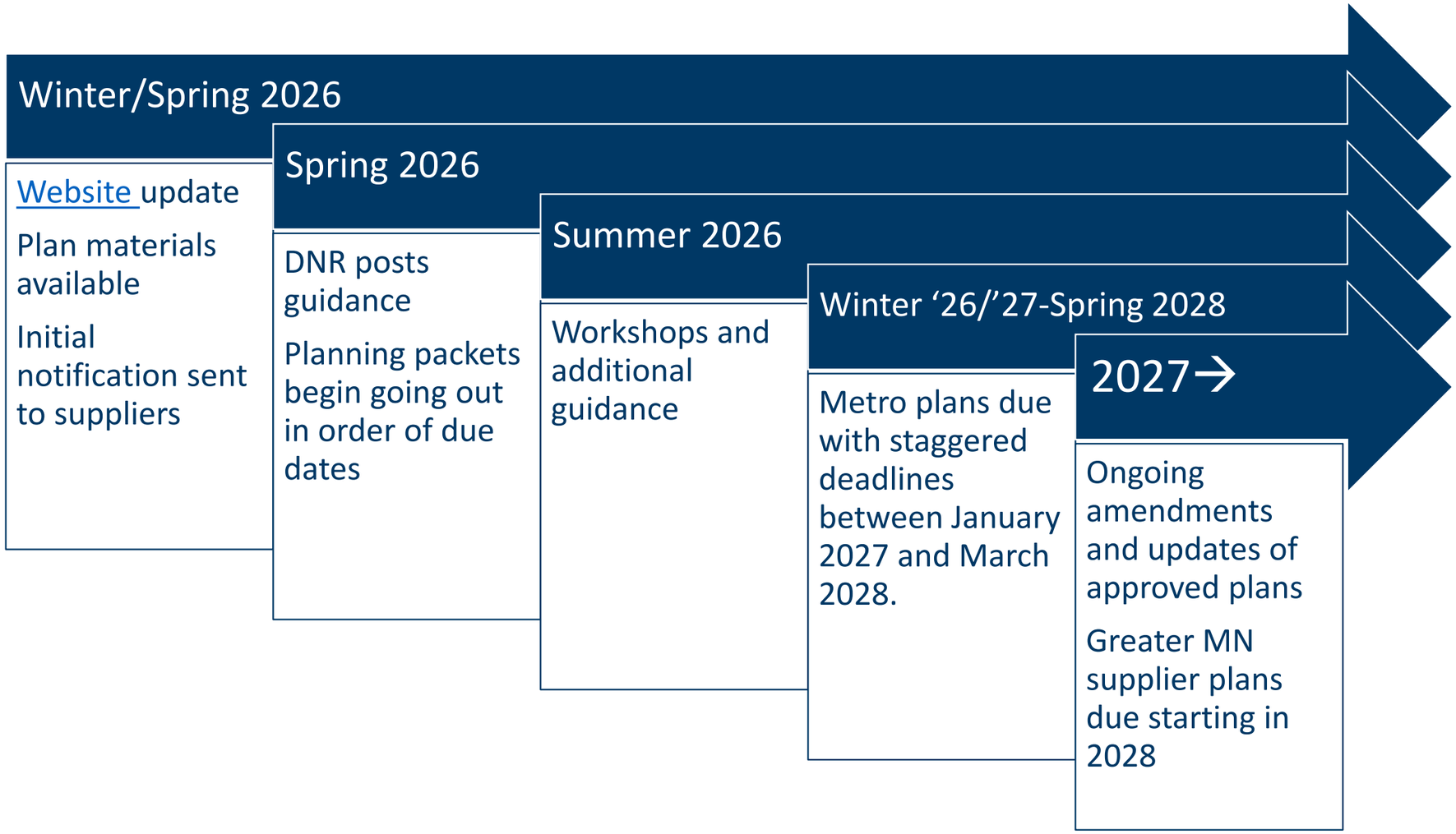
6 TAC members:

Form works well

Some formatting issues to correct with workbook

Support for including maps and climate data in planning packet

Timeline

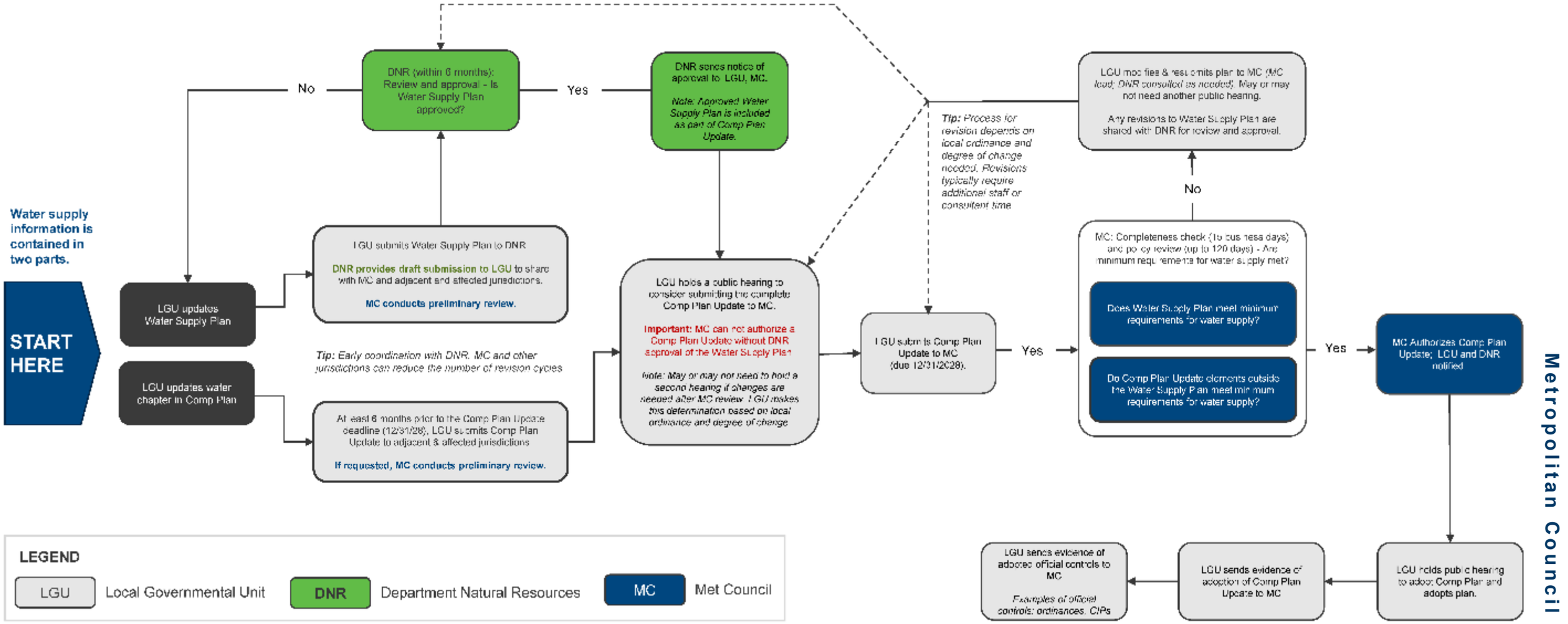

Winter/Spring 2026
Website update
Plan materials available
Initial notification sent to suppliers
Spring 2026
DNR posts guidance
Planning packets begin going out in order of due dates
Summer 2026
Workshops and additional guidance
Winter ‘26/’27-Spring 2028
Metro plans due with staggered deadlines between January 2027 and March 2028.
2027→
Ongoing amendments and updates of approved plans
Greater MN supplier plans due starting in 2028

Key milestones

September 2025	System statements sent to communities in the Twin Cities metro region; technical assistance resources like Local Planning Handbook updated (ongoing)
Fall 2026	Met Council hosting a planning conference to support local planning updates; additional and ongoing PlanIt programming
Spring 2028	If not already done, comprehensive plan updates should be shared with adjacent and affected jurisdictions (including DNR) for 6-month review
December 31, 2028	Comprehensive plan updates, including DNR-approved water supply plan, due to the Met Council

Process for Water Supply and Comprehensive Plan Updates

How the Water Supply Plan and Comprehensive Plan Update move from draft to adoption



Metropolitan Council

Supporting collaboration in the metro region

Across departments and with neighboring communities

Water supply

Surface water management

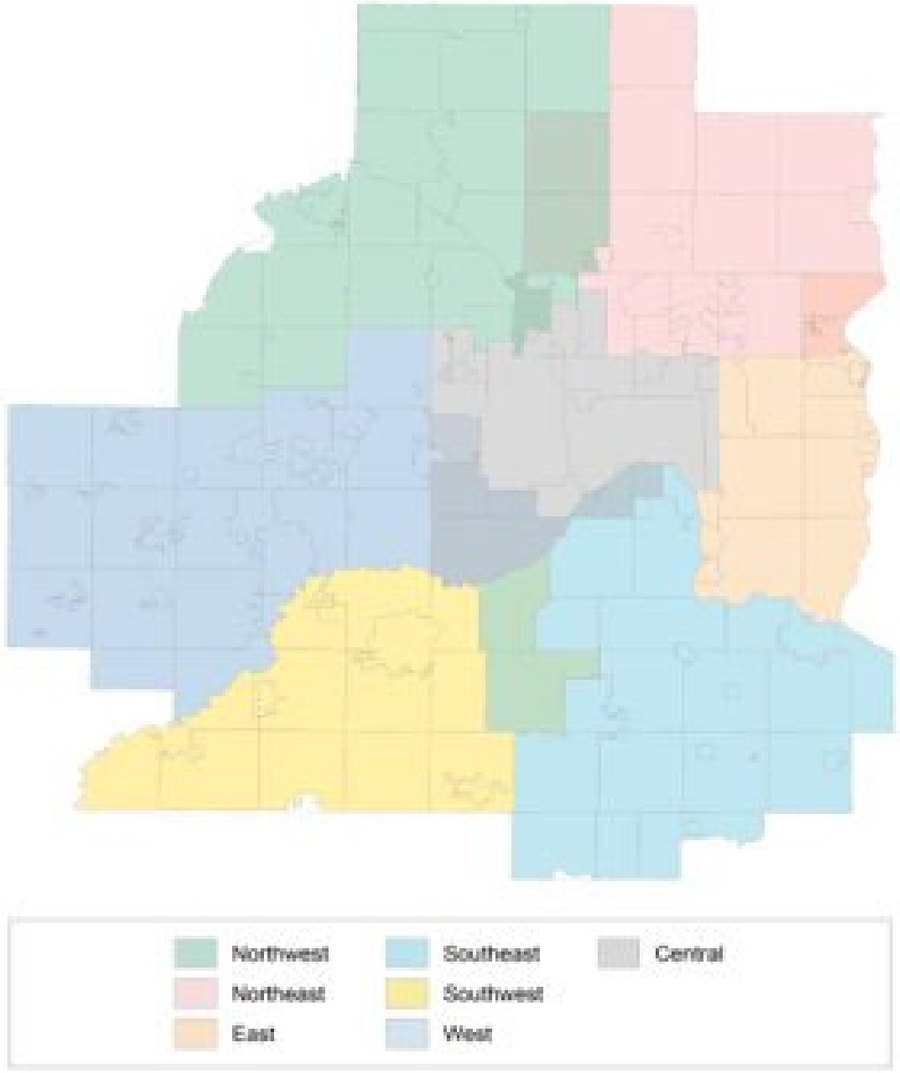
Wastewater

Land use

Transportation

Parks

Housing



Water supply planning and permitting



You and your team celebrating that you've already done a lot of the work to show the DNR that you need an appropriations permit amendment!

Communities are asking: Can I get started now?

Yes!

- Ensure correct contact in MPARS and ESP Water
- Work with utility billing to get data by customer category
- Review previous plan and evaluate success of actions you took
- Review existing regulatory controls
- Gather monitoring and maintenance data
- Start discussions with other departments and neighboring communities, as well as city councils or other governing bodies

Local Planning Handbook: https://handbook.metrocouncil.org/



Save the date! PlanIt webinar on water planning in local comprehensive plans

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, over the lunch hour

Who should attend? Community water planners and consultants

What will you learn? Where requirements come from, how review and coordination work, and how to use templates, guidance, and partner resources to streamline plan development.

Why is it useful? Be better prepared to scope work, coordinate with review agencies early, and develop clear, complete water-related plan content that supports long-term community growth, infrastructure planning, and resilience.

What will be covered?

- The minimum requirements for surface water, water supply, and wastewater planning.
- How they fit together within the Water Chapter of local plans and the broader planning process.

Water Chapter Template – Coming Soon!

TAC beta testing after Feb. 12, 2026 meeting

4 TAC members (2 cities/utilities, 1 consultant, 1 agency):

- “I think this is really useful and well done!” “The document looks like it flows pretty smoothly.” “Great to have key milestones.”
- Consider having more consultants review, as they often develop this content
- Consider tweaks to better support those new to the planning process:
  - Clarify purpose of comprehensive plan update process and how this fits
  - Estimate the amount of time needed to complete different pieces
  - Provide example of the level of detail expected
- Pay attention to the section for goals, policies, and actions to guide water-related decisions about land use, development phasing, and capital investment – currently, most assume that if land use is guided for particular uses, the water supply capacity and infrastructure is sufficient. This may not be the case in future.

More resources coming soon

Tools and resources launching in 2026

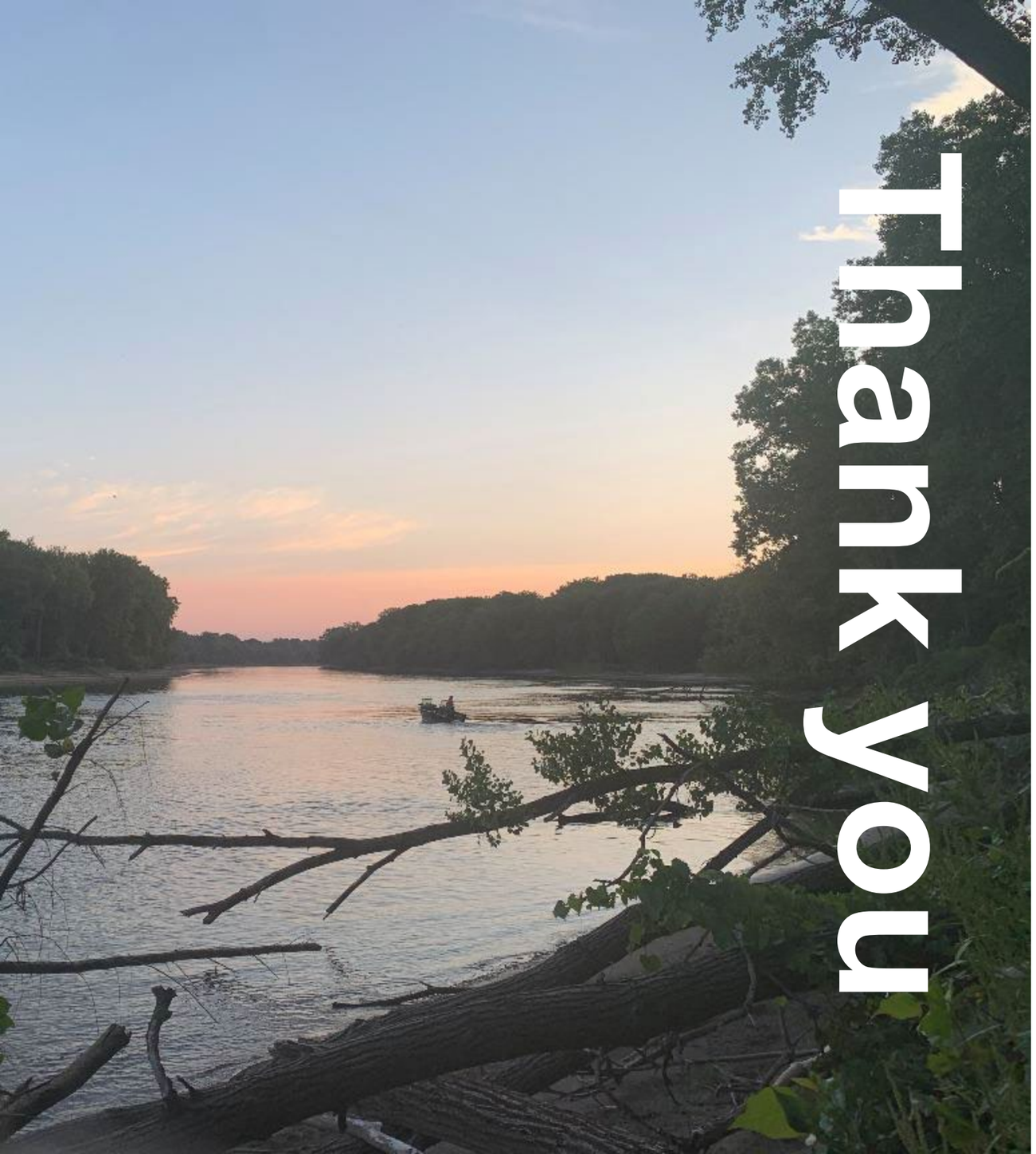
Water Supply Planning Guide: Directions, tools, and local examples to help you meet all required water supply elements in your local plan

Natural Systems Planning Tools: Available now as a Beta tool. Interactive map and story map resources linking data to planning requirements.

Local Housing Data Tool: (Early 2026) Interactive housing data visualization tool to explore existing conditions.

Housing Policy Implementation Toolkit: (Summer 2026) with strategies, examples, and funding options.

Climate Action Toolkit: Available now as a Beta tool. Technical resource with climate actions across mitigation/adaptation sectors, including impacts, examples, environmental justice considerations, and ease of implementation.



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