

# Meeting Summary:

## West Metro Water Supply Planning Workshop

**Date and time:** October 30, 2025, from 9:30 – 11:00 AM

**Location:** Chanhassen City Adm  
7700 Market Blvd, Chanhassen, MN 55317

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### Workshop Purpose

To review what was accomplished in Phase 1 (2023-2024) and to start work toward aligning our different organizations' strategies to achieve the goals stated in the West Metro Action Plan, a section of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan chapter of the 2050 Water Policy Plan.

### Workshop Agenda

- Welcome and purpose
- Introductions
- Background and scope
- Discussion 1: Why does collaborating around water matter to you? What does success look like?
- Discussion 2: Review previously identified actions, prioritize, and clarify roles
- Discussion 3: Schedule/prioritize actions in the West Metro Action Plan
- Discussion 4: Next steps to plan for 2026
- Close out

### Notes

23 people from 16 local organizations signed in (12 cities and 4 watersheds), as well as 10 planning staff from the Met Council's land use, wastewater, watershed, and water supply planning units.



The workshop started with a presentation by the Met Council about the development of subregional engagement, how it informed the regional policy update process, and how it will be supported going forward.

**Discussion 1: Why does collaborating around water matter to you? What does success look like?**

Participants were asked to think about and discuss the question, “Why does collaborating around water matter to you? What does success look like?”. Answers help to ground future work and explain to other people what they would get out of joining this effort. Example responses:

- It matters because many areas could use help with finding solutions to problems. Working with nearby cities and agencies to find common goals.
- Water knows no boundaries. Water is life. Water is not a resource; it is the sources. Success is cleaner abundant water tomorrow.
- We align shared goals and outcomes.

Detailed responses are included in the appendix.

**Discussion 2: Review previously identified actions, prioritize, and clarify roles**

Participants were asked to review the list of actions in the Met Council-adopted West Metro chapter of the Metro Area Water Supply Plan (part of the 2050 Water policy Plan) and prioritize them.

The actions that most people commented on:

- Support workforce retention through succession planning and knowledge transfer.
- Convene regular workshops/meeting with stakeholders to define mutual goals, info sharing, community building, and networking. Goals should include state-wide sustainability goals. Continue to hold meetings to discuss and check in on progress and info share. Have a dedicated facilitator to document meeting information, plan and coordinate meetings, and establish meeting topics, etc.

**Discussion 3: Schedule/prioritize actions**

Building on the information from discussion 2, participants were asked to identify priorities for work starting in 2026. Examples of actions that were prioritized:

- Build partnerships between local water supply utilities, regulatory agencies, and future growth entities (planning/land use, developers, etc.) so that land use planning and development is informed and based on water supply planning.
- Work with the state so that before new water quality rules are made, tools/plans are made available including financial/plans/info. Labs need to be able to test new required levels.
- Create a water conservation plan for the region with simple and effective actions.

**Discussion 4: Next steps to plan for 2026 (preferences for ongoing engagement/collaboration)**

Participants were asked about preferences for future engagement and collaboration:

- Expand the invite list to include more perspectives.
- Meet twice per year, for two hours.

## Appendix 1: Attendance List

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jordan Wolke	City of Carver
Andrew Simmons	City of Carver
Charlie Howley	City of Chanhassen
Jake Casebeer	City of Chanhassen
Matt Haefner	City of Chaska
Ross Bintner	City of Edina
Jess Wilson	City of Edina
Eric Eckman	City of Minnetonka
Ryan Prich	City of Mound
Mark Streich	City of Norwood Young America
Grant Fernelius	City of Plymouth
Chris McKenzie	City of Plymouth
Kristen Asher	City of Richfield
Mattias Oddsson	City of Richfield
Austin Holm	City of St. Louis Park
Jay Hall	City of St. Louis Park
Lane Braaten	City of Waconia
Doug Bode	City of Waconia
Jen Schumann	City of Wayzata
Will Lytle	Lower Minnesota River WD
Becky Christopher	Minnehaha Creek WD
Erica Sniegowski	Nine Mile Creek WD
Terry Jeffery	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD

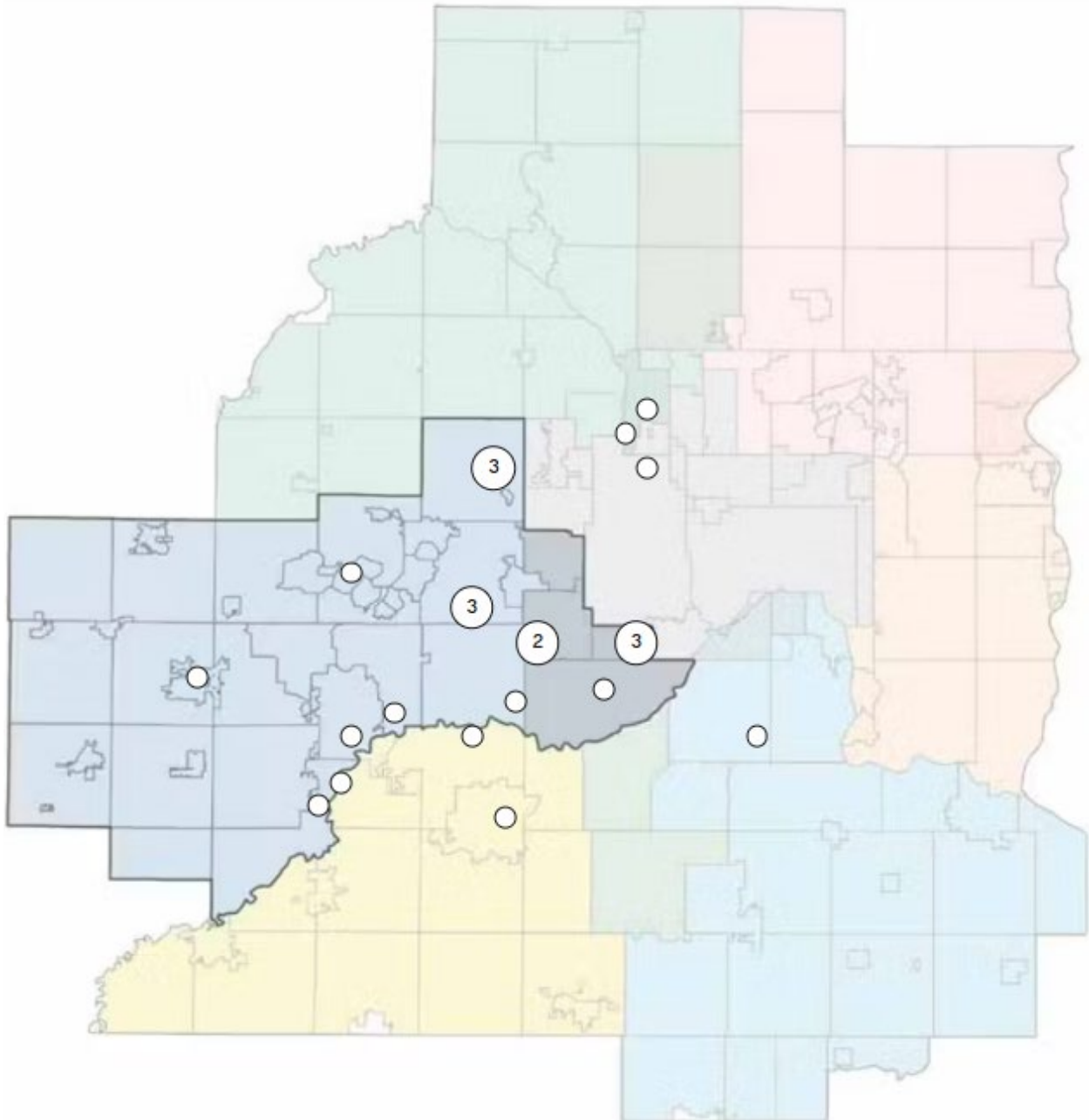
### **Met Council Staff**

Amber Turnquest  
Freya Thamman  
Shawn James  
Mackenzie Young-Walters  
Jen Kostrzewski  
Lanya Ross  
Eric Wojchik  
Jess Collin-Pilarski  
Kristen Poppleton  
Emily Schon

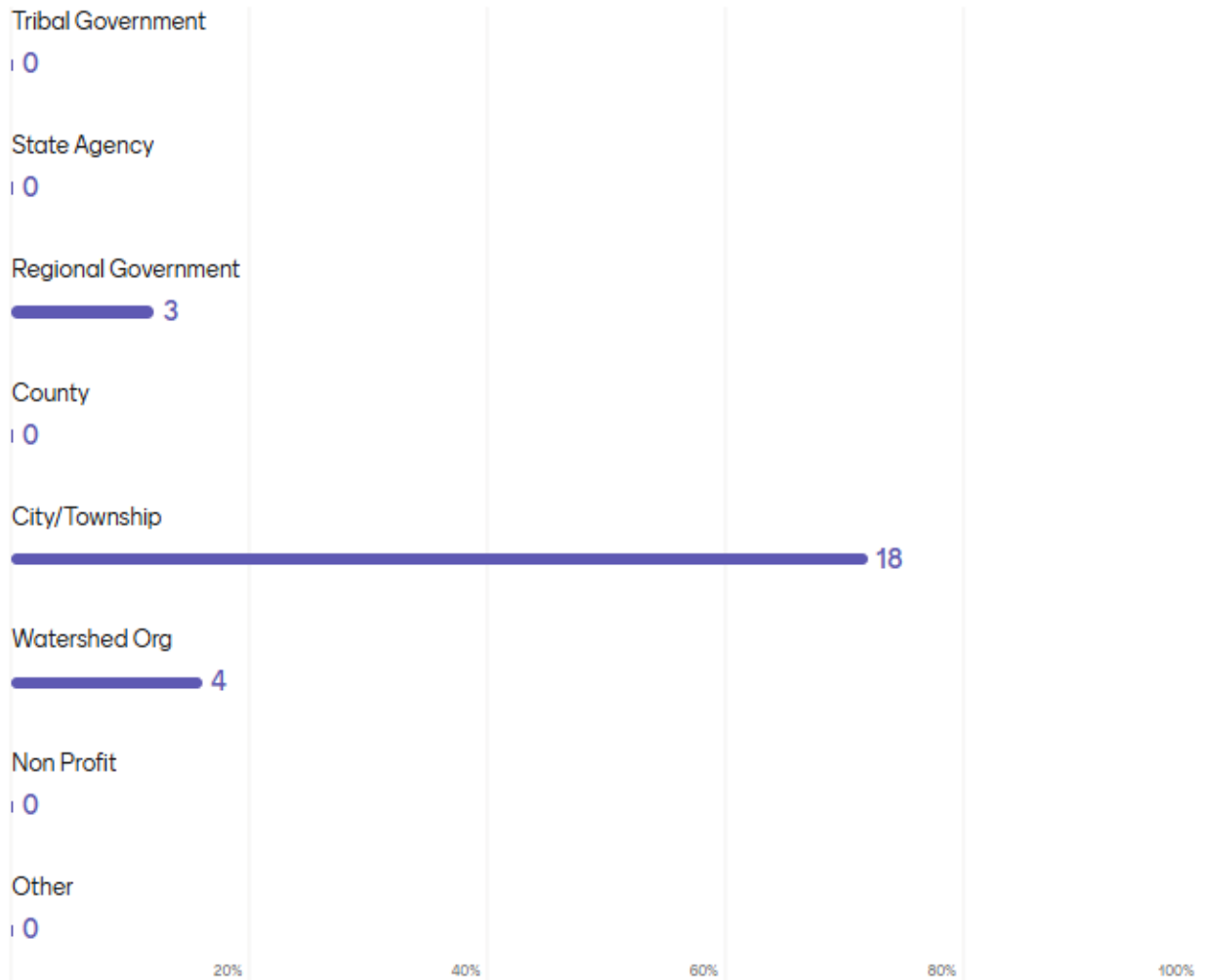
## Appendix 2: West Metro Kickoff - Mentimeter Results

October 30, 2025 (Data download at 1:20 PM)

Where are you from?



## What type of organization do you represent?



## What is your role?

Most popular

administrator 4

Also prominent

community development 3    engineer 3  
public works director 3    eng serv manager 2    planner 2  
planning 2

Other responses

1 1    assistant city engineer 1    budgeting 1    dept head 1    director 1  
manager 1    managing 1    mastermind 1    promoter 1    pw director 1  
pwd 1    resource manager 1    superintendent 1    systems thinker 1  
utility director 1    utility superintendent 1    water production foreman 1  
water resources engineer 1    water supervisor 1

## Why does collaborating around water matter to you? What does successful collaboration look like?

Working as a team with other organizations is extremely important to the longevity of our natural resources.

Sustainability and service

Knowledge sharing

It matters because many areas could use help with finding solutions to problems. Working with nearby cities and agencies to try to find common goals.

We align on shared goals and work outcomes.

Successes

Failures

Bringing people together

Opportunity to learn from each and share resources to address shared challenges.

Water knows no boundaries. Water is life. Water is not a resource, it is the source. Success is cleaner abundant water tomorrow .

Keep waters safe and healthy for next generation

Long term sharing of resources

Sustainable resources are vital to the health and wellbeing of all

Developing relationships with neighbors

State agencies understand local constraints, responsibilities and resources align.

Setting ambitious goals. Empathy

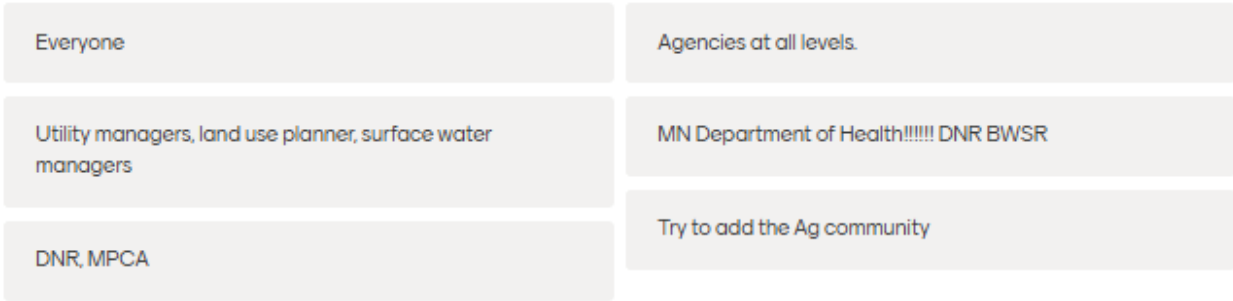
Our practices impact your water, vice versa

Water is a shared resource.

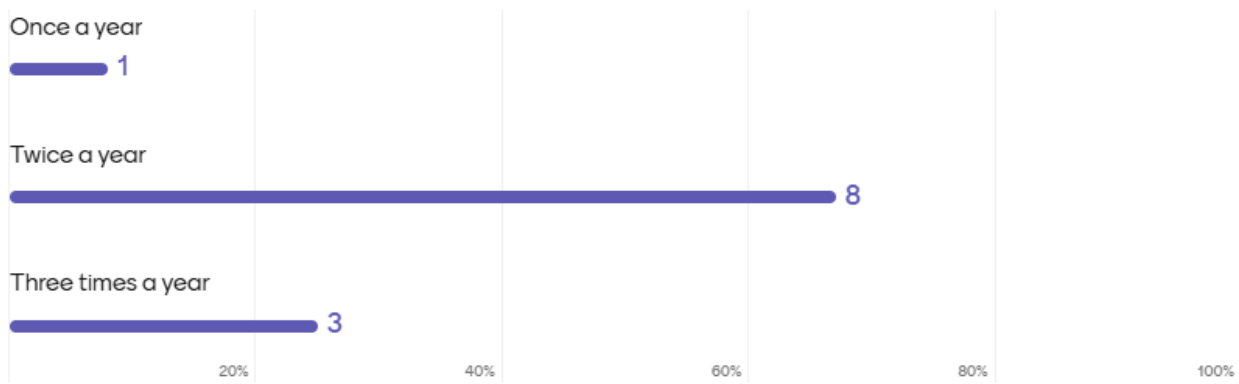
Align priorities and advocate for policies, programs, funding to support them.

The water cycle cannot be reduced to its base parts. Holistic water plans and collaboration

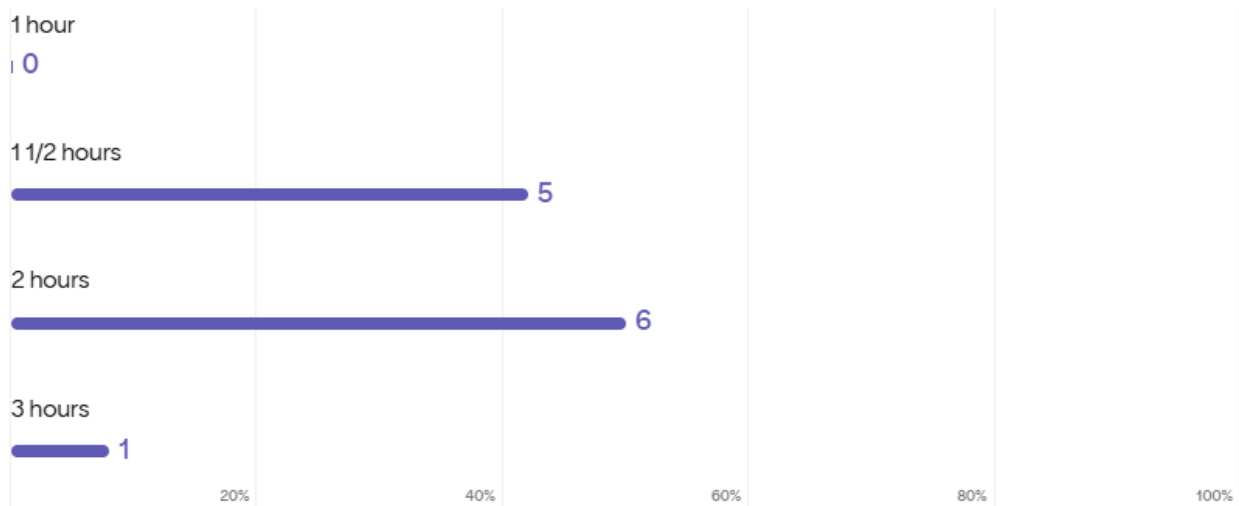
## Who should be included?



## How often would you prefer to meet as a group?



## What is the most effective workshop length?



## Appendix 3: Handwritten responses to Discussion 1 – Why does collaborating around water matter to you? What does success look like?

Several people shared the following notes:

- What and how to fix and pay for treatment!
- Work with nearby cities/agencies to solve common problems
- Can't have one person/entity possibly polluting everyone's supply
- Everyone implementing together
- Sustainable for future generations
- Provide direction for future growth and pure waters
- Think of the future
- Pair with everyone
- Groundwater has no boundaries, so approaching with that in mind, will help preserve the long-term health of our resources
- Sustainability as protection of resource for all.
- Devise shared understanding of water resources, risky services
- Our downstream is someone's upstream. Our upstream is someone's downstream.
- More value – conduit from state to local
- Process value – get to know plan reviewer, get same shared goal, projects
- Why: cross-jurisdictional approaches, scaling up, optimized and efficient.
- Success: Aligned implementation activities. Working to strengths, influence, harmony/unity.
- Cross-pollinate. Commiserate. Build coalition.



**ACTIVITY 2: Review and prioritize actions – Cities and Townships, and Counties**

**Name, organization, and role:** \_\_\_\_\_

In fall and winter 2023–2024, the West Metro Subregional group identified 31 actions. These actions are now included in the Met Council’s 2050 Water Policy Plan. The Met Council is committed to working with stakeholders in the West Metro Subregion to move these actions forward.

**Instructions: What you should do**

As you go, identify any new ideas that aren’t on the list but should be. Use the blank row at the top of the table.

1. Verify that your organization has authority, influence, or interest.
2. Who should lead any collaboration across organizations?
3. List key partners who need to be involved.
4. Choose which action(s) you think are a top priority or should happen first.
5. Identify any actions that can wait until later.

#	Action	Relates to/ Supported by the Met Council?	Does your organization have authority, influence, or interest?	Who should lead any collaboration across organizations?	Key partner(s)	Barriers/ Opportunities	Priority? (1-5; 1=highest)	Can it wait?
<b>New</b>								
1	Convene regular workshops/meeting with stakeholders to define mutual goals, info sharing, community building, and networking. Goals should include state-wide sustainability goals. Continue to hold meetings to discuss and check in on progress and info share. Have a dedicated facilitator to document meeting information, plan and coordinate meetings, and establish meeting topics, etc.	MC supports this through resources to convene subregional groups						
2	Support workforce retention through succession planning and knowledge transfer.	MC has an internship and WW training programs						
3	Build partnerships between local water supply utilities, regulatory agencies, and future growth entities (planning/land use, developers, etc.) so that land use planning and development is informed and based on water supply planning.							

#	Action	Relates to/ Supported by the Met Council?	Does your organization have authority, influence, or interest?	Who should lead any collaboration across organizations?	Key partner(s)	Barriers/ Opportunities	Priority? (1-5; 1=highest)	Can it wait?
4	Convene a focus group with representative from every regulatory agency and local governments to define data overlaps, gaps, and refinement. Provide resources to provide uniform data gathering and reporting including urban versus rural data collection, regional contact, and funding and support equipment, and increase lab testing capacity. Consider a west metro groundwater model of our shared aquifer and process to keep up to date. This could be a "stress test" model for drought conditions.	MC does this in part through Metro Model version 4 (current update in progress). Also planned projects to assess municipal drinking water infrastructure, and a project to coordinate with DNR on groundwater elevation database						
5	Work with the state so that before new water quality rules are made, tools/plans are made available including financial/plans/info. Labs need to be able to test new required levels.							
6	Collaborate to create and/or improve asset management systems across the subregion to include the maintenance database and inventory, GIS model of systems, an accurate water model, or forecasting future needs and costs, to inform current condition of infrastructure, maintain infrastructure, and funding decisions. Example: Benchmark operations and maintenance (O&M) plans and activities, level of investment, and staffing levels	MC does this in part through planned projects to assess municipal drinking water infrastructure						
7	Create a database clearinghouse that houses relevant data collected by state agencies and provides management and analysis for all of metro. Agencies would be able to pull annual data from this clearinghouse versus cities submitting the same information to multiple agencies.	MC has interest in this; more work needed to clarify the focus/scope.						
8	Improve large-scale groundwater modeling to help systems understand supply. Like 5 above: Consider a west metro groundwater model of our shared aquifer and process to keep up to date. This could be a "stress test" model for drought conditions.	MC does this in part through Metro Model 4.						
9	Where feasible, implement a water reuse system as a demo project in a city(ies) in the subregion and provide information and education as a case study.							
10	Promote natural/alternative drought-resistant lawns through education and outreach in partnership with the University of Minnesota. Include information on how much water lawns need.	MC is doing this in part through U of M Extension Turfgrass program, funded through CWF						

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11	Create a maintenance and inspection plan that utilizes the maintenance database and inventory.							
12	Work to leverage and make funds available to make necessary upgrades and improvements to systems, including lead replacement.							
13	Implement high-water-use industry zones near wastewater treatment plants to create water reuse loops at the industrial scales during the 2050 comprehensive plan process.							
14	Create and implement model ordinances to permit stormwater reuse for irrigation.							
15	Implement ordinances for common sense outdoor water use (example: no watering between 10 am – 6 pm).							
16	Construction/storage of surface water withdrawal systems to protect groundwater use.							
17	Promote and implement actions to further protect water supply from runoff, including working with watershed districts, developers, and state agencies.							
18	Create a water conservation plan for the region with simple and effective actions.							
19	Develop and/or recommend consistent tiers between suppliers (example: tier 1 from 0-10,000; tier 2 from 10 000-40,000; tier 3 over 40,000).							
20	Collaborate on the development and completion of a multi-community wellhead protection plan update and implementation process.	MC provided convening and funding for Part 1, supports convening led by MDH in Part 2						

**ACTIVITY 2: Review and prioritize actions – Nongovernmental Organizations**

**Name, organization, and role:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Instructions: What you should do**

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<b>New</b>								
<b>1</b>	Support workforce retention through succession planning and knowledge transfer.	MC has an internship and WW training programs						
<b>2</b>	Develop an asset management program and policy for strategic asset management planning to inform budget and set rates. To inform development of the program and policies, lean on leaders in the field (America Public Works Association) around standards and life cycle evaluations.							

**ACTIVITY 2: Review and prioritize actions – State Agencies**

**Name, organization, and role:** \_\_\_\_\_

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2	Support workforce retention through succession planning and knowledge transfer.	MC has an internship and WW training programs						

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3	Build partnerships between local water supply utilities, regulatory agencies, and future growth entities (planning/land use, developers, etc.) so that land use planning and development is informed and based on water supply planning.							
4	Build up state-level capacity to enforce regulations.							
5	Create data collection standards across state agencies that are easy to implement for local water suppliers.	MC does this in part through Metro Model 4. Also planning project to coordinate with DNR on groundwater elevation database. MC also working with DNR to improve local water supply plan data collection tools and guidance.						
6	Improve large-scale groundwater modeling to help systems understand supply. Like 5 above: Consider a west metro groundwater model of our shared aquifer and process to keep up to date. This could be a "stress test" model for drought conditions.	MC does this in part through Metro Model 4.						
7	Implement regional education programs to teach the community on the importance of reducing water use and water conservation including watering restrictions.	MC may be able to build on the Conservation Toolbox, Local Planning Handbook, and PlanIt program - if this is a priority, we can push with management						
8	Review, define, and map the current drought declaration process, authority of regional restrictions, and barriers/concerns on legal process. Depending on findings, work to change laws to better implement the restrictions.	MC has interest in this - will reach out to DNR to explore how best to do this						

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9	Support research on water conservation and restrictions methods to learn which methods better conserve water.							
10	Provide regional/subregional educational programming on water quality at all levels	MC Water Resources has a robust surface water quality monitoring and assessment program that could support such a program						
11	Construction/storage of surface water withdrawal systems to protect groundwater use.							
12	Create a water conservation plan for the region with simple and effective actions.							
13	Work with the state to revise the State Drought Plan.	MC would have a supporting role here						
14	Collaborate on the development and completion of a multi-community wellhead protection plan update and implementation process.	MC provided convening and funding for Part 1, supports convening led by MDH in Part 2						

**ACTIVITY 2: Review and prioritize actions – Watersheds**

**Name, organization, and role:** \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>2</b>	Support workforce retention through succession planning and knowledge transfer.	MC has an internship and WW training programs						

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3	Promote natural/alternative drought-resistant lawns through education and outreach in partnership with the University of Minnesota. Include information on how much water lawns need.	MC is doing this in part through U of M Extension Turfgrass program, funded through CWF						
4	Work to make implementing stormwater reuse for irrigating a viable option. Continue to promote rain barrels to the public for irrigation purposes.							
5	Collaborate on the development and completion of a multi-community wellhead protection plan update and implementation process.	MC provided convening and funding for Part 1, supports convening led by MDH in Part 2						