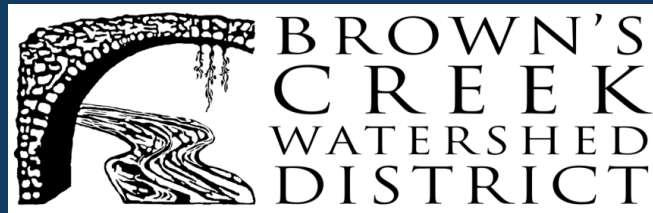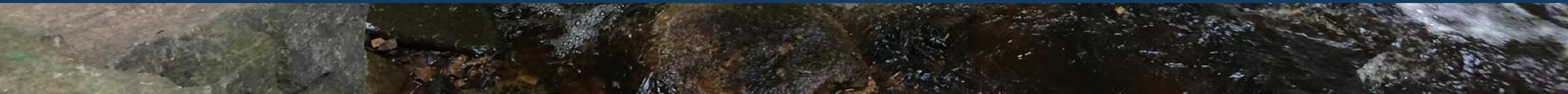# BCWD Regulatory Program Review
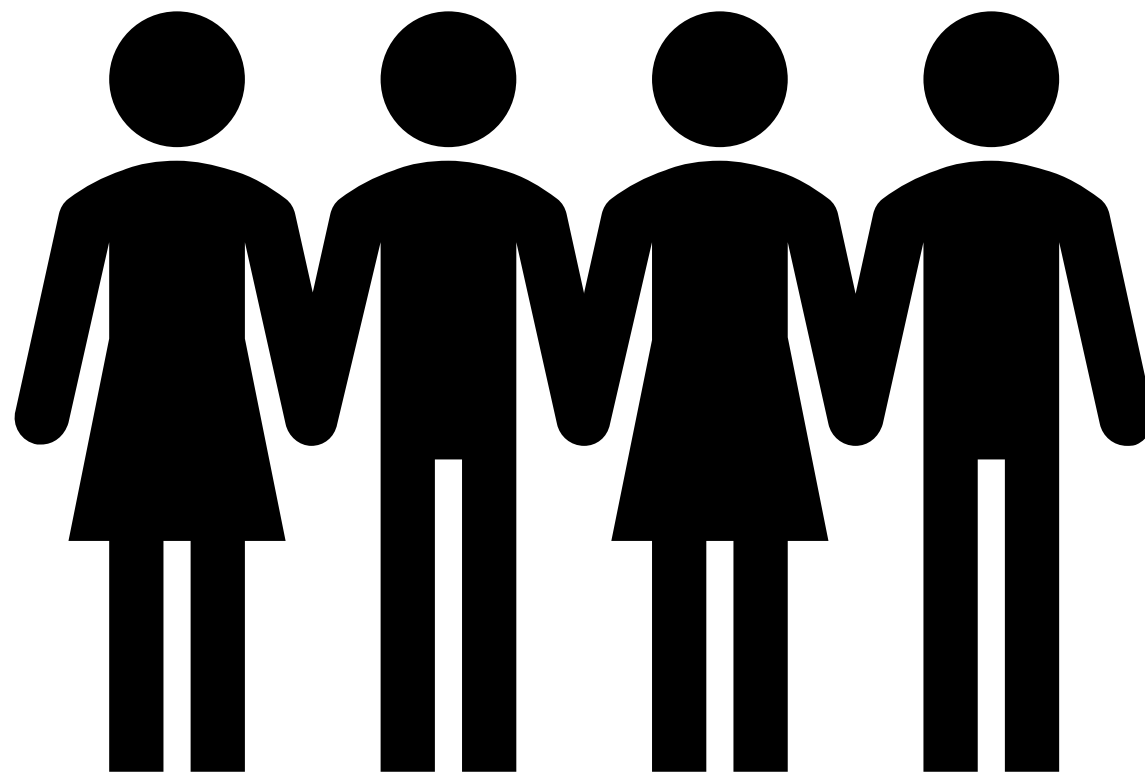
Beth Carreno

April 4, 2025

Agenda

- Introductions
- Review of process
- Present recommendations & Board direction
  - Rules: 4
  - Processes: 6
  - Outreach & Information: 6
- Follow up discussions

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
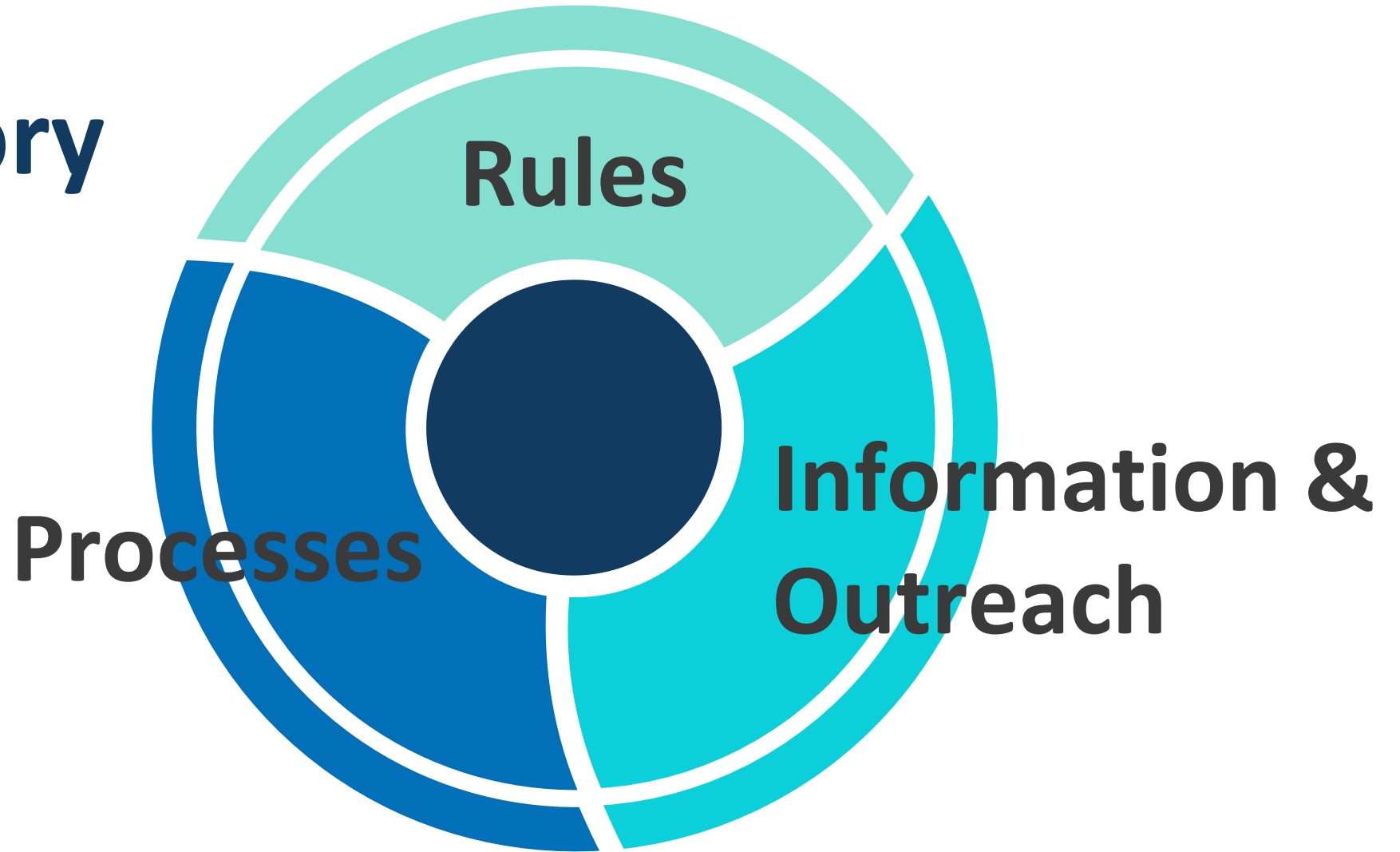
Introductions & Expectations

Purpose

- Gain feedback on current BCWD regulatory program

- Provide recommendations to Board of Managers for future decisions
  - Watershed Management Plan
  - Regulatory Program

Preparation & Process

- Logistics: invitation list, communication, & date

- Process

  - Facilitated

  - Focus on questions *and* answers

  - Changing groups and format

  - Increasing interactions

  - Sharing thoughts out loud as well as in writing

- Importance of listening to one another

BROWN'S
CREEK
WATERSHED
DISTRICT

Who Was in the Room?

39 Attendees

- Residents
- HomeOwners Associations
- Permittees
- Developers
- BCWD communities
- Washington County staff
- State agency partners
- Other Watershed Districts
- BCWD Citizen Advisory Committee
- BCWD Board members

BROWN'S
CREEK
WATERSHED
DISTRICT

Not So Simple

What COULD Change

- Communication Strategy
- Clarity of Rules
- Flexibility of Rules
- Processes
- Role of the cities
- The rules themselves

What WON'T Change

- Existence of watershed districts
- Core statutory requirements for watershed districts
- Existence of rules
- Resource protection

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Who Benefits from the Regulatory Program?

What are the most important components of a successful regulatory program?
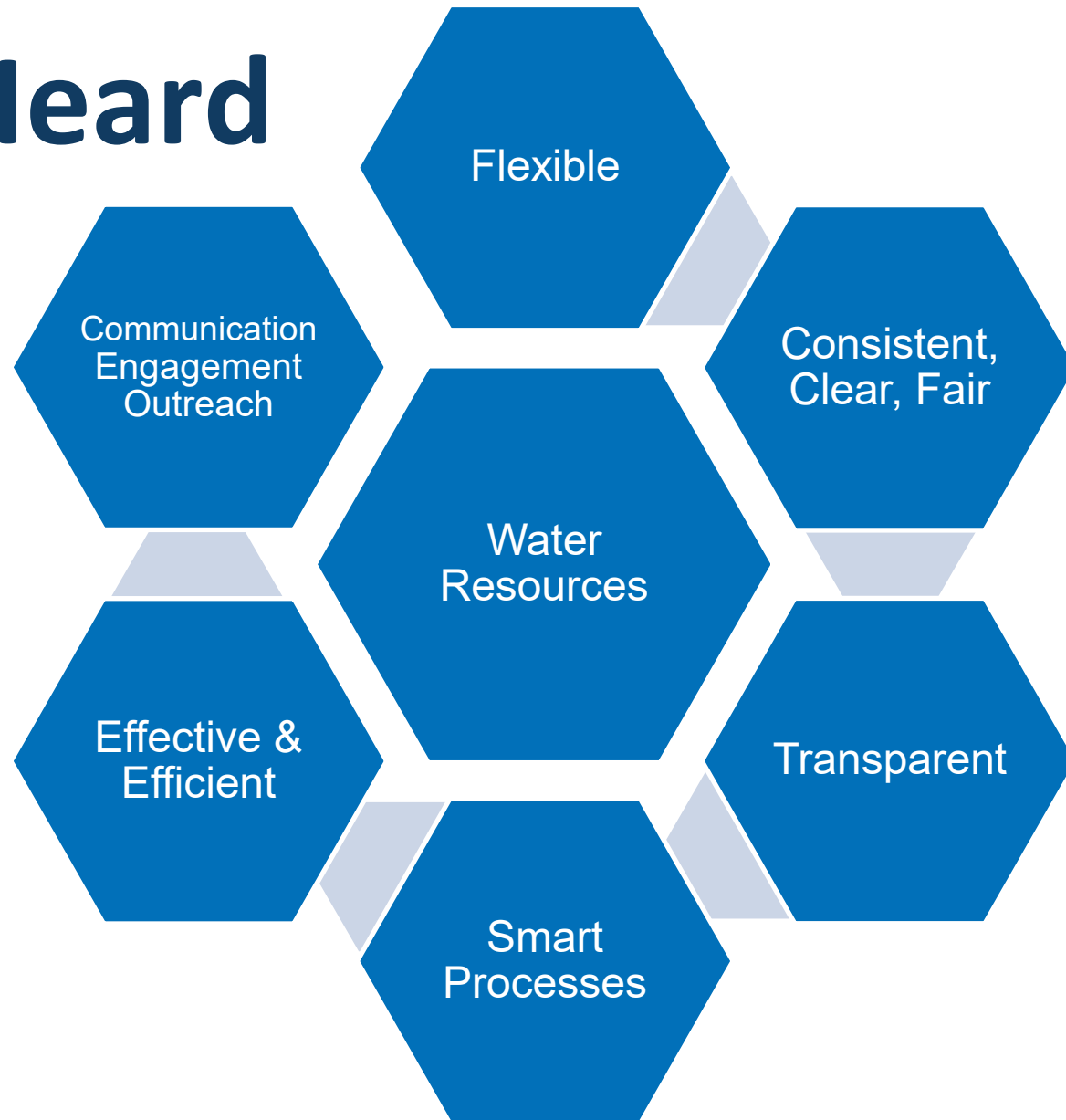
What are improvements or changes that you would like to see in the regulatory program?

What would those improvements or changes result in?

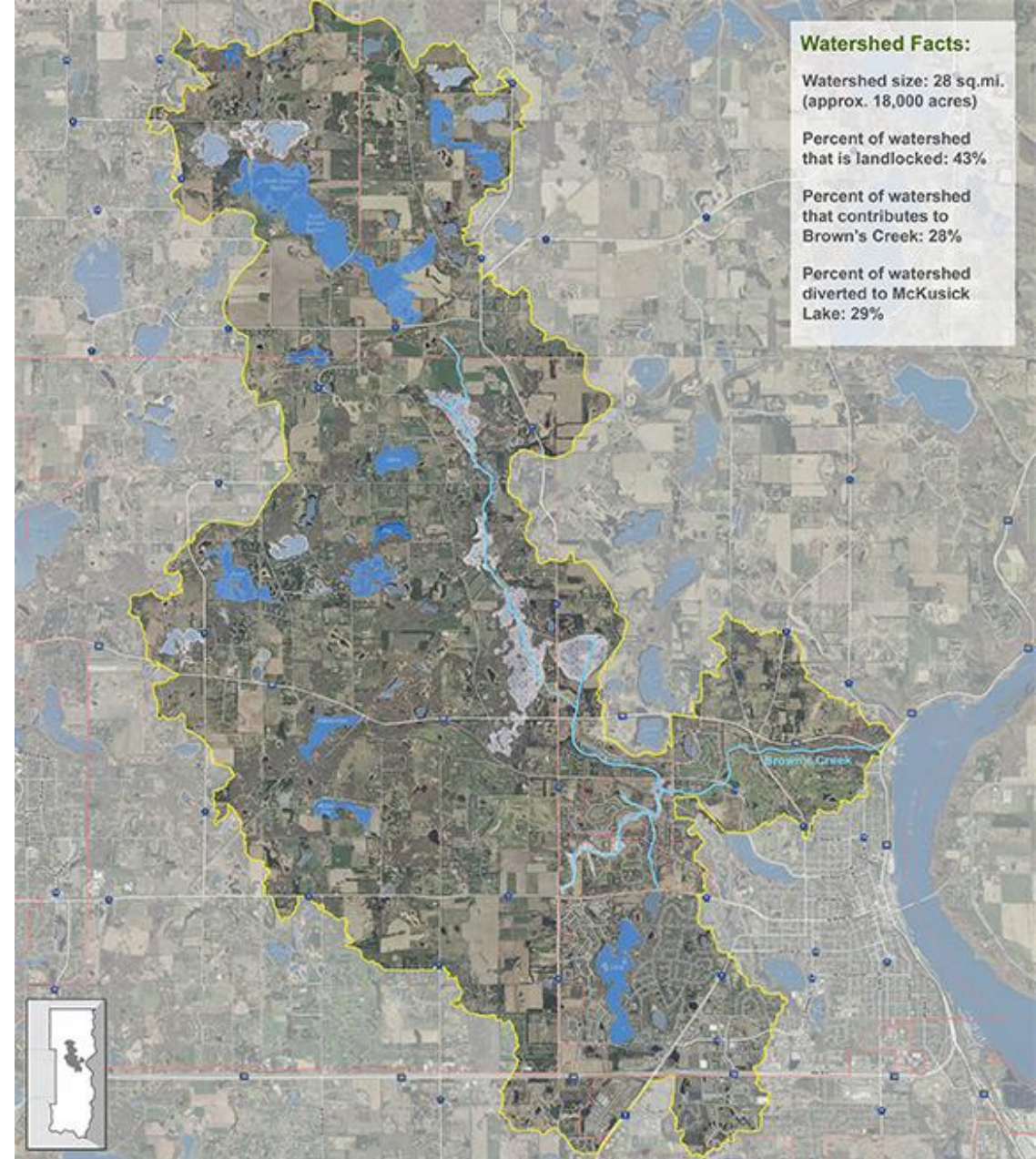What is working in the current BCWD regulatory program?

Provide specific suggestions and strategies for BCWD rules, processes, and O&E?

Theme One

The BCWD regulatory program should be transparent, efficient, equitable, consistent, and not unduly complicated

Watershed Facts:

Watershed size: 28 sq.mi. (approx. 18,000 acres)

Percent of watershed that is landlocked: 43%

Percent of watershed that contributes to Brown's Creek: 28%

Percent of watershed diverted to McKusick Lake: 29%

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Theme Two

The BCWD regulatory program should protect and improve the resource and properties of the District, and there should be accountability

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Theme Three

Communication is critical, should be consistent, and should lead to improved engagement and understanding with the public, partners, permittees, and other specific audiences including engineers representing permittees and the business community

Recommendations

Rules

Processes

Outreach & Information

Board Direction

Implement

- Website
- Annual Reports & Newsletters

Staff Will Explore & Present Details for Decision Making

- Develop and implement a process for follow-up on closed projects, additional inspections, and enforcement
- Assess the viability of an application portal and electronic payment process

Request Clarification from Partners

- Identify opportunities to increase administrator / Board's ability to provide flexibility without increasing the number of variances

    - What does flexibility mean?

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Request Clarification & Continue to Explore

- Allow regional solutions

Request Clarification from Partners

- Appeals process

  - What do you want to appeal? When? Why?
  - What needs to be fixed?

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Consider During WMP Process

HOAs – identify and implement strategies to improve "hand-off" from developers and HOAs

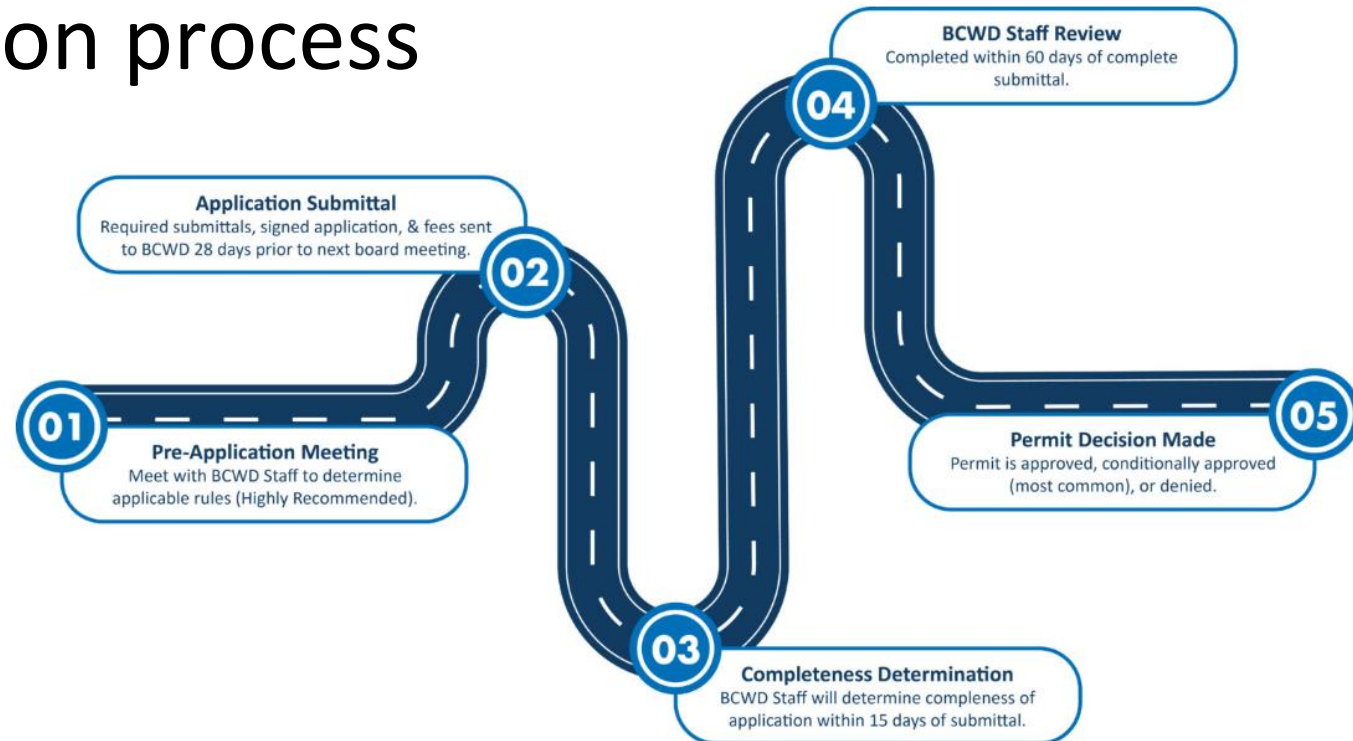Develop guidance documents for permittees and potential permittees

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
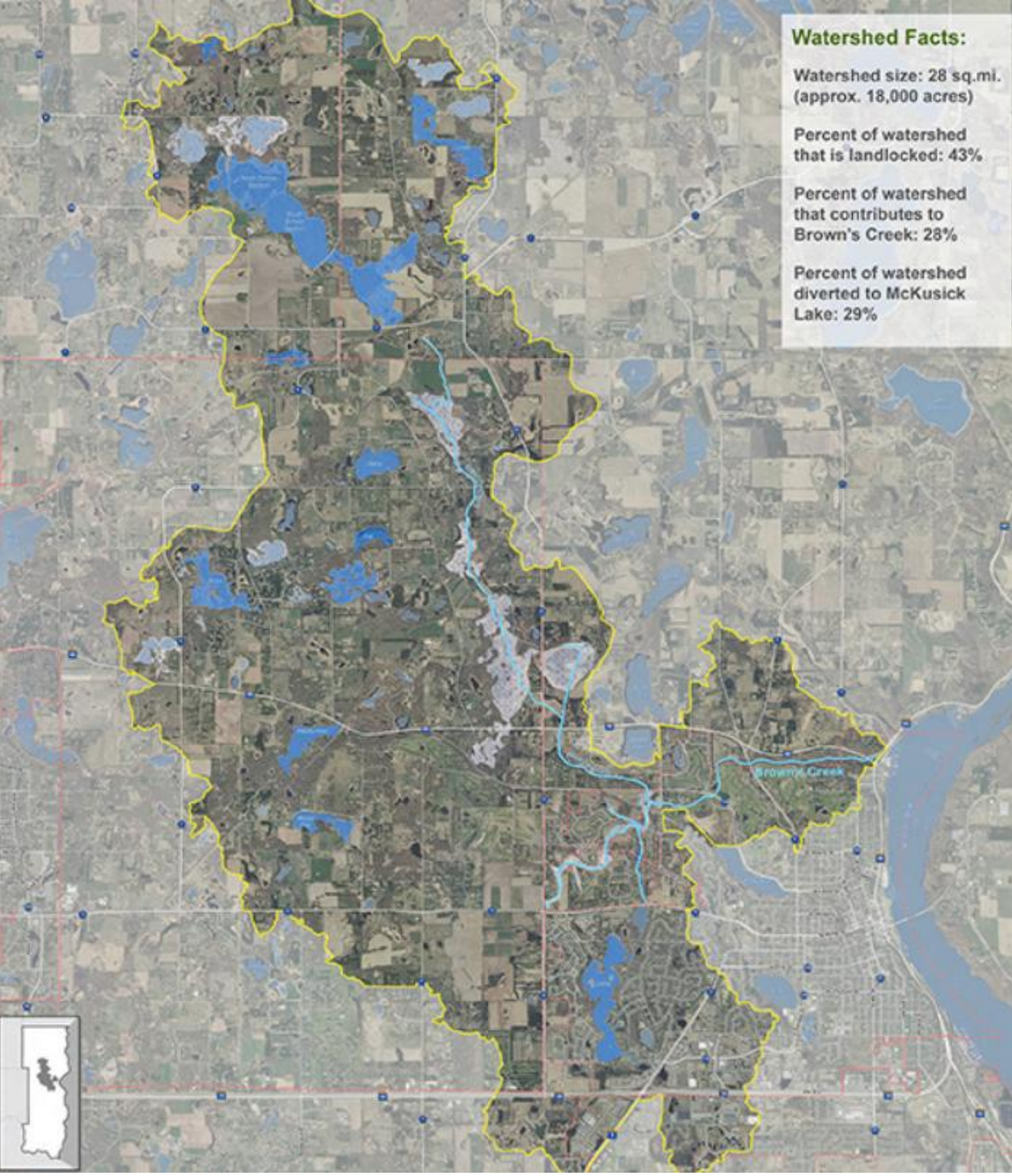
Consider During WMP Process & Rules Revision

- Review permit fee structure to ensure they are clearly communicated and equitable

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Staff Will Explore & Prepare for Rules Revision

- Prepare for future rules revision
- Begin rule revision process

BCWD Staff Review
Completed within 60 days of complete submittal.

04

Application Submittal
Required submittals, signed application, & fees sent to BCWD 28 days prior to next board meeting.

02

01

Pre-Application Meeting
Meet with BCWD Staff to determine applicable rules (Highly Recommended).

Permit Decision Made
Permit is approved, conditionally approved (most common), or denied.

05

03

Completeness Determination
BCWD Staff will determine compleness of application within 15 days of submittal.

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Request Additional Information from Partners & Consider During WMP Process

Host ongoing engineering workshops / meetings

Increase outreach opportunities

Committee membership

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Host Ongoing Engineering Workshops / Meetings

- Is there value in this?
- Do the partners support it?
- Someone has to pay for engineers to attend; would the partners support sending their engineers?

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
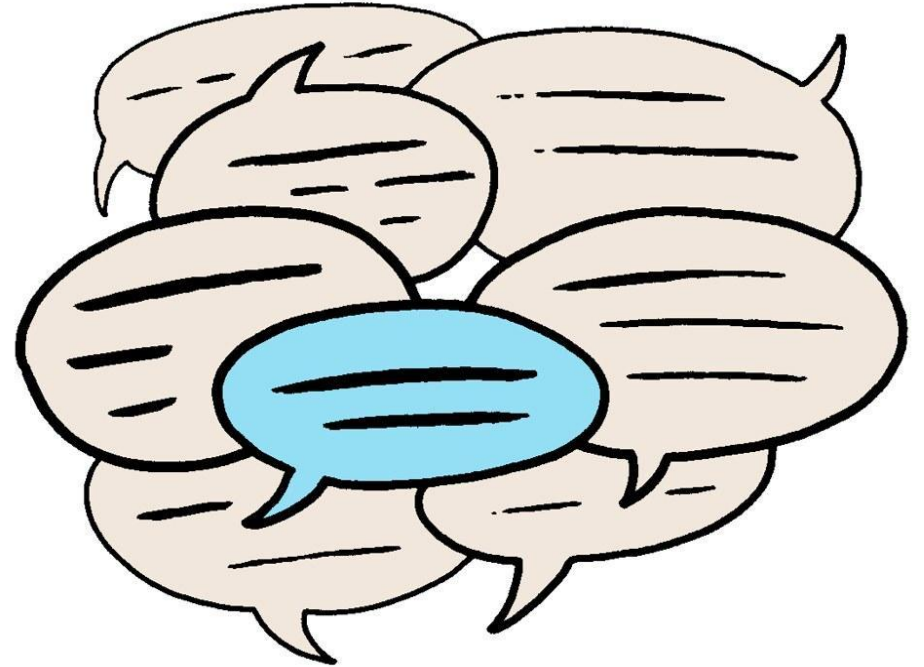
Increase Outreach Opportunities

- Information cards or standard language for other LGUs
- Schedule consistent meetings with partners
- Opportunities for developers / contractors to meet staff
  - Lunch & learns
  - Virtual lessons
  - Breakfasts

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
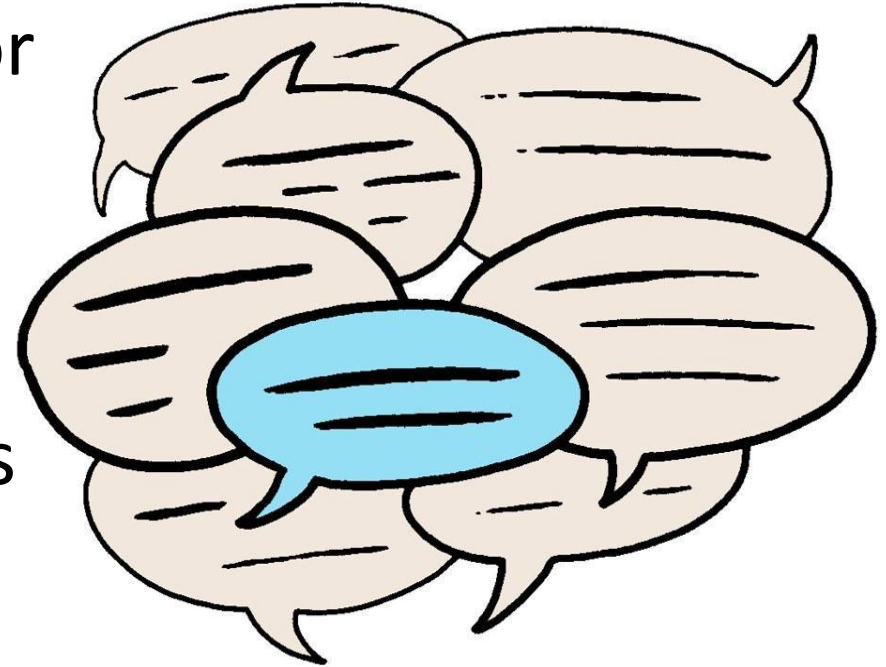
Committee Membership

- What kind of involvement are you looking for?
- Would you be willing and interested in participating?
- What would you be willing to do?

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
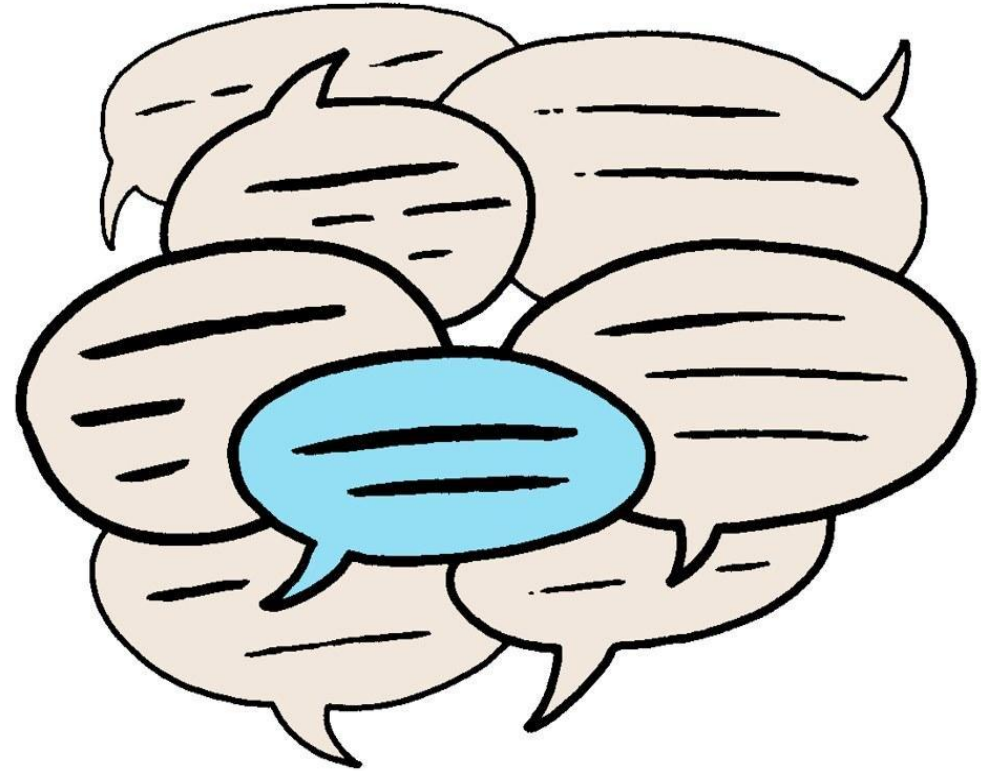
Thank You!

Karen Kill

BCWD District Administrator

kkill@mnwcd.org

Beth Carreno