



Metropolitan**Planning**Council

Solutions to Northeastern Illinois' Water Supply Challenges

MPC's Action Agenda

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MPC' s work focus

MPC is a policy change organization.

Our tool box consists of:

- Original research
- Stakeholder facilitation
- Communication + storytelling
- Testing solutions + pilot projects
- Policy advocacy

Origins of action agenda

2016 = explore, investigate, and engage to build support and identify what strategic work in water supply:

1. Is timely, impactful and critical for NE Illinois today
2. Most appropriate for MPC to work on given our mission + expertise

Intentions of water supply action agenda

- MPC's bid to raise awareness, and our call to action on addressing water supply issues in the Northeastern Ill. region.
- Form partnerships with elected officials, utility managers + operators, funders, private organizations, nonprofits and others to advance a 10-point action agenda over next 5 years.

So what are the issues?

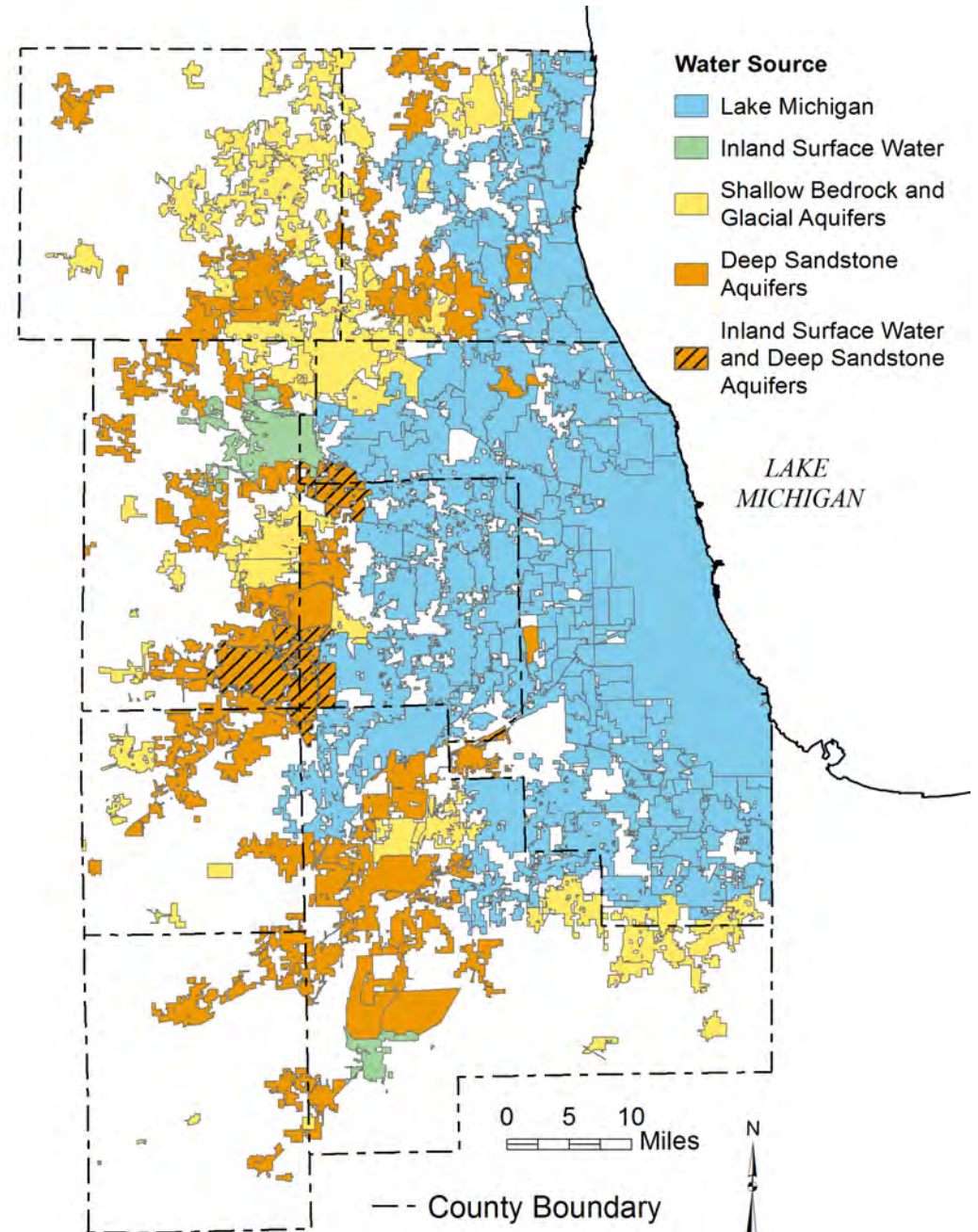
The top three drinking water issues we face as a region are encapsulated in the following three questions:

- 1. Do we have enough?**
- 2. Is it clean?**
- 3. Will the system endure?**



Enough?

- Most outer suburbs rely on groundwater
- About 90 million gallons per day being withdrawn from the deep sandstone aquifers
- Current withdrawals are at least twice the amount we estimate to be sustainable



Clean?



Enduring?

- **Uncollected Revenue (10%+)**
 - Under-registering meters
 - Water leaks
 - Watermain breaks
- **Unnecessary Expenditures**
 - Power/Energy
 - Chemicals
 - Maintenance Costs
- **Mismanaged Raw Materials**
 - Groundwater depletion without delivery



10 actions over next 5 years

1. Create a guide for elected officials on managing local water services
2. Improve state funding stream for water infrastructure improvements
3. Explore opportunities for cost savings in water services
4. Analyze and test equitable rate structures
5. Drive adoption of best practices in water reporting and sensible salting

10 actions over next 5 years (cont.)

6. Develop and implement a coordinated plan for Fox River water use
7. Research strategies and opportunities for matching the right water to the right use
8. Update the Ill. Plumbing Code
9. Establish dedicated revenue stream for regional water supply planning
10. Require infrastructure condition reporting

Your role: an invitation

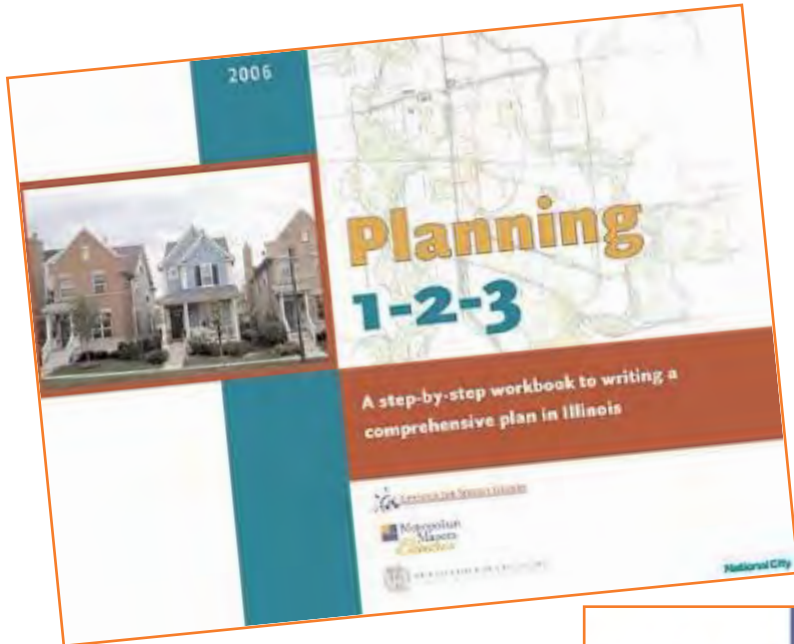
Metroplanning.org/waterchallenges

ELECTED OFFICIALS	What will you do as a leader to ensure your community has safe and reliable drinking water now and into the future?
UTILITY MANAGERS OR OPERATORS	What additional best practices are you willing to implement to provide sustainable drinking water service for the communities you serve?
FUNDERS	Which of the above actions resonate with the mission of your organization where you can help jump start action in our region on drinking water issues?
NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS	Which of the above actions align with your organization's expertise and interest?
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	What flexibility and support can you give to assist the region in working collaboratively?
PRIVATE BUSINESSES	What expertise and resources can you provide to help achieve the above initiatives, which will benefit regional competitiveness?
RESIDENTS OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS	How will you choose to value drinking water going forward? How can your community support our region's leaders in working together?

10 Actions

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Previous 1-2-3 guides at MPC



Drinking Water 1-2-3



Guidebook content

Where does our water come from?

Who regulates and operates our drinking water?

Why is community water planning so important?

What are the best practices my community should be implementing?

How do I ensure my community has sustainable drinking water?



Collaborators + Advisors



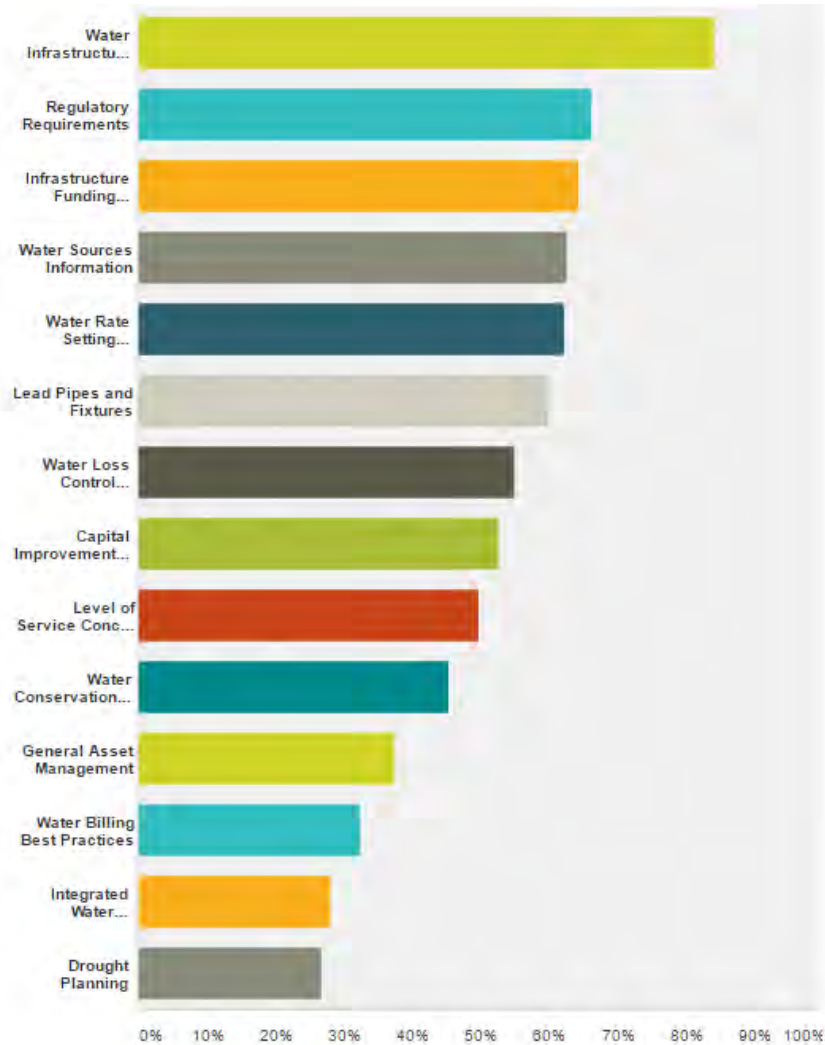
Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning



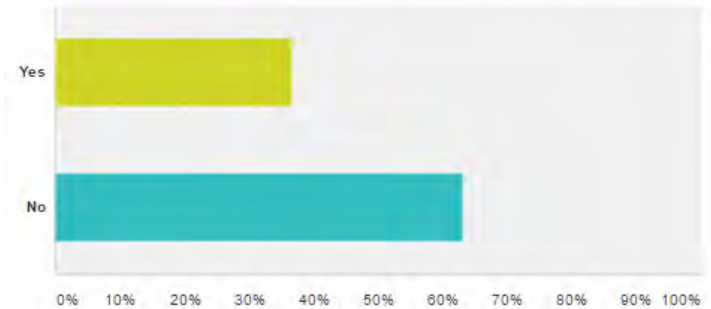
N O R T H W E S T
WATER PLANNING
ALLIANCE

Questionnaire feedback

What topics do you believe are important for elected officials to understand about water here in Northeastern Illinois?



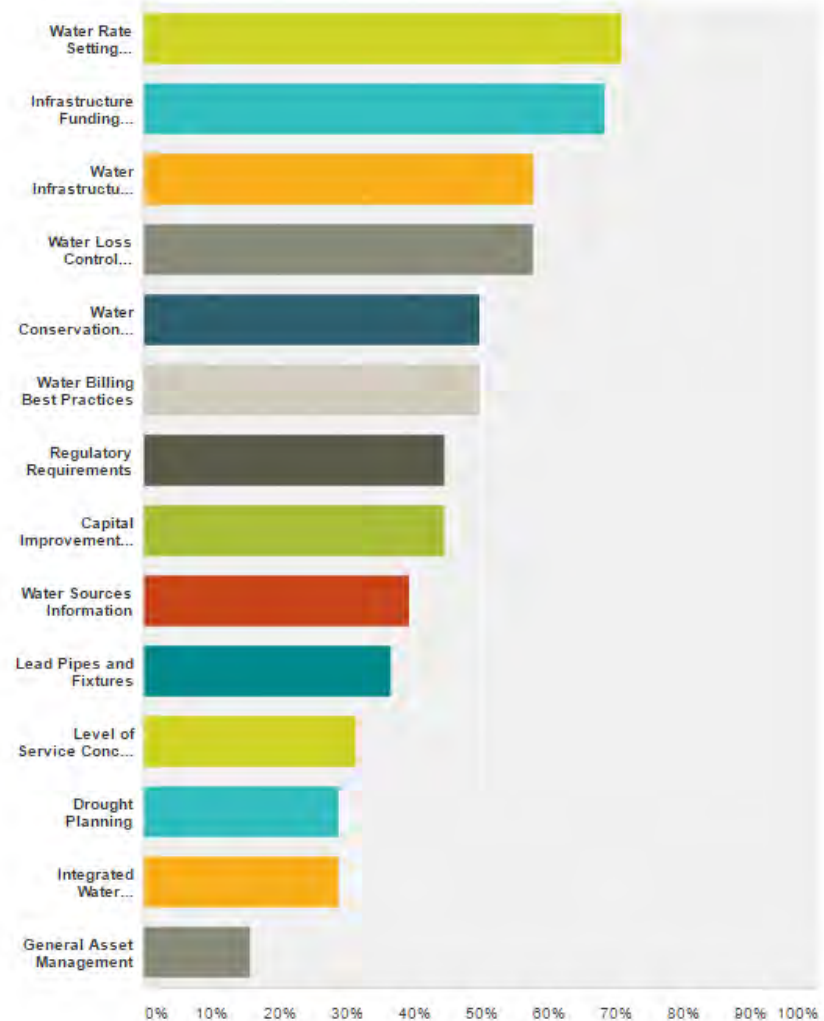
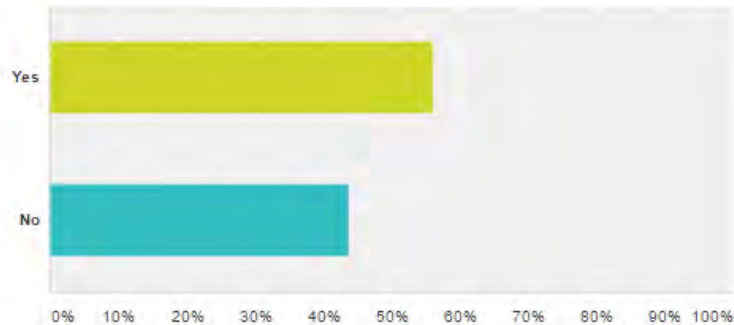
Do you schedule regular sit-down meetings with your elected official?



Questionnaire feedback

What general topics about water management do you believe would be helpful to feature in an elected official guide?

Do you have regular sit-down meetings with your utility manager(s)?



Thank you

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