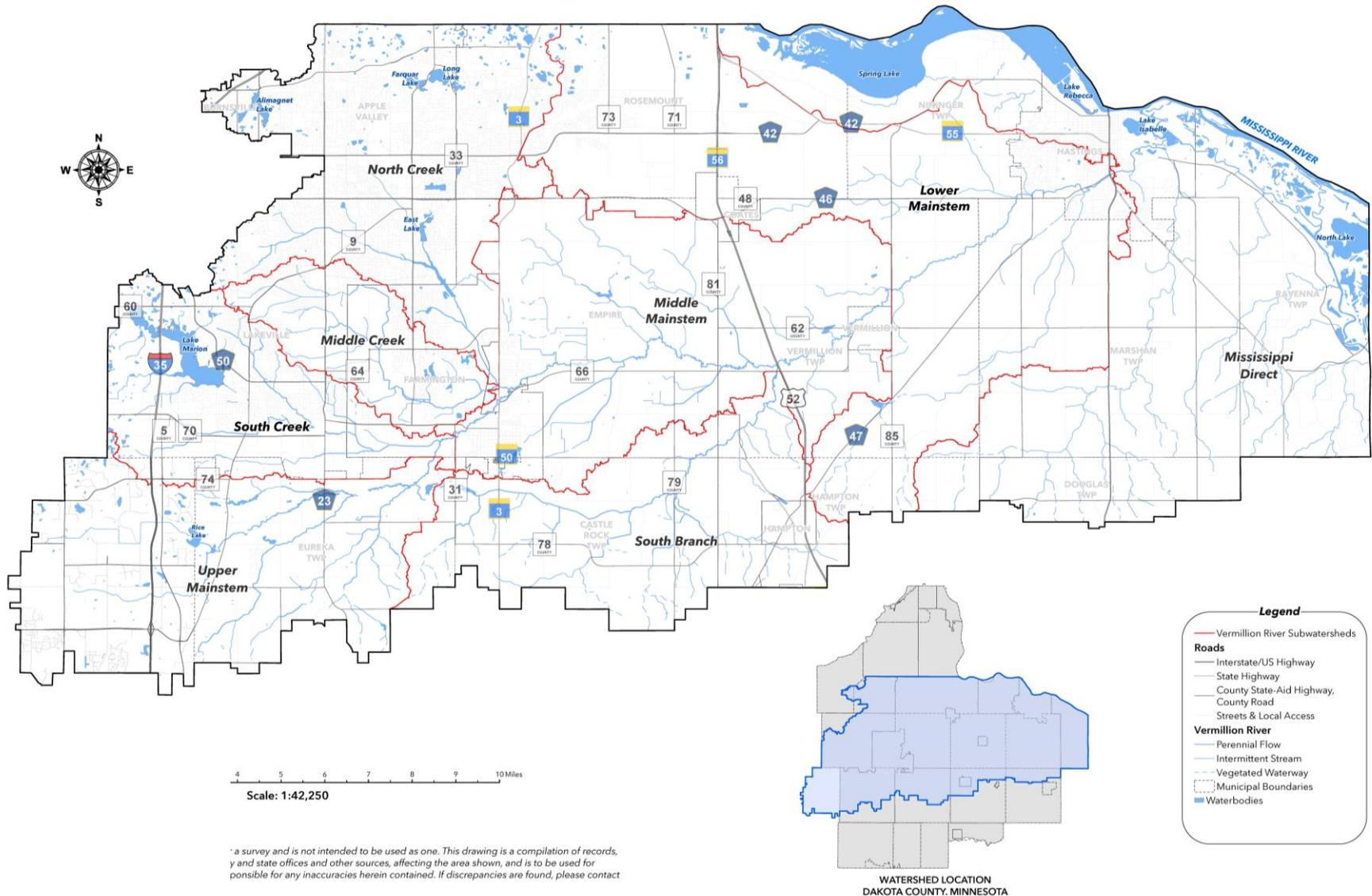




**Vermillion River Watershed Joint  
Powers Organization (VRWJPO)  
2026-2035 Watershed  
Plan Development  
October 12, 2023 Public Meeting**

# Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization



# VRWJPO's Current Mission

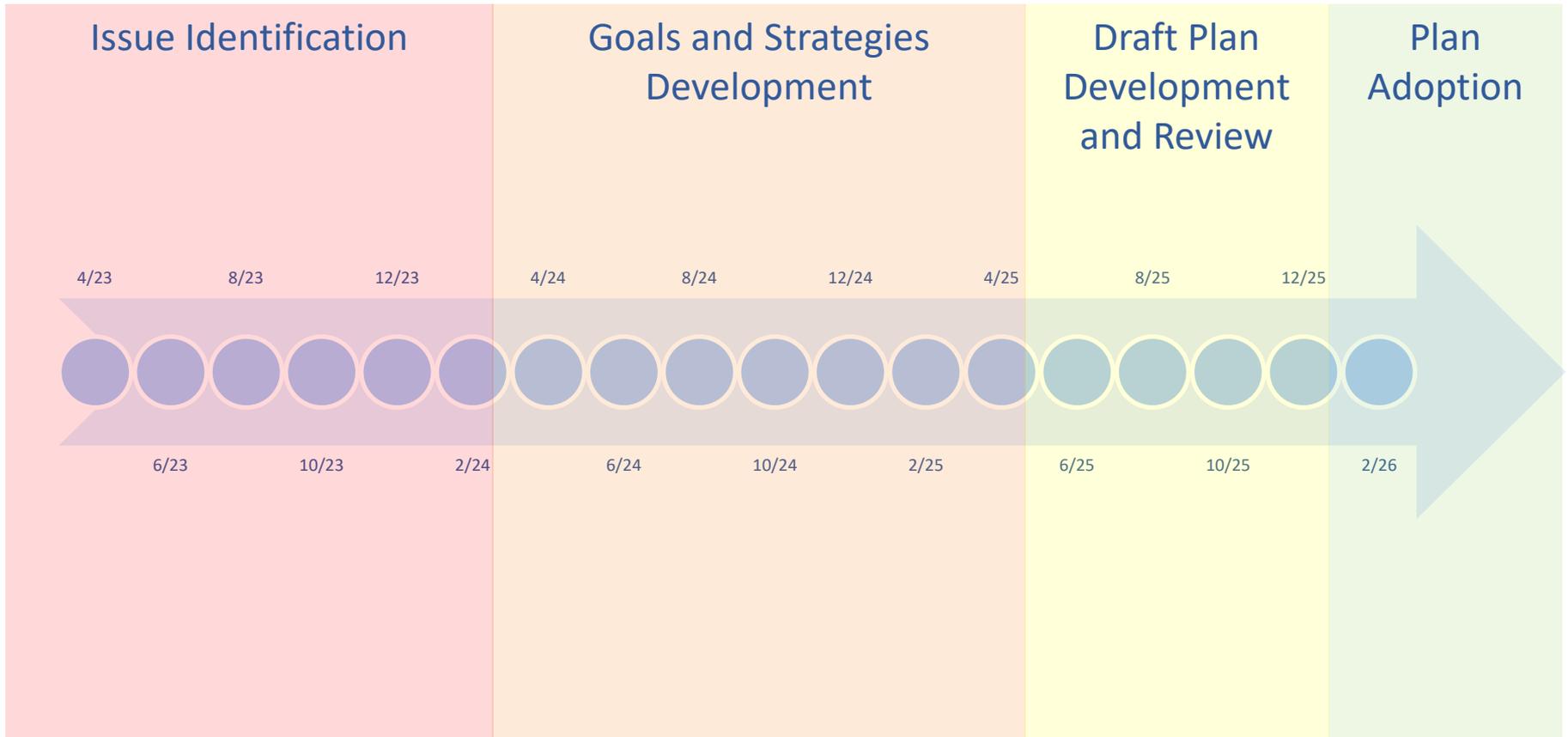
*Collaboratively providing education, science, and support to restore and protect the Vermillion River Watershed's natural resources for all who live, work, and play within its boundaries*



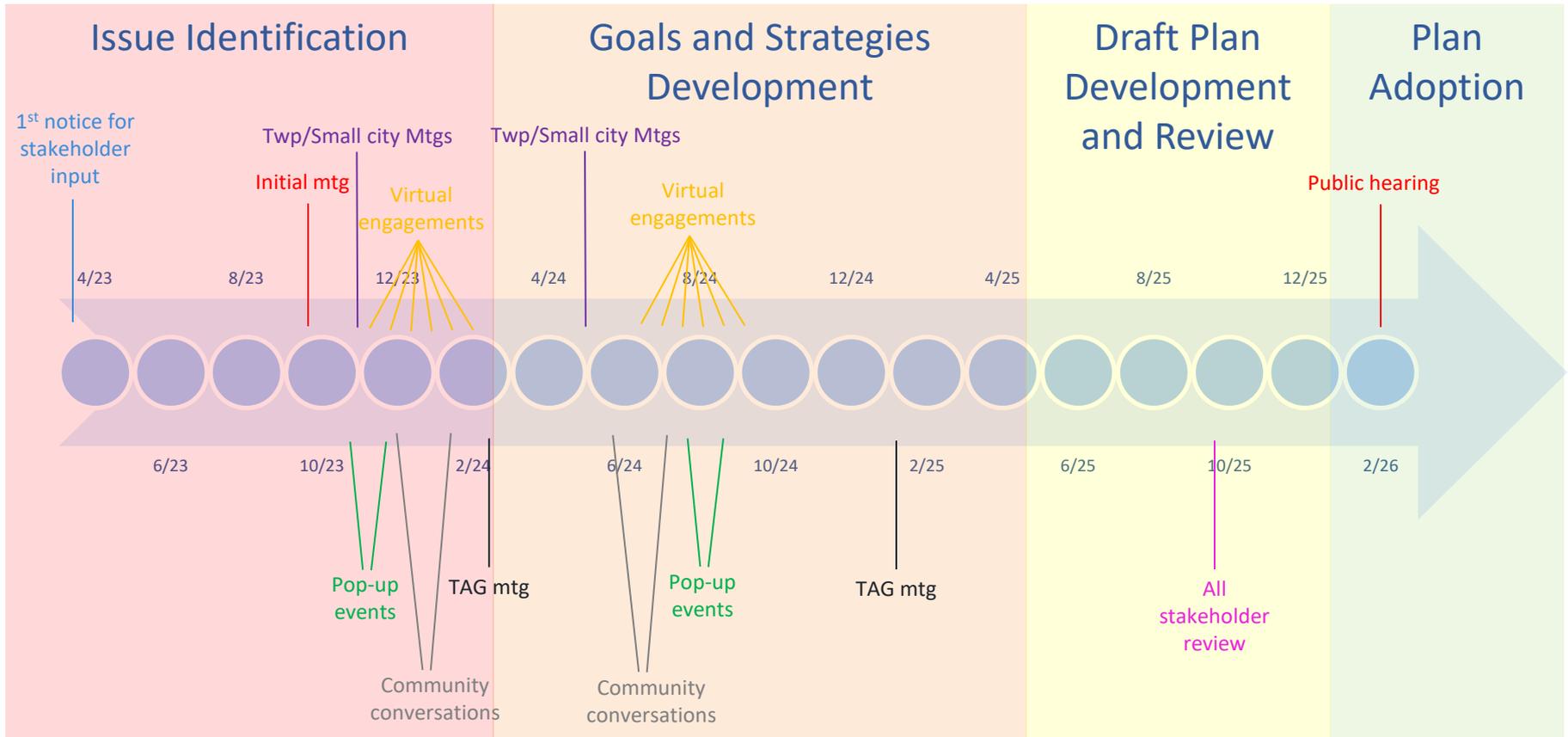
# VRWJPO's Primary Roles

- Water resource restoration and protection
  - Projects
  - Assessments
  - Monitoring
- Communication and Outreach
  - Newsletters
  - Social media
  - Engagement
- Baseline regulations and technical assistance
  - Stormwater treatment
  - Floodplain and wetland mitigation/protection
  - Intercommunity flows

# Plan Development Timeline



# Opportunities for Stakeholder Input



- + Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board meetings throughout
- + Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission meetings throughout
  - + Online and paper surveys
  - + Interactive and paper map-based feedback

# Existing Plan Goals Identified

- A. Protect or restore water quality in lakes, streams, and wetlands
- B. Protect and restore groundwater quality
- C. Maintain a sustainable water supply
- D. Address more intense fluctuations (up and down) in river flow rate and volume
- E. Improve public awareness and stewardship of water resources
- F. Improve watershed resilience to changing precipitation and temperature patterns
- G. Protect or restore sensitive biological resources, such as plants, fish, insects, and wildlife

# Records Trail Ravine Stabilization Ravenna Township



Goal A: Protect or restore water quality in lakes, streams, and wetlands

South Branch NO<sub>3</sub> Treatment Wetland  
Castle Rock Township



Before



After

Goal B: Protect and restore  
groundwater quality



## Irrigation Audits and Improvements Lakeville, Apple Valley, Rosemount

Goal C: Maintain a Sustainable  
Water Supply



# Foxborough Park Stormwater Basin Lakeville



Before



After

Goal D: Address more intense fluctuations (up and down) in river flow rate and volume

# Goal E: Improve public awareness and stewardship of water resources



# Braun Wetland Bank Castle Rock Township



Goal F: Improve watershed resilience to  
changing precipitation and temperature  
patterns

# Stream Habitat Restorations Farmington



Goal G: Protect or restore sensitive biological resources, such as plants, fish, insects, and wildlife

# Big Changes since 2016 Plan Adoption

- Groundwater Protection Rule
- Dakota County Groundwater and Ag Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) Plans
- 21 new water quality impairments
- Watershed-Based Implementation Funding
- South Branch VR use-classification change
- Wetland Bank
- PFAS
- Lowest hanging fruit

# Stakeholder Issues/Priorities to Date

- Protect and restore surface water quality
- Chloride reduction initiatives
- Evaluation of PFAS and other contaminants of emerging concern
- Groundwater sustainability evaluation and actions
- Reevaluate floodplains and impacts to flood-prone areas
- Effective stormwater management
- Climate change and climate resiliency efforts
- Keep some existing regulations as they are
- Advocating for and against changes to Ag/Farming practices
- Efforts to restore and protect soil health
- Minimize impacts of aggregate mining
- Address invasive species
- Recreational opportunity improvement
- Understanding stream stability and use of natural channel restoration
- Changing demographics and the need to engage underserved communities
- Edge matching with other plans and efforts
- Need for broad environmental education

# Tell Us About Watershed Issues

