

1 **DRAFT**

2 **MINUTES OF THE POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

3
4
5 **October 27, 2016**

6
7 **CALL TO ORDER**

8
9 Manager Miller called the Committee to order at 4:35 p.m. at the District Offices,

10
11 15320 Minnetonka Blvd

12 Minnetonka, MN 55345

13
14 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

15
16 Brian Shekleton, Dick Miller, and Kurt Rogness.

17
18 **NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

19
20 Bill Becker, Bill Olson, and Sherry Davis White.

21
22 **OTHERS PRESENT**

23
24 Anna Brown, Planner & Project Manager

25 Becky Christopher, Lead Planner & Project Manager

26 Craig Dawson, Director of Research & Monitoring

27 Dave Mandt, Director of Operations and Support Services

28 Eric Fieldseth, AIS Program Manager

29 Gabriel Jabbour, LMCD Board Director

30 James Wisker, Director of Planning & Projects

31 Kailey Cermak, Water Quality Technician

32 Katherine Sylvia, Permitting Program Lead

33 Kelly Dooley, Water Quality Manager

34 Lars Erdahl, District Administrator

35 Maddie Johnson, Technical Support Services Specialist

36 Marcie Lapointe, District Representative – Water Quality

37 Matthew Cook, Planning Assistant

38 Michael Hayman, Planner & Project Manager

39 Renae Clark, Planner & Project Manager

40 Yvette Christianson, Water Quality Manager

41
42 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

43
44 The agenda was approved without amendment.

45

46

47 **MEETING SUMMARY**

48

49 Staff summarized the District's progress to date in the strategic planning process.

50

51 Staff reviewed the history and evolution of the Research and Monitoring (R&M) program and
52 the inextricable link to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) as a component of watershed ecology and
53 natural resource management.

54

55 Staff stated that the monitoring arm of the program will place new focus on the following
56 priorities (in order):

57

- 58 • Diagnostic monitoring -- to identify causes of known water resource impairments and
59 inform District action
- 60 • E-grade -- to assess the health of ecosystems
- 61 • Anchor Monitoring -- to efficiently monitor key, representative sites and track long-term
62 trends

63

64 The Managers present generally concurred with the direction of the program's monitoring arm as
65 outlined.

66

67 Staff discussed three potential alternatives to the District's efforts in the field of AIS prevention
68 – 1) increased regulation, 2) enhanced education and outreach efforts, or 3) discontinue
69 involvement in AIS prevention. It was noted that regardless of the alternative selected by the
70 Board, staff recommends that the District should maintain "rapid response" capacity and support
71 the AIS-related messaging of partner organizations such as the MnDNR Clean-Drain-Dry
72 program.

73

74 After discussion, the Managers and staff agreed that it would be best to revisit the District's role
75 in AIS management and prevention at a future meeting.

76

77 The presentations from the meeting are attached.

78

79 **COMMITTEE MEETING**

80

81 **Strategic Planning Background and Update**

82

83 Ms. Christopher provided the Committee with a brief outline for staff's presentation:

84

- 85 • Introduction
 - 86 ○ Review program purpose discussions to date
 - 87 ○ Provide status updates
- 88 • Review the purpose of the Research and Monitoring Department
- 89 • Preview next steps

90

91 Ms. Christopher noted that at the September 22nd, 2016 Committee meeting, the Managers
92 reviewed the purpose of the Permitting program. She stated that through the Permitting program,
93 the District influences others to protect water resources by administering permits for construction
94 and ensuring compliance with said permits.

95
96 Ms. Christopher explained that the Permitting program partners with applicants to identify and
97 take up opportunities to achieve greater natural resource outcomes than required by District
98 rules. She added that the program is also well-suited to serve an educational function through its
99 interaction with the general public and permit applicants.

100
101 Ms. Christopher stated that as a next step in the strategic planning process, the Permitting
102 program would continue to prioritize program activities and optimize resource allocation
103 accordingly.

104
105 Ms. Christopher stated that at the September 22nd Committee meeting, the Managers also
106 reviewed the purpose of the Operations and Support Services program. She noted that the
107 program supports all other District programs through provision of the following services:

- 108
109
- 110 • Insurance
 - 111 • Finance
 - 112 • Building maintenance
 - 113 • Information technology (IT)
 - 114 • Human resources (HR)
 - 115 • General support to staff, the Board, and the general public

116 Ms. Christopher stated that moving forward, the program would seek to clarify and customize
117 “customer” needs – principally, staff needs. She noted that program staff were working with
118 cross-departmental teams to develop an IT plan and an HR plan for the District.

119
120 Ms. Christopher stated that at the October 13th Committee meeting, the Managers reviewed the
121 purpose of the Planning and Project Maintenance and Land Management programs. She
122 explained that the department fills three roles, detailed as follows:

- 123
124
- 125 • Direct implementation: Through capital projects and land conservation, the department
126 protects and improves the landscape for water resource benefit.
 - 127 • Influencing / indirect implementation: Through developing partnerships with private and
128 public entities, the department influences the land use planning of other organizations,
129 agencies, and landowners for optimized natural resource outcomes.
 - 130 • Organizational planning: Through creating a framework to accomplish the District’s
131 mission, the department supports the overall function of the organization.

132 Ms. Christopher stated that Planning staff highlighted the department’s role in organizational
133 planning for discussion at the October 13th Committee meeting. She noted that the Managers

134 present at the meeting expressed their comfort with the Planning department's role in
135 organizational planning.

136
137 Ms. Christopher stated that the department would be examining the following items moving
138 forward:

- 139
- 140 • Development of a clear coordination and communication framework for organizational
 - 141 planning efforts
 - 142 • Determination of desired level of capital implementation
 - 143 • Evaluation of constraints on the department (workload vs. staff time and resources)
- 144

145 Ms. Christopher reviewed the schedule for the strategic planning process and reminded the
146 Committee that after each program has presented on its purpose, staff would facilitate an
147 organization-level review, so as to represent each program's purpose in the context of the
148 District's overall balance and function. She explained that the Committee would make
149 recommendations to the Board regarding program direction within this organization-wide
150 context.

151
152 Mr. Wisker stated that, concurrent with the strategic planning process, staff teams are working
153 on plans for District finances, IT, and HR. He explained that each of these plans would lay out
154 short-, medium-, and long-term District-wide priorities. Mr. Wisker briefly provided details
155 regarding each plan as follows:

- 156
- 157 • Financial plan – starting in the first quarter of 2017, staff will work with the Board to
 - 158 develop budget projections for the CIP, debt, and programs as well as a budget process
 - 159 and schedule for the year
 - 160 • IT plan – IT needs are being identified and prioritized for each program, and will be
 - 161 prioritized and scheduled at an organization-wide level
 - 162 • HR plan – by March 2017, organizational priorities will be identified, an assessment of
 - 163 staffing and skills needed to fulfill priorities will be developed, staff skills will be
 - 164 inventoried in a gaps analysis, and then recommendations will be developed for
 - 165 recruitment, restructuring and training to meet organizational needs
- 166

167 Manager Miller thanked staff for their comprehensive analysis regarding the layout and
168 execution of the strategic planning process thus far.

169
170 Manager Miller noted that while the local economy has rebounded since the recession, there are
171 many unmet needs that have accumulated. He explained that any increases the District – or any
172 other government agency – would propose to the tax levy will be heavily scrutinized, and thus it
173 is imperative that the District maintain focus on optimizing resource allocation.

174
175 Manager Miller thanked staff again for their hard work and for enduring the anxiety that comes
176 with such a deliberate examination of program activities.

177

178 Program Purpose: Research and Monitoring

179

180 Ms. Christopher stated that the issues identified through the staff evaluation process regarding
181 the purpose of the Research and Monitoring program are as follows:

182

- 183 • Need for clarity on program priorities in relation to the needs of the organization
- 184 • Need to define the organization's role in Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) management,
185 and improve focus and clarity of activities on said role

186

187 Ms. Christopher noted that Research and Monitoring staff worked with a cross-departmental
188 team to review the program's purpose. She stated that the cross-departmental group had 17
189 participants, with 11 from programs other than Research and Monitoring.

190

191 Mr. Dawson stated that the purpose of the Research and Monitoring program was to provide
192 sound science to inform District decisions.

193

194 Mr. Dawson provided a brief overview of the history water quality data collection at the District:

195

- 196 • 1968 – 2004: Data collection managed by consultants
- 197 • 2004 – Present: Data collection managed by MCWD staff
- 198 • 2012: AIS program formed
- 199 • 2013: AIS management plan adopted
- 200 • 2014: AIS and Water Quality programs merge into Research and Monitoring
- 201 • 2016: Research and Monitoring take measures to further integrate program components

202

203 Ms. Dooley detailed the evolution of the Water Quality program. She explained that in 2004,
204 hydrodata collection and management were brought in-house to lower monitoring costs. Ms.
205 Dooley noted that until recently, program staff collected data and issued an annual report without
206 conducting much analysis. She added that the Planning department managed assessment studies
207 such as the Functional Assessment of Wetlands, Stream Assessment, and Six Mile Diagnostic.

208

209 Ms. Dooley stated that the program has made a couple of attempts to monitor for project
210 effectiveness over the years, but the efforts were unsuccessful.

211

212 Ms. Dooley stated that the program previously managed the District's involvement in the Joint
213 Watershed Research Grant program, which ended in 2012.

214 She noted that in 2010, zebra mussels infested Lake Minnetonka, spurring District involvement
215 in monitoring the impact of the invasive species on the lake.

216

217 Ms. Dooley stated that in 2011, the previous program manager left, and program management
218 was split between Ms. Dooley and Ms. Christianson, with one supervising lake monitoring and
219 the other supervising stream monitoring.

220

221 Manager Miller asked why supervision of monitoring was split between lakes and streams. Mr.
222 Fieldseth noted that the state had different standards for the water quality of lakes and streams.
223

224 Ms. Dooley stated that from 2011-2012, the Hydrodata Committee, consisting of three Board
225 managers along with Ms. Dooley, Ms. Christianson, Mr. Mandt, and the previous District
226 Administrator, oversaw all District monitoring efforts. She explained that the Committee
227 conducted a gaps analysis of the program. Ms. Dooley underscored that the issue with the
228 completed gaps analysis was that it did not consider program priorities in relation to efforts and
229 tasks. She noted that the findings of the gaps analysis culminated in a paring down of the number
230 of anchor monitoring sites and initiation of the development of the E-grade program.
231

232 Ms. Dooley stated that from 2007-2012, the Board directed the program to manage several
233 research studies, mostly regarding AIS. She added that while District staff managed the studies,
234 any required biological monitoring was conducted by consultants.
235

236 Mr. Fieldseth stated that the District began discussing its potential role in preventing the spread
237 of AIS in 2010, and discussions continued into 2011. He noted that the District considered
238 undertaking a regulatory role in AIS management. Mr. Fieldseth explained that in 2012, the
239 District formally established an AIS monitoring and prevention program with the hiring of two
240 staff.
241

242 Mr. Fieldseth stated that from 2012-2013, the District assembled an AIS task force. He explained
243 that the task force informed the development of an AIS Management Plan, which the District
244 adopted in 2013 as an amendment to the 2007 Comprehensive Plan.
245

246 Mr. Fieldseth stated that since 2013, the AIS program has developed relationships with
247 counterpart staff at the local, state, and federal levels. He noted that the program has performed
248 the following functions:
249

- 250 • Biological monitoring
 - 251 • AIS research
 - 252 • AIS management/control
 - 253 • AIS prevention/education
- 254

255 Mr. Fieldseth stated that the "prevention" efforts of the AIS program did not gain enough
256 momentum or external support to be effective.
257

258 Ms. Dooley stated that in 2014, the Water Quality and AIS programs merged. She noted that the
259 program has shifted its monitoring efforts to focus on specific subwatersheds on a rotating basis,
260 rather than the entire watershed.
261
262
263
264

265 Ms. Dooley stated that the purpose of the Research and Monitoring program is as follows:

266

- 267 • To broadly characterize ecological health
- 268 • To diagnose drivers of change
- 269 • To collaborate on management strategies
- 270 • To communicate analyses and recommendations

271

272 Manager White asked if the decision to monitor some subwatersheds more closely than others in
273 a given year was intended to increase efficiency or complement research efforts. Ms. Dooley
274 responded that the decision was meant to improve overall program effectiveness by freeing up
275 time for data analysis and other monitoring activities that had been identified as lacking.

276

277 Ms. Dooley stated that the R&M program is the foundation of the District in that the program
278 provides the information the District's decisions are based on.

279

280 Ms. Dooley explained that through the program evaluation process, staff identified the following
281 issues in the program:

282

- 283 • Program purpose
 - 284 ○ Need for clarity on program priorities in relation to the needs of the organization
 - 285 ○ Need to define the organization's role in AIS management
- 286 • Department structure and management

287

288 Regarding the question of program priorities, Ms. Dooley stated that the monitoring arm of the
289 program contains three main activities:

290

- 291 • Anchor monitoring -- long-term tracking of water quality at representative sites across the
292 whole watershed
- 293 • E-grade -- characterizing ecosystem health at a subwatershed level
- 294 • Diagnostic monitoring -- smaller-scale monitoring meant to identify the cause of a water
295 resource impairment

296

297 Ms. Dooley added that the data the program collected was historically compiled into an annual
298 report and posted on the website. She explained that communications efforts regarding the
299 program's annual findings were too technical in nature and not effective at influencing
300 organizational activities and initiatives.

301

302 Mr. Erdahl noted that diagnostic monitoring efforts used to be managed by the Planning
303 department and carried out by consultants.

304

305 Ms. Dooley stated that diagnostic monitoring will be the top priority for the R&M program
306 moving forward. She noted that staff have identified the impaired waters in the District, and
307 intend to determine the cause of such impairments through diagnostic monitoring. Ms. Dooley
308 stated that the revised overall priorities of the program rank as follows:

309

310 1. Diagnostic monitoring

311 2. E-grade

312 3. Anchor monitoring

313

314 Manager Becker asked R&M staff who their "customer" was, and if the "customer" was satisfied
315 with the program's services.

316

317 Ms. Dooley responded that the District is the program's customer, and underscored that the
318 "customer" was not satisfied based on staff input. She explained that the program's shift in
319 priorities was proposed to satisfy District needs.

320

321 Manager Miller stated that the District began its own monitoring program with the hopes that it
322 would be less expensive than contracting with a consultant to carry out the monitoring. He asked
323 what the effect of having an in-house monitoring program was when compared to outsourcing
324 the program's function.

325

326 Mr. Fieldseth noted that the program has done well in characterizing watershed health. He
327 explained that the program will more proactively apply the findings of monitoring efforts to
328 project planning.

329

330 Manager Shekleton stated that the R&M program should be a part of the Planning department.
331 Mr. Erdahl noted that the R&M program and the Planning department should coordinate closely,
332 and have taken steps in that direction already.

333

334 Manager Shekleton underscored that the R&M program and the Planning department should be
335 two halves of the same brain, not merely cooperative initiatives. He stated that R&M's findings
336 should directly inform Planning's work, operating as a unified whole.

337

338 Mr. Erdahl agreed, noting that the need for synchronization was identified across all District
339 programs. He stated that staff and the Managers would review interdepartmental coordination
340 after program purpose discussions concluded.

341

342 Mr. Wisker observed that the Managers and staff seemed to all be in agreement with the
343 direction of the R&M program's monitoring arm. The Managers agreed.

344

345 Manager White thanked staff noting that she was impressed with the presentation and integration
346 of the program.

347

348 Ms. Dooley summarized the program's activities, using the program's strategic framework
349 diagram as a guide.

350

351 Manager Becker asked for clarity regarding the "collaborate to identify management strategies"
352 program activity. Mr. Dawson stated that the program aims to cooperate internally, with other

353 District programs, and externally, with other organizations. Ms. Dooley noted that the program's
354 pre-project monitoring of the 325 Blake Rd property was an instance of internal cooperation.
355

356 Mr. Fieldseth stated that R&M staff were meeting with Planning staff to develop monitoring
357 plans. He underscored that R&M staff would continuously evaluate water resource data and
358 trends to inform project planning decisions.
359

360 Ms. Dooley noted that under the program's proposed restructure, she would manage data and
361 analysis, while Ms. Christianson would manage monitoring field work. She explained that by
362 devoting a role to data organization and analysis, the program is committing resources to making
363 water resource information available and usable for other programs.
364

365 Manager Becker asked how the R&M program currently informs the selection of a given
366 management strategy. Mr. Erdahl noted that through diagnostic monitoring, the impairments to a
367 waterbody and drivers of the impairments are diagnosed and can be used to inform the selection
368 of an appropriate management strategy. He cited the District's carp study as an example.
369

370 Manager Miller stated that for a project on a site like 325 Blake Rd, the drivers of water resource
371 impact were obvious – namely the pipes and impervious surfaces that drain to the creek.
372

373 Mr. Erdahl noted that pre-project monitoring efforts serve as a baseline to compare against post-
374 project monitoring to better measure project effectiveness.
375

376 Mr. Hayman added that pre-project monitoring for a site as large as 325 Blake Rd saves the
377 District money by providing a more accurate understanding of the site than is provided by
378 modeling. He explained that the data from the pre-project monitoring plays a critical role in
379 project implementation, informing project design based on site specific data collected rather than
380 model predictions.
381

382 Manager Miller noted that the City of Edina installs treatment facilities, and asked if staff knew
383 how effective those facilities are. Mr. Wisker stated that the City's facilities are scaled and
384 installed based on modelling more than site-specific data. He explained that the smaller-scale
385 focus of diagnostic and effectiveness monitoring help to better identify local drivers of water
386 resource impairments than the broader scale of anchor monitoring.
387

388 Moving to the second issue identified through the program evaluation process, Mr. Fieldseth
389 explored the role of the District in AIS management. He noted that AIS are already present, drive
390 water resource impacts, and hinder ecosystem services. Mr. Fieldseth stated that a monitoring
391 program cannot ignore AIS while developing an accurate understanding of watershed health.
392

393 Manager Miller stated that milfoil was seen as a dire threat in the 1980s, but now is ubiquitous,
394 and does not seem to have ruined the District's lakes. He asked how staff can determine which
395 species pose an imminent threat and which are less of a concern.
396

397 Mr. Fieldseth stated that AIS are not all the same. He explained that while milfoil can disrupt
398 ecosystems in some lakes, it is merely another plant in the ecosystem in other lakes. Mr.
399 Fieldseth noted that through the E-grade program, lakes will not have a separate AIS grade. He
400 stated that the grade will be based on ecosystem services like nutrient cycling, and will
401 characterize the impact of AIS such as carp or zebra mussels on that service.
402

403 Ms. Dooley underscored that staff are proposing to no longer have a standalone AIS program,
404 but combine the Water Quality and AIS programs into the R&M program.
405

406 Manager Olson asked which agencies were involved in administering treatment for the Lake
407 Minnewashta rapid response in cooperation with the District. Mr. Fieldseth stated that the
408 District, Carver County, and the MNDNR were involved.
409

410 Manager Becker asked for staff to speak to the interplay of research efforts and rapid response.
411 Mr. Fieldseth stated that rapid response was, essentially, applied research.
412

413 Mr. Fieldseth stated that, in theory, AIS prevention supports the District's mission of protecting
414 water resources. However, true prevention is virtually impossible, and it is really a matter of
415 slowing the spread. Mr. Fieldseth stated that staff have developed three alternatives regarding
416 what role the District might play in slowing the spread of AIS:
417

- 418 • If the District attempts to directly slow the spread of AIS through control at access points:
 - 419 ○ The spread of AIS will be slowed
 - 420 ○ The District will incur higher costs
 - 421 ○ The District will likely continue to receive little external support
 - 422
- 423 • If the District attempts to indirectly slow the spread of AIS, principally through
424 educational efforts:
 - 425 ○ AIS will likely spread but may be slowed through behavior change
 - 426 ○ The District will incur lesser costs than the first alternative
 - 427 ○ District partners will be impacted by decreased District presence in AIS
428 prevention
 - 429
- 430 • If the District phases out of AIS prevention efforts:
 - 431 ○ AIS will likely spread
 - 432 ○ The District will incur very little cost
 - 433 ○ District partners will be impacted by decreased District presence in AIS
434 prevention
 - 435 ○ The District may experience an initial public outcry
 - 436

437 Manager Miller asked Mr. Jabbour if there were watercraft manufacturing standards in place to
438 reduce the likelihood of AIS spreading. Mr. Jabbour stated that there are standards in place for
439 watercraft. He noted that the standards for watercraft are being updated to better protect
440 waterbodies.

441
442 Manager Rogness asked what role other watershed districts played in AIS management. Mr.
443 Fieldseth stated that a couple districts inspect for AIS. He noted that the DNR,MPRB, TRPD,
444 and counties are the only agencies involved in large-scale AIS management.
445
446 Mr. Fieldseth clarified that the praise the AIS program has received statewide is in reference to
447 the program staff's technical expertise more than actual prevention efforts.
448
449 Manager White stated that she wished to maintain the District's AIS prevention role.
450
451 Manager Olson invited Mr. Jabbour to provide his insight on the District's role in AIS
452 management.
453
454 Mr. Jabbour thanked the District for its work and for inviting him to the meeting. He stated that
455 the District was, in the beginning, a major player in AIS management and providing direction for
456 the broader community. Mr. Jabbour underscored that nowadays, other agencies have greater
457 capacity to manage AIS. He cautioned that the District's program would become obsolete if it
458 continues to operate as it has. Mr. Jabbour recommended that the District either "rejuvenate or
459 liquidate" the program.
460
461 Mr. Jabbour stated that the District should review its past grant applications and determine why,
462 when applicable, the District did not receive funding.
463
464 Mr. Wisker restated that the Managers and staff seemed to all be in agreement with the direction
465 of the R&M program's monitoring arm. He noted that the Managers had not reached consensus
466 regarding the optimal role of the District in AIS. Mr. Wisker suggested that the discussion of the
467 District's role in AIS be continued at a later meeting. The Managers agreed.
468
469 Manager Becker stated that the Managers and staff should consider what the District's
470 "competitive advantage" is, and whether the "applied research" aspect of rapid response fits that
471 niche.
472
473 The Committee meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.
474
475 Respectfully submitted,
476
477 Matthew Cook
478 Planning Assistant

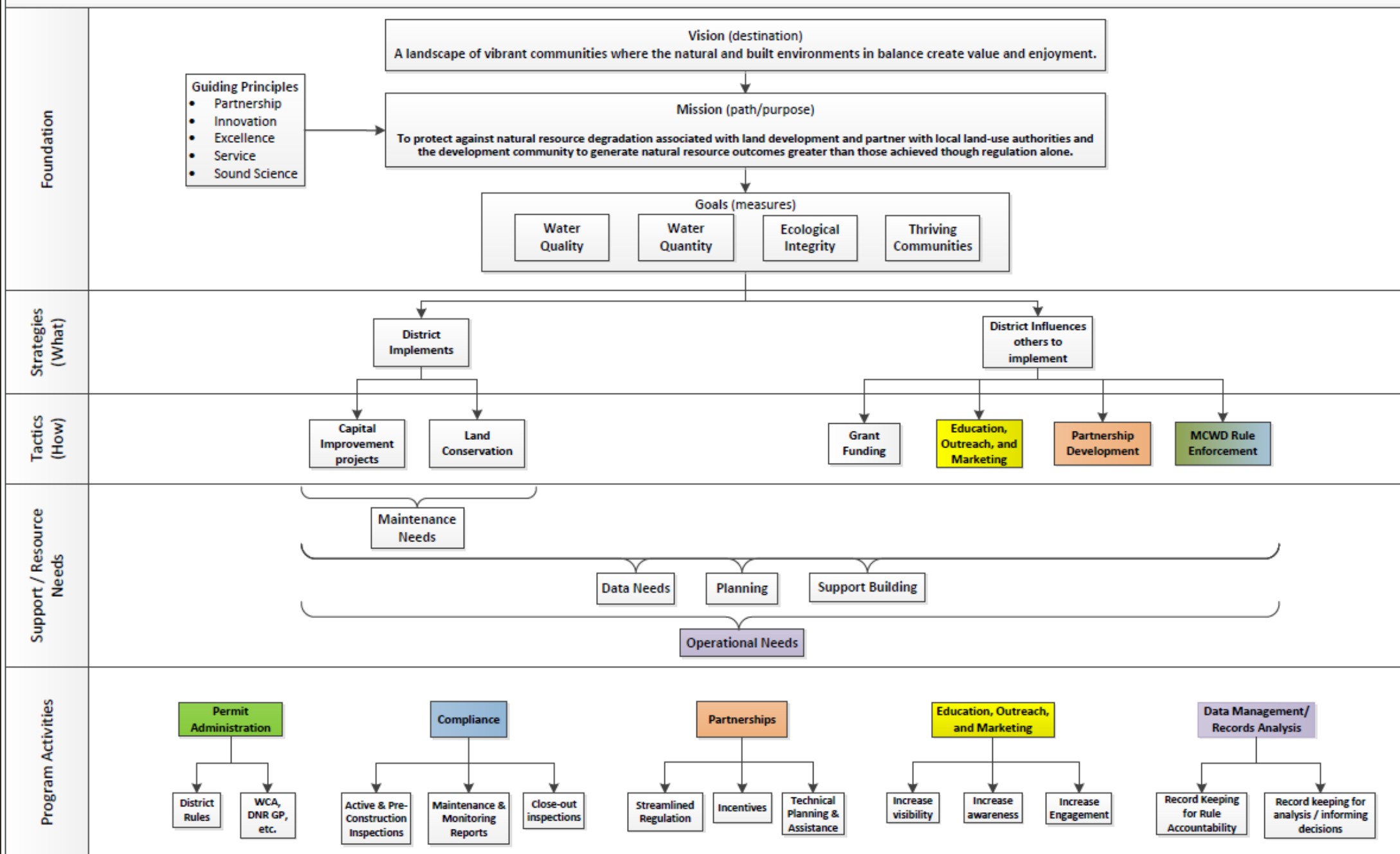
STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION

October 27, 2016 PPC Meeting

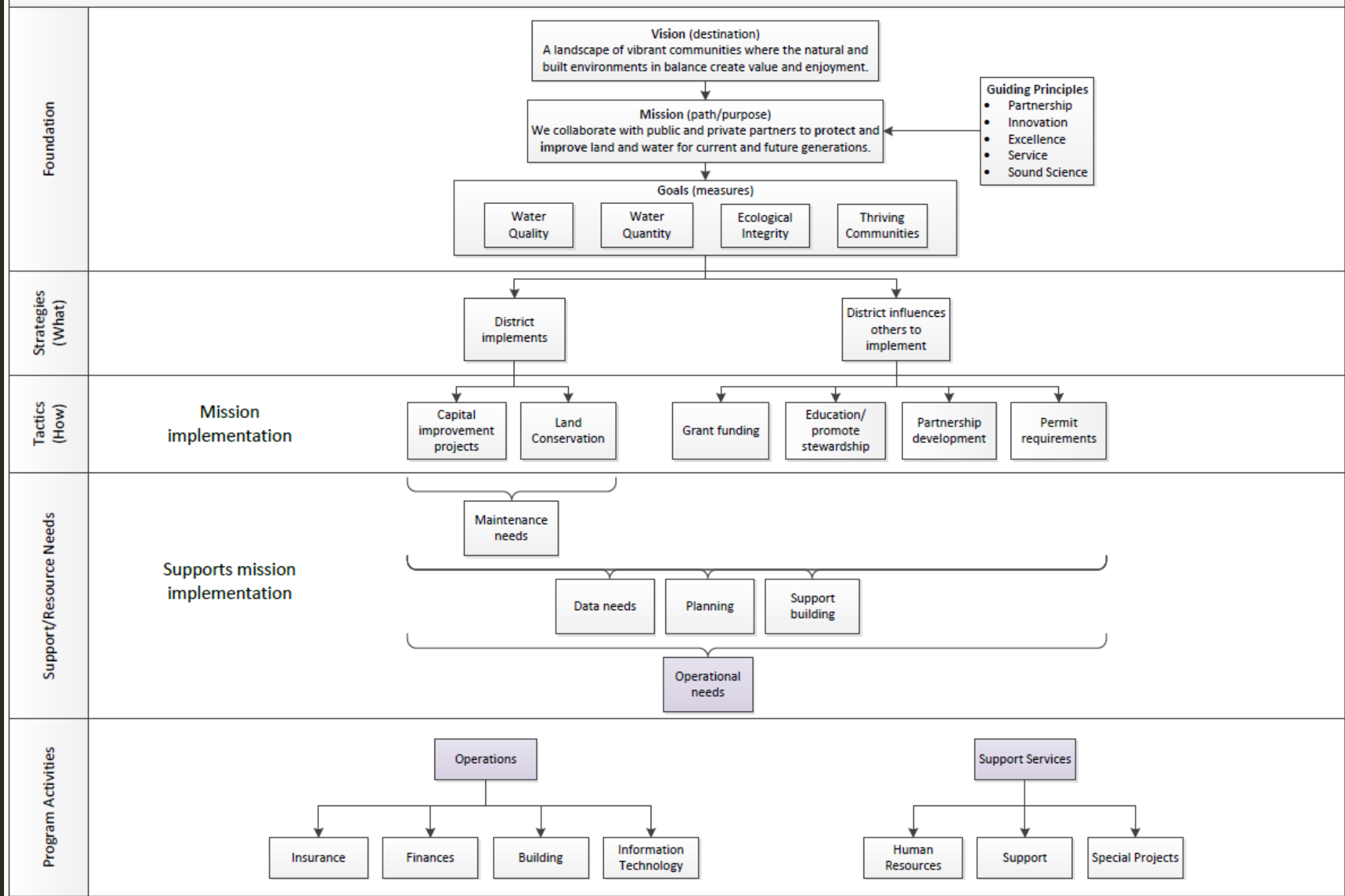
MEETING OUTLINE

- Introduction:
 - Recap program purpose discussions to date
 - Provide status updates
- Review the purpose of the Research and Monitoring Department:
 - Program history
 - Baseline questions – connection to mission, audiences, alignment with other programs, priorities
 - Issues identified
 - Future operational decisions
- Next steps

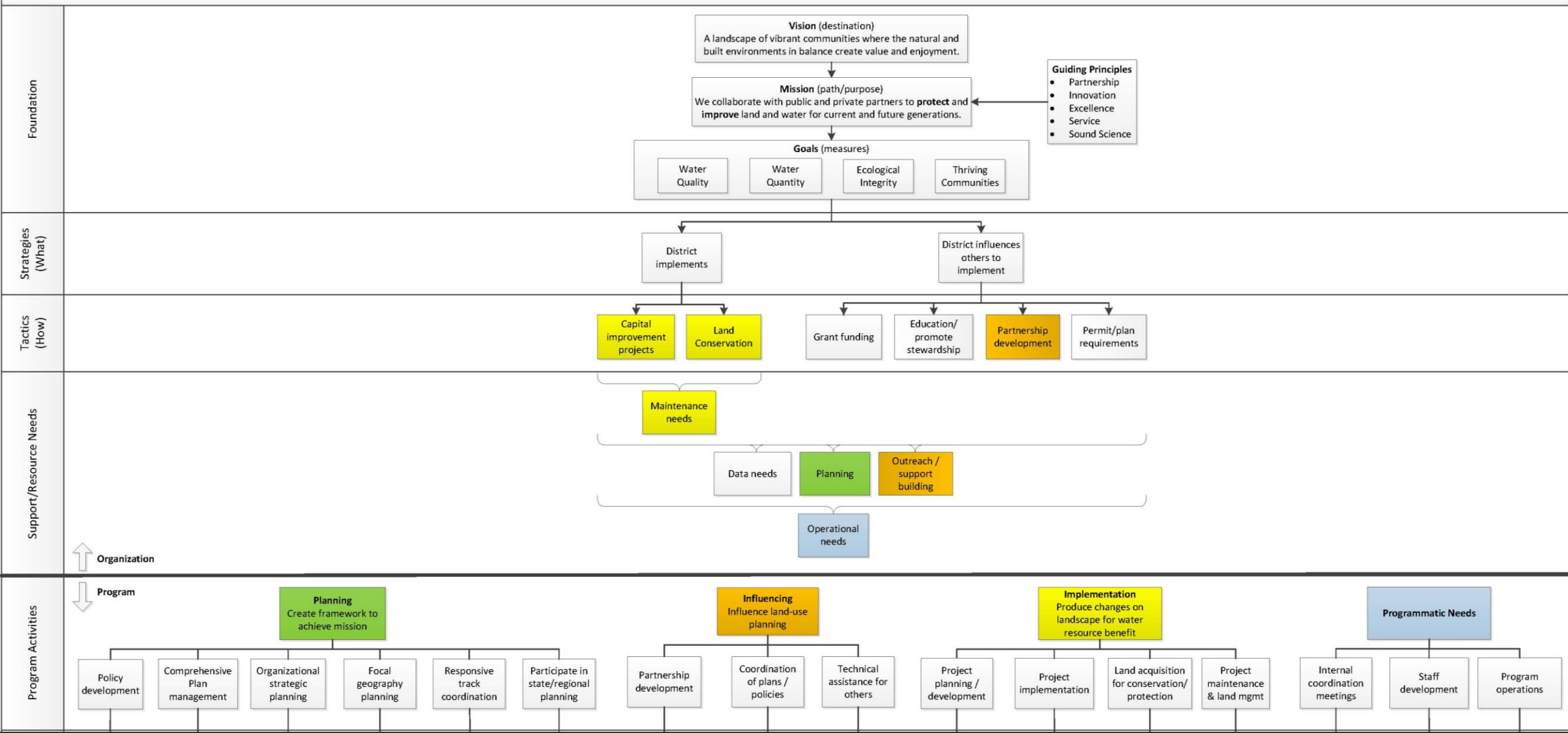
PERMITTING PROGRAM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (DRAFT)



Operations and Support Services Strategic Framework [DRAFT]



Planning & PMLM Evaluation [DRAFT]



RESEARCH & MONITORING PURPOSE

- Issues identified through program evaluation phase:
 - Need for clarity on how the department establishes priority tasks in relation to the needs of the overall organization (Data needs, Research, E-grade)
 - Need to define the organization's role in AIS and improve focus and clarity
- Cross-departmental work group:
 - 17 participants (6 from R&M, 11 from other departments)

Strategic Planning – PPC Meeting Research and Monitoring

October 27, 2016

Outline

- Introduction
- History
- Purpose
- Issues Identified
- Future Operational Discussions

Providing Sound Science To Inform Decisions

History

Overview

- 1968-2004 – Managed by Consultants
- 2004-Present – Managed by MCWD staff
- 2012 – AIS Program Formed
- 2013 – Adopted AIS Management Plan
- 2014 – Two programs merged under Research/
Monitoring Department
- 2016 – Further Integration

Monitoring Program

- 2004-Present – Managed by MCWD staff
 - Benefits
 - Data collection
 - Annual Reports
 - Planning conducted assessment studies
- 2006 – New Management
- 2010 – Zebra Mussels infest Lake Minnetonka
- 2011 – Big Changes

Hydrodata Committee

- 2011-2012 –
 - 3 Board of Managers
 - 2 WQ Staff
 - Program Supervisor
 - Administrator
- Gap Analysis – Decisions did not change priorities much

Board-Directed Research/Activities

- 2007-2012
 - Curly-leaf Pondweed Management Study
 - Carp Barriers and Removal
 - Milfoil Weevil Study
 - Zebra Mussel Study
 - Flowering Rush Removal
 - Lake Biomanipulation Study
- Managed by existing WQ Staff
- Biological monitoring conducted by consultants

AIS Program

- 2010-2011

- Discussion on AIS prevention
- Regulatory action considered

- 2012

- AIS Program formalized with new staff
- Monitoring and Prevention Program

AIS Program

- 2012-2013 – AIS Task Force
- 2013 – Adopted AIS Management Plan into 2007 Comp
- 2013-Present
 - Implementing the AIS Management Plan
 - Relationships developed (Federal, State & Local)
 - Focused on:
 - Biological monitoring
 - Research
 - Management/Control
 - AIS Prevention/Education

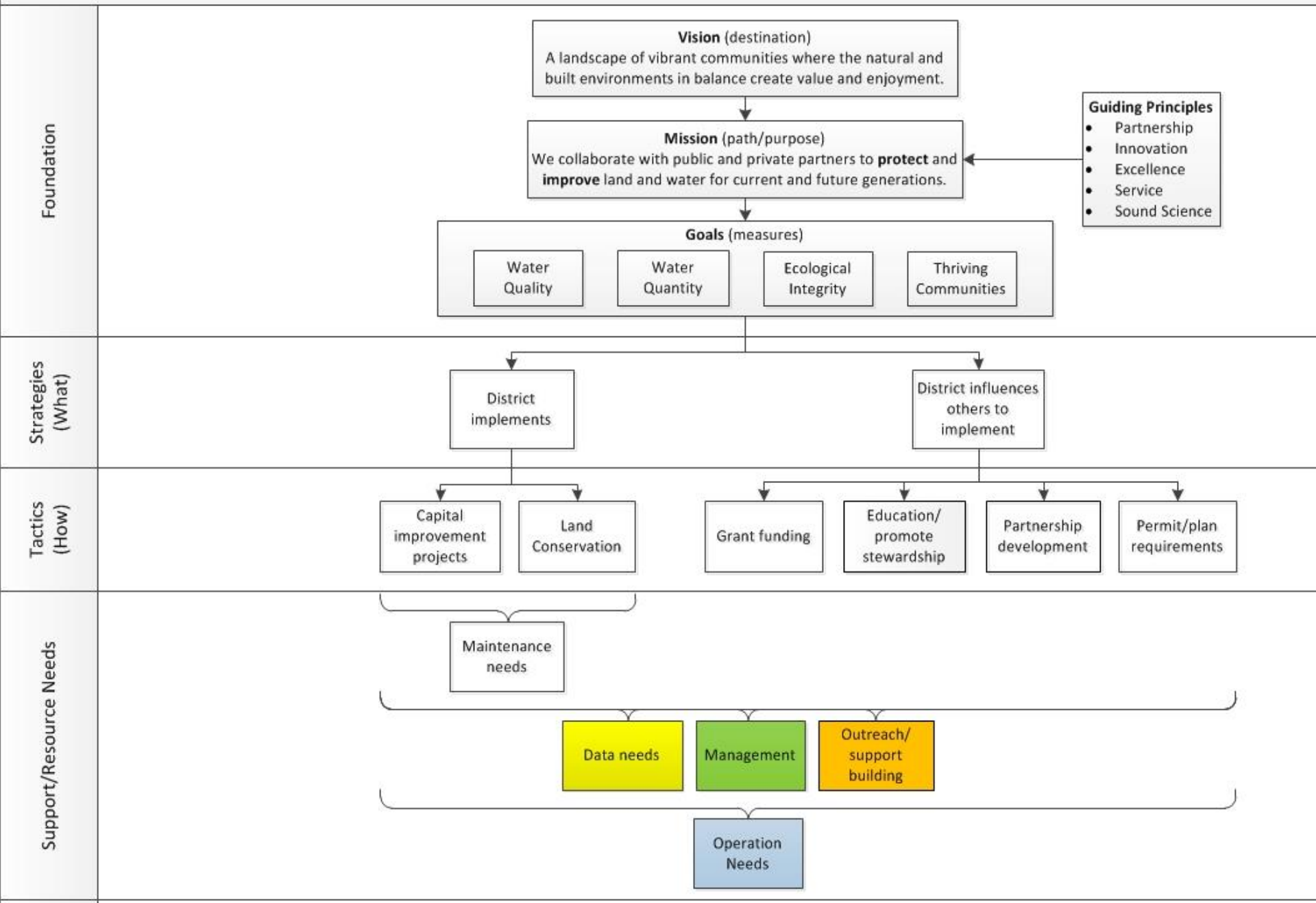
Research/Monitoring Department

- 2014 – Merging of two programs
 - Shift in lake monitoring
- 2016 – Further Integration of staff, resources and data
 - Shift in stream monitoring
 - Shift in biological monitoring

R/M Purpose

- Broadly Characterize Ecological Health
- Diagnosing Drivers of Change
- Collaborating on Management Strategies
- Communicate Analyses and Recommendations

Research and Monitoring Department



Issues Identified

- Programmatic Purpose
 - Data needs
 - Research
 - E-Grade
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program
- Department Structure and Management

Issues Identified

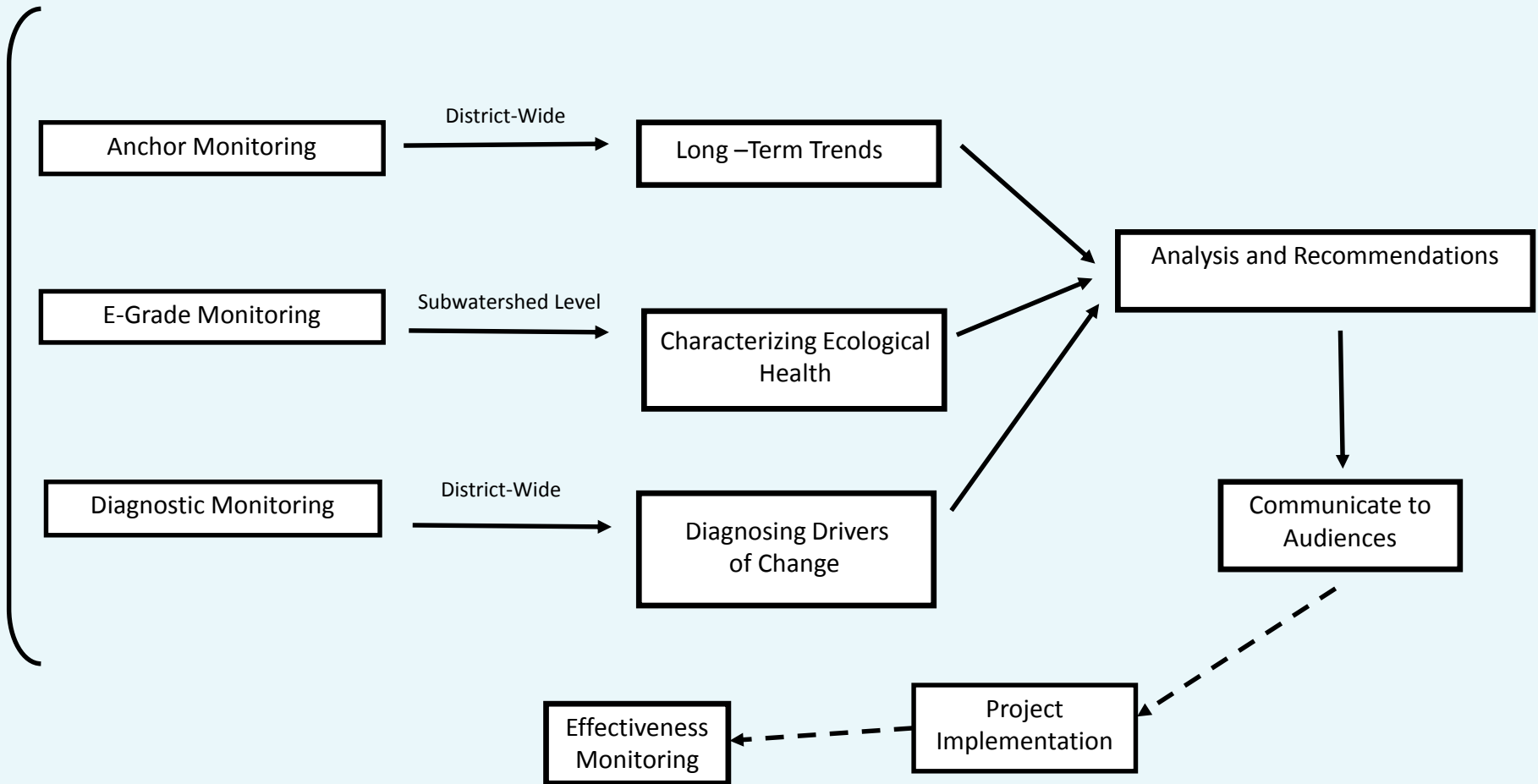
- Programmatic Purpose
 - Data needs
 - Research
 - E-Grade
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program
- Department Structure and Management

Issues Identified

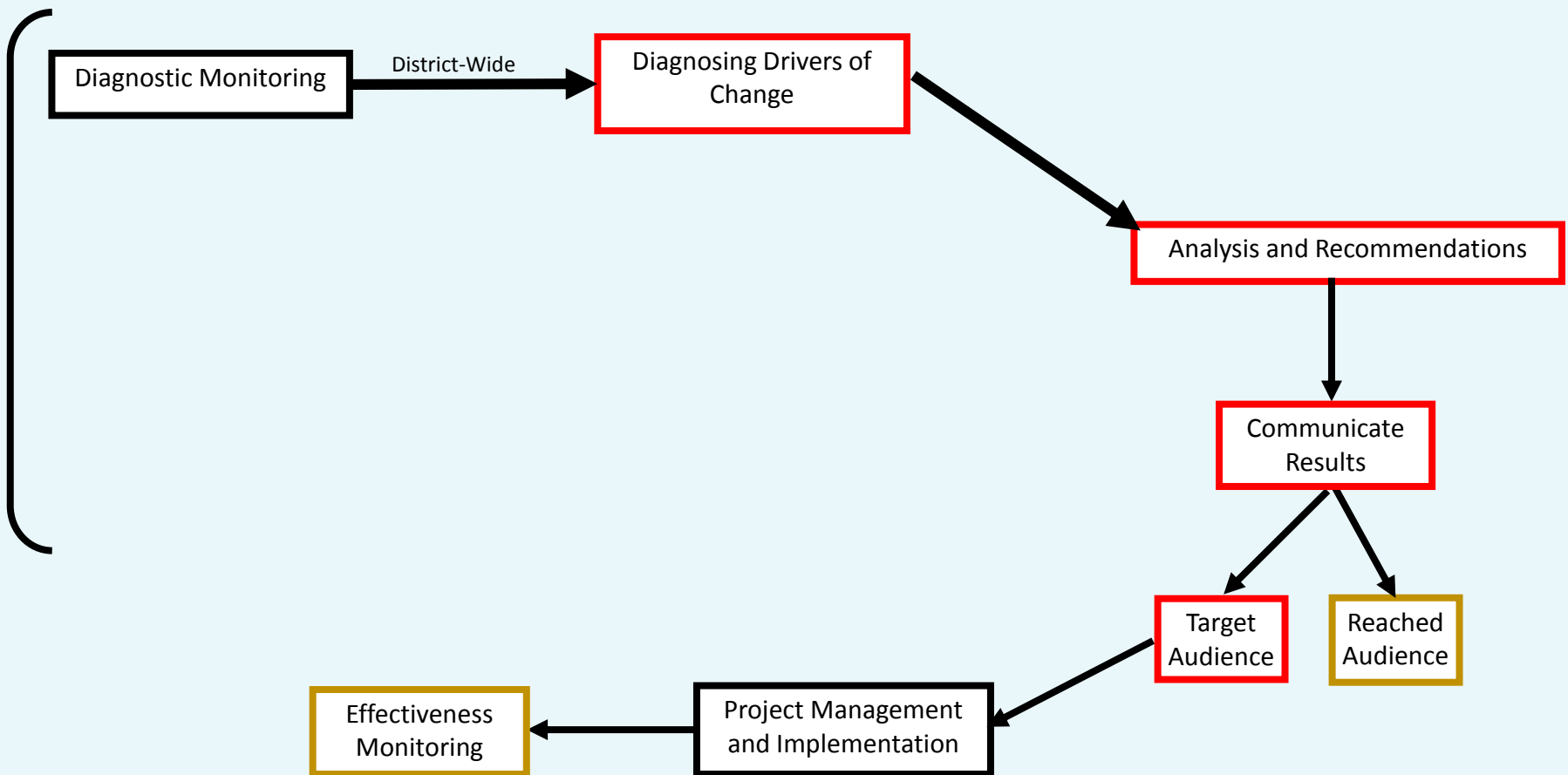
~~R/M: Purpose: Data needs, Research and
E-Grade?~~

R/M: How is work prioritized?

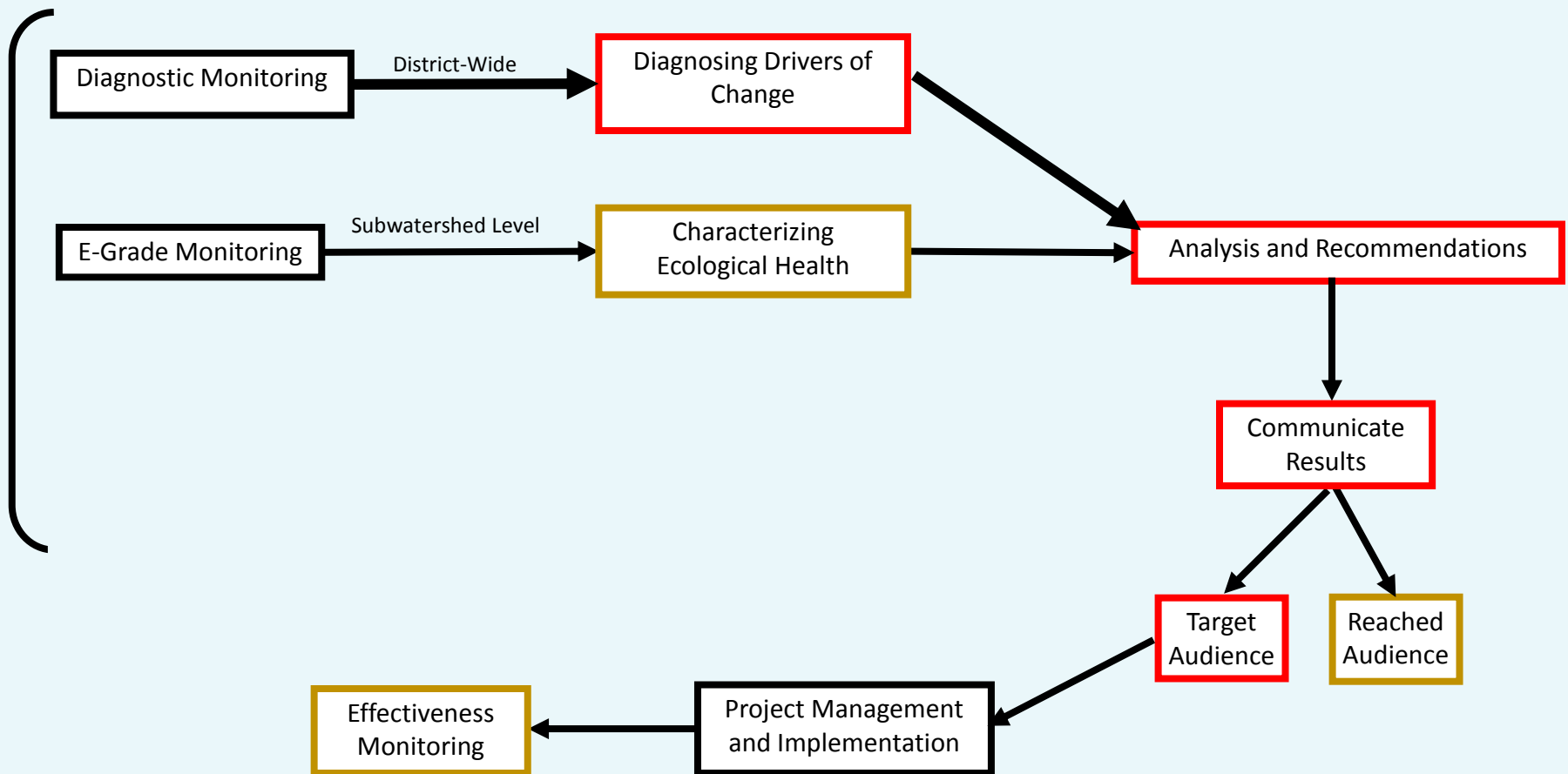
R/M Framework



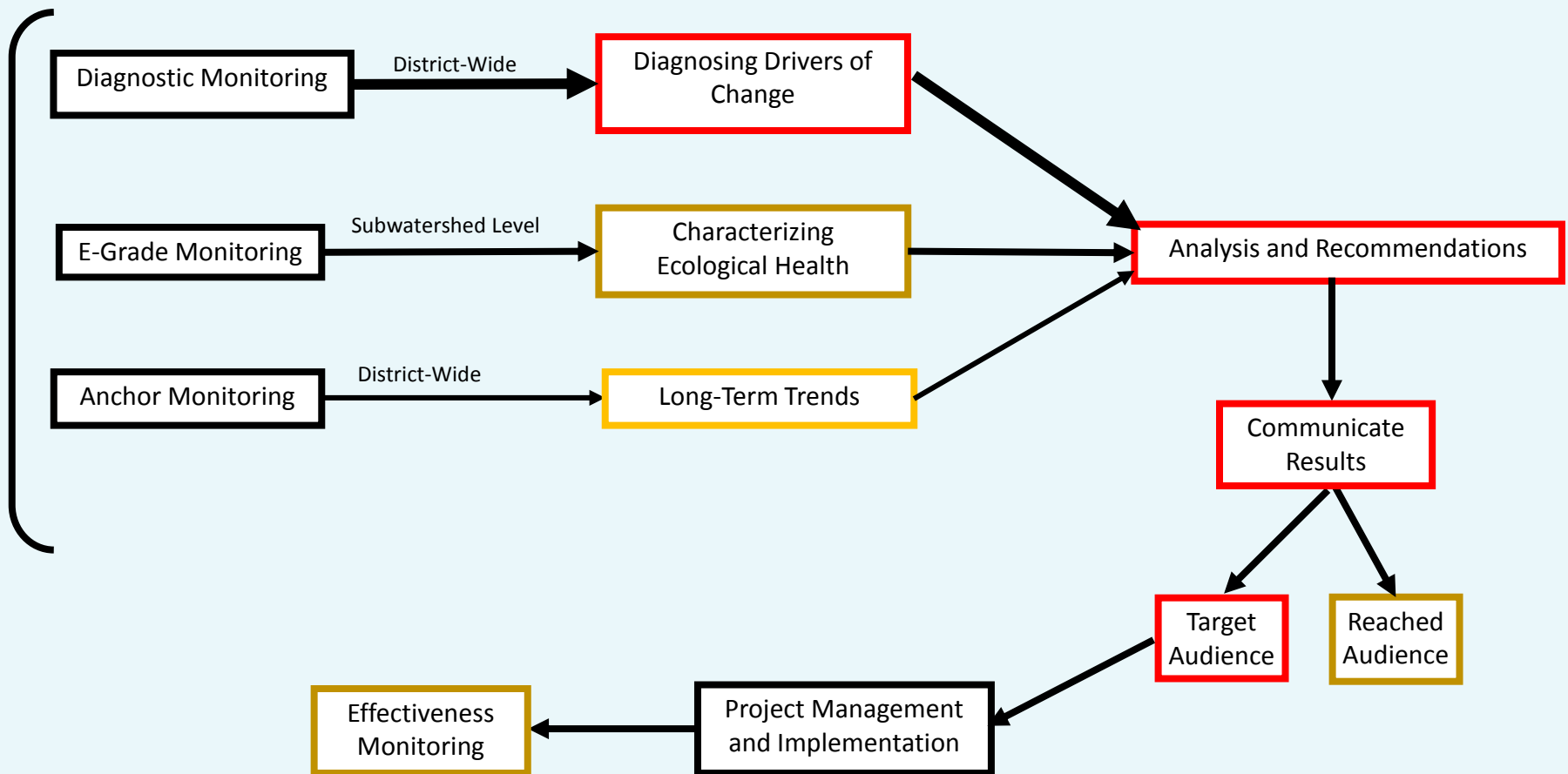
Assigning Priorities



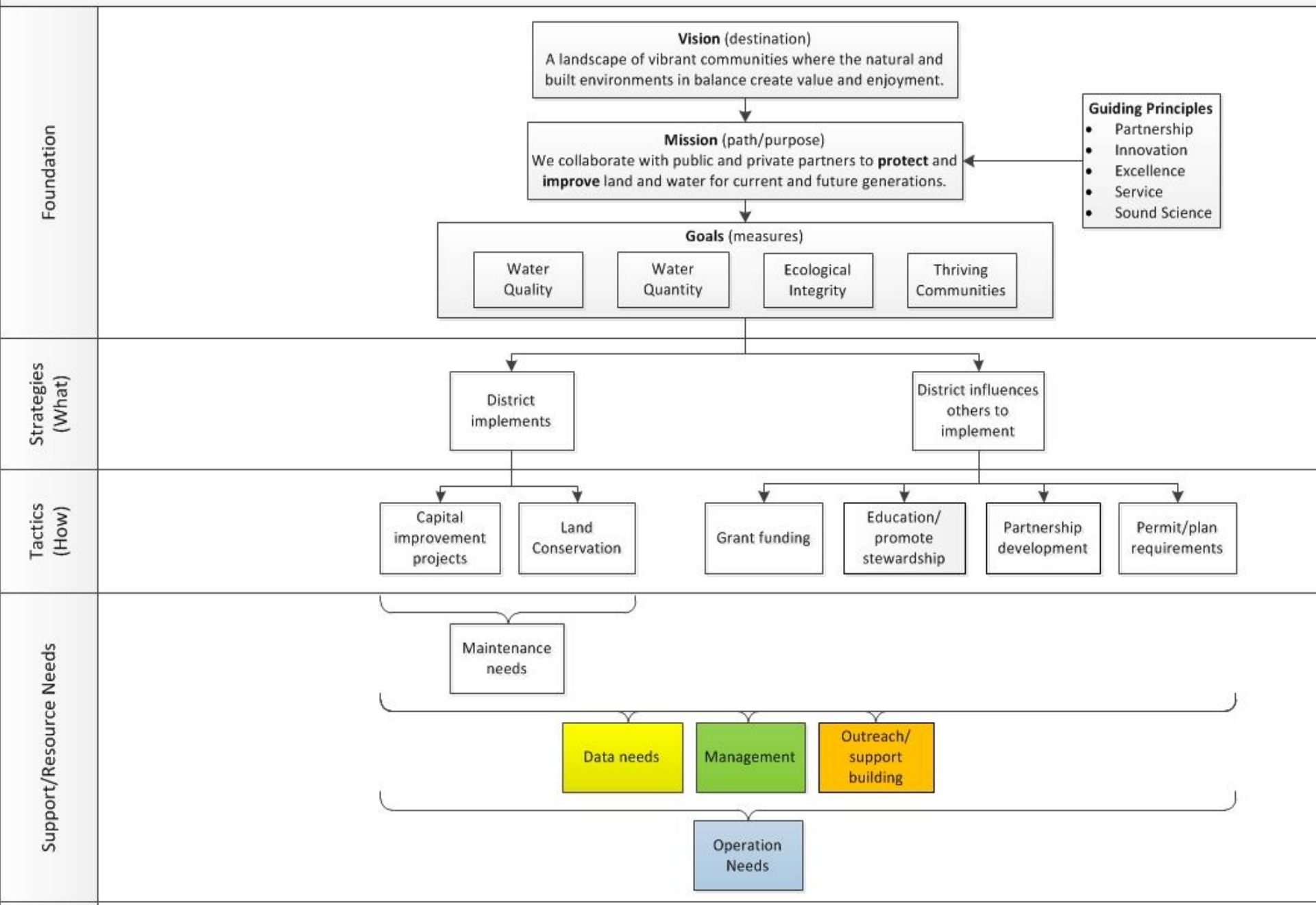
Assigning Priorities

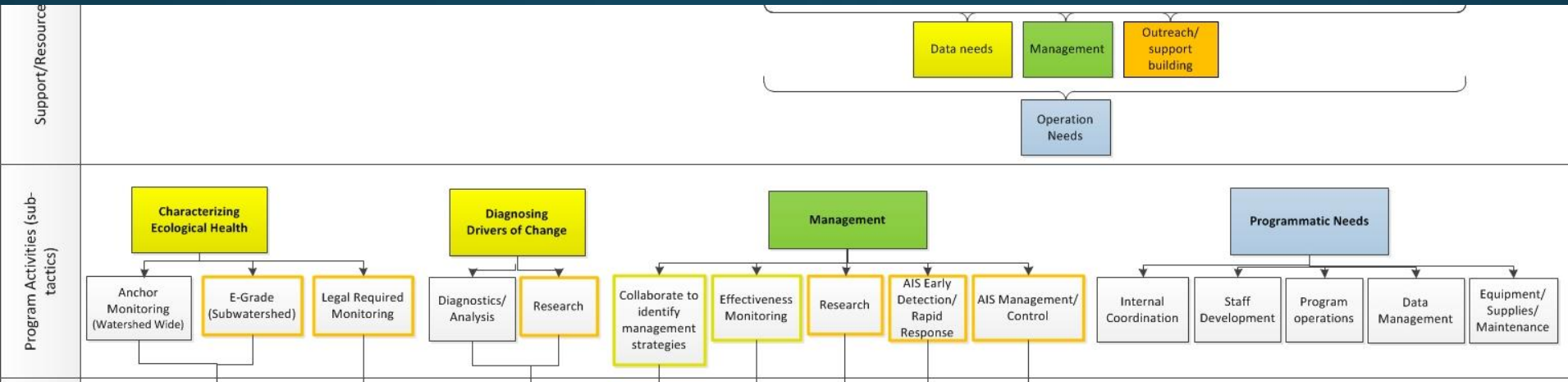


Assigning Priorities



Research and Monitoring Department



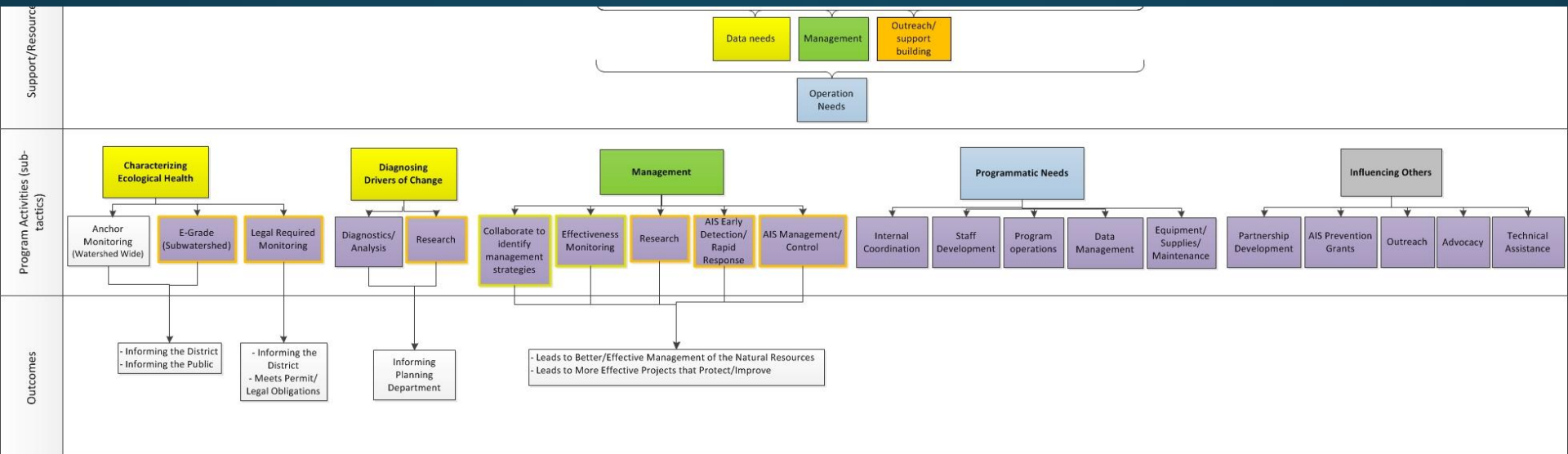


Issues Identified

R/M: What is the District's role in AIS?

- AIS are present
- AIS are known drivers of change

R/M Activities that involve AIS



Integration of Two Programs

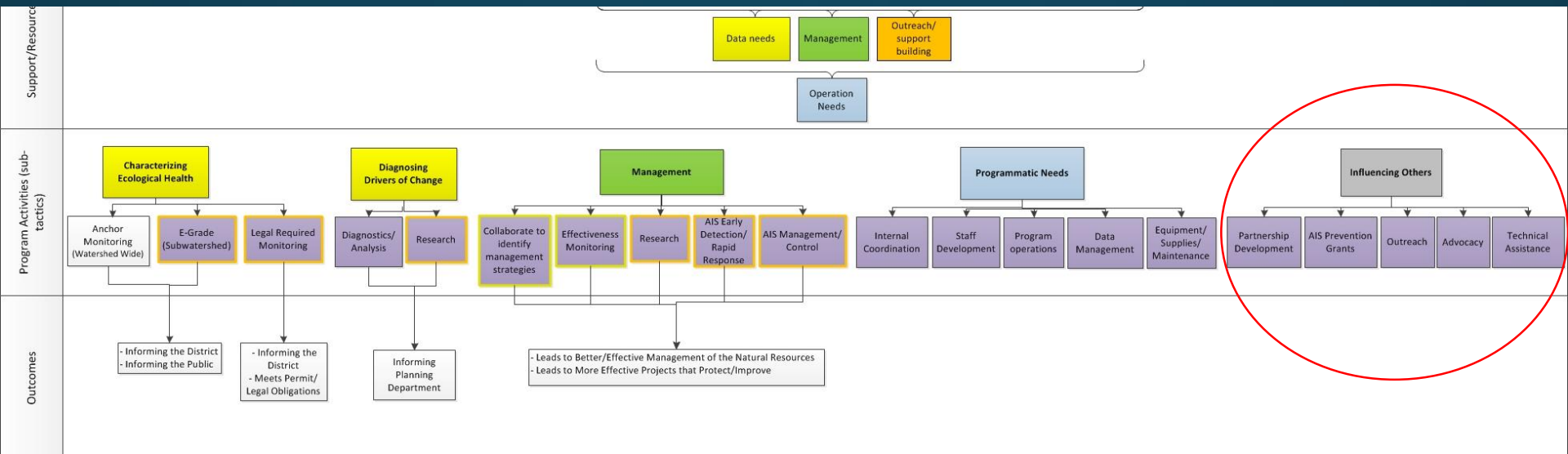
- Characterizing Ecological Health
 - E-Grade (biological monitoring)
- Diagnosing Drivers of Change
 - Diagnostic Monitoring (carp)
 - Research
- Management
 - Collaborate to ID management strategies
 - Effectiveness monitoring
 - Research
 - AIS Early Detection/Rapid Response
 - AIS Management/Control
- Influencing Others
 - Grants/Partnerships
 - Outreach

Issues Identified

~~R/M: What is the District's Role in AIS?~~

R/M: Should the District have an active role in slowing the spread of AIS?

Active Role in Slowing AIS



Should the District have an active role in slowing the spread of AIS?

- In theory, AIS Prevention meets the District's mission of protecting waters
- Misleading terminology - Prevention is not 100% effective
- Will personal responsibility improve?
- Will research in new management/control strategies catch up?

Decision Matrix

Examined 3 strategies:

- Yes • Control at access points
- Yes • Awareness campaign
• Increase partnerships with public and private entities
- No • Phased exit approach
• Support state and partner messaging

Criteria Examined

- Financial Resources
- Staff Inputs
- Natural Resource Impacts
- Community Relationships
- Support from LGU's
- Public perception/expectations
- Authority
- Public Relations/Brand
- Relation to organizational mission/goals
- Impact to other programs

Should the District have an active role in slowing the spread of AIS?

If yes, Control Access Points

- Infestations would likely occur at a slower rate
- Higher staff time & cost
- Partner agencies have been hesitant to push for more control at accesses

Should the District have an active role in slowing the spread of AIS?

If yes, Awareness Campaign

- Infestations would still occur
- Goal would be long term behavior change
- Impact to partners' inspection programs
- Higher staff time/lower cost
- Support from partners – lake groups would likely want more
- Requires more time from Ed/Comm Dept.

Should the District have an active role in slowing the spread of AIS?

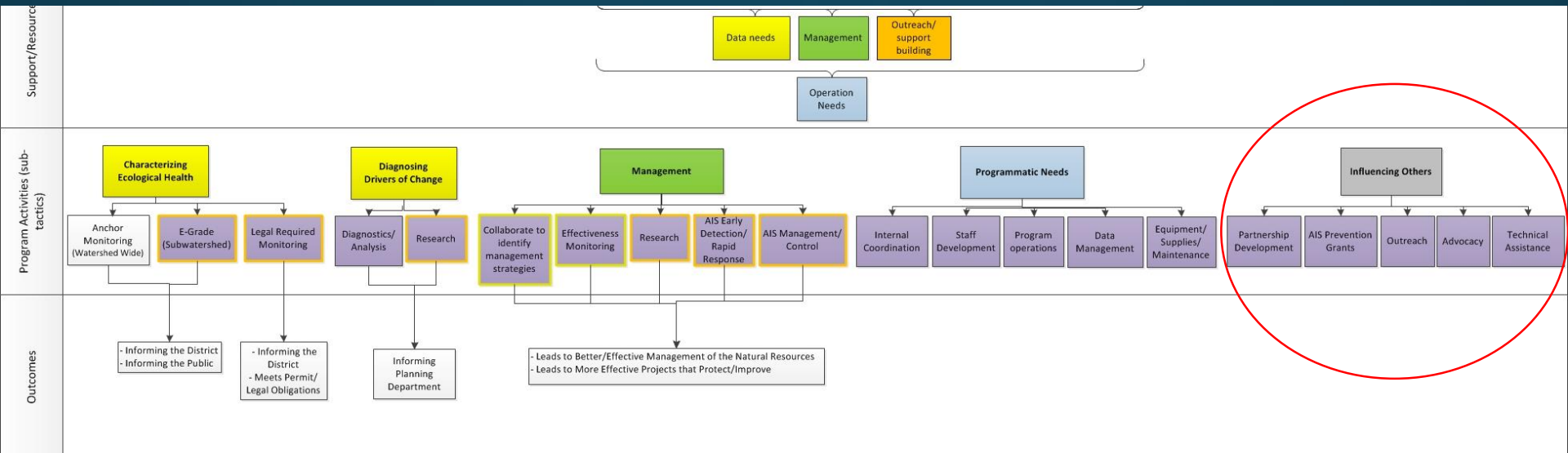
If no, but support state and partner messages

- Impact to partners' inspection programs
- Infestations would potentially occur at a higher rate
 - Depends on impact to partner programs
- Reduces MCWD budget and staff time
- Initial outcry from supporters

If District does not have an active role in slowing the spread of AIS

- Phased exit would be preferred
- Continue supporting state and partner AIS messaging (Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers, Clean Drain Dry)

How would a phased exit impact District's activities that involve AIS?



R/M Activities that Involve AIS

- Characterizing Ecological Health
 - E-Grade (biological monitoring)
- Diagnosing Drivers of Change
 - Diagnostic Monitoring (carp)
 - Research
- Active Management
 - Collaborate to ID management strategies
 - Effectiveness monitoring
 - Research
 - AIS Early Detection/Rapid Response
 - AIS Management/Control
- Influencing Others
 - Reduced to supporting partners messaging
 - Collaborate with Ed/Comm

Program Purpose

- Broadly Characterize Ecological Health
- Diagnosing Drivers of Change
- Collaborating on Management Strategies
- Communicate Analyses and Recommendations

Future Operational Discussions

- Redefining monitoring workload
- Department structure and management

Thank you