

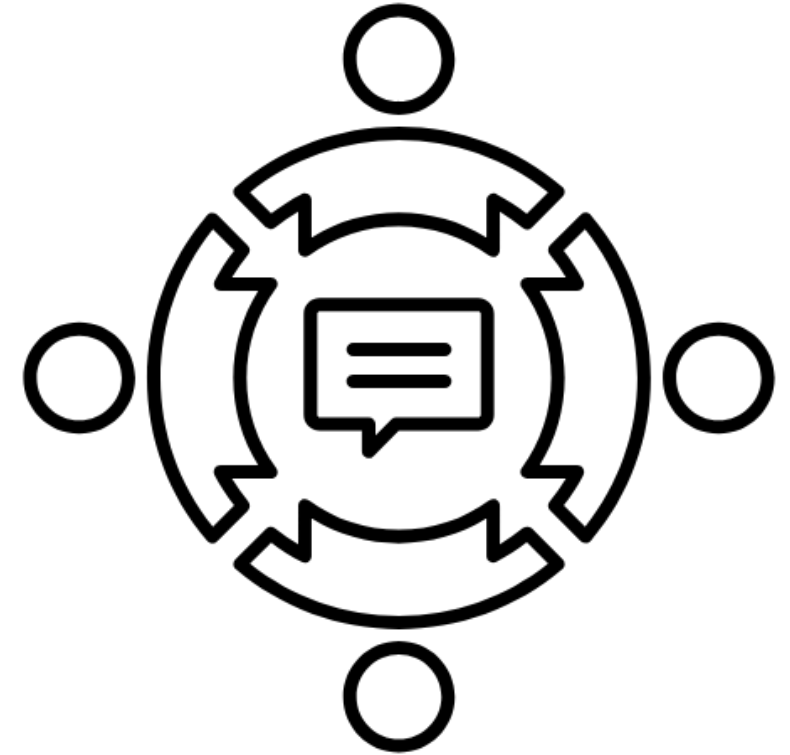
Regional Drought Resilience & Water Conservation Planning

Presentation for the Water Resources Commission

August 14, 2025

Project Goals

1. *Convene a group of watershed associations and water advocacy organizations in the region to form an Advisory Group; this group helps inform this project's research and recommended next steps.*
2. *Develop an inventory of existing programs and available resources related to drought management and water conservation in MAPC region.*
3. *Assess regional priorities, challenges, and needs in planning for drought resilience and sustainable water use.*
4. *Identify actionable next steps and explore opportunities for regional collaboration.*



Project's Advisory Group

Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA)

Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA)

Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA)

Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA)

Watershed Organization for the Sudbury, Assabet, & Concord Rivers (OARS)

Saugus River Watershed Council

North and South Rivers Watershed Association (NSRWA)

MassRivers Alliance

Salem Sound Coast Watch

Project Overview

Task 1: Information Gathering

- Advisory group meetings
- Research
- Synthesize information and discussion

Task 2: Planning and Resource Development

- Identify and develop priority resources
- Integrate group feedback
- Update and promote resources on MAPC Climate Resilient Land Use Strategies webpage

Project Deliverables

1. Summary memo of resources and recommendations
2. Updates to MAPC Climate Resilient Land Use Strategies

Overview of Ongoing Initiatives

- Compiled an inventory of resources focused on drought resilience and sustainable water management, organized by:
 - Resource types
 - Themes
 - Key takeaway
 - Implementation scale
- Sources include state agencies, watershed organizations, advocacy groups, and research institutions.
- **Resources are organized into three categories and described:**
 - Technical Assistance Tools & Resources
 - Outreach and Engagement Initiatives
 - Policy and Regulatory Advocacy

Regional Priorities

Priority 1: Strengthen Regional Coordination and Collaboration

Priority 2: Improve Data Collection and Regulation of Private Wells

Priority 3: Strengthen Regulatory and Management Mechanisms to Ensure Equitable Distribution and Usage of Water Resources

Priority 4: Develop a Regional Communication Strategy- Aligning Resource Development and Outreach Efforts Across State, Regional, and Local Frameworks

Potential Resources to Support Implementation of Priorities



A Model Regulatory Framework for Private Well Use (Priority 2)

Data Monitoring and Management System for Private Entities (Priority 2 & 3)



- **Municipal Monitoring of Residential Private Wells**
- **Monitoring High-Volume Private Sector Water Users**
- **Integrated Data System and Centralized Registry**



A Regional Public Education Campaign on Equitable Water Use (Priority 1 & 4)

Recommended Next Steps:

1. *Develop and support **advocacy and policy tools** to gather water use data and establish clear regulations for private wells to ensure equitable and sustainable groundwater management in the region.*
2. *Provide **robust technical assistance and seek funding opportunities** to advance comprehensive water conservation and resilience strategies.*
3. *Develop a publicly accessible **integrated water data platform***
4. *Launch a **coordinated regional outreach campaign** in partnership with diverse stakeholders to raise awareness and promote water stewardship*
5. *Support **state partners** with assessment and implementation of conservation-oriented water rates.*

Thank you!

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