

NEVADA DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES

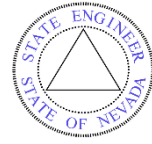


Nevada Department of
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Nevada State Water Plan Update

Stakeholder Advisory Group Kickoff Meeting
January 18, 2023

Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR)
Water Planning and Drought Resiliency
Section (WP&DR)



NEVADA DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES



Nevada Department of
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

NDWR Mission:

To responsibly manage Nevada's limited water resources in accordance with State law and best available science.

NDWR is dedicated to actively managing water resources for the benefit of Nevada citizens in a way that protects the resource for long-term sustainability.

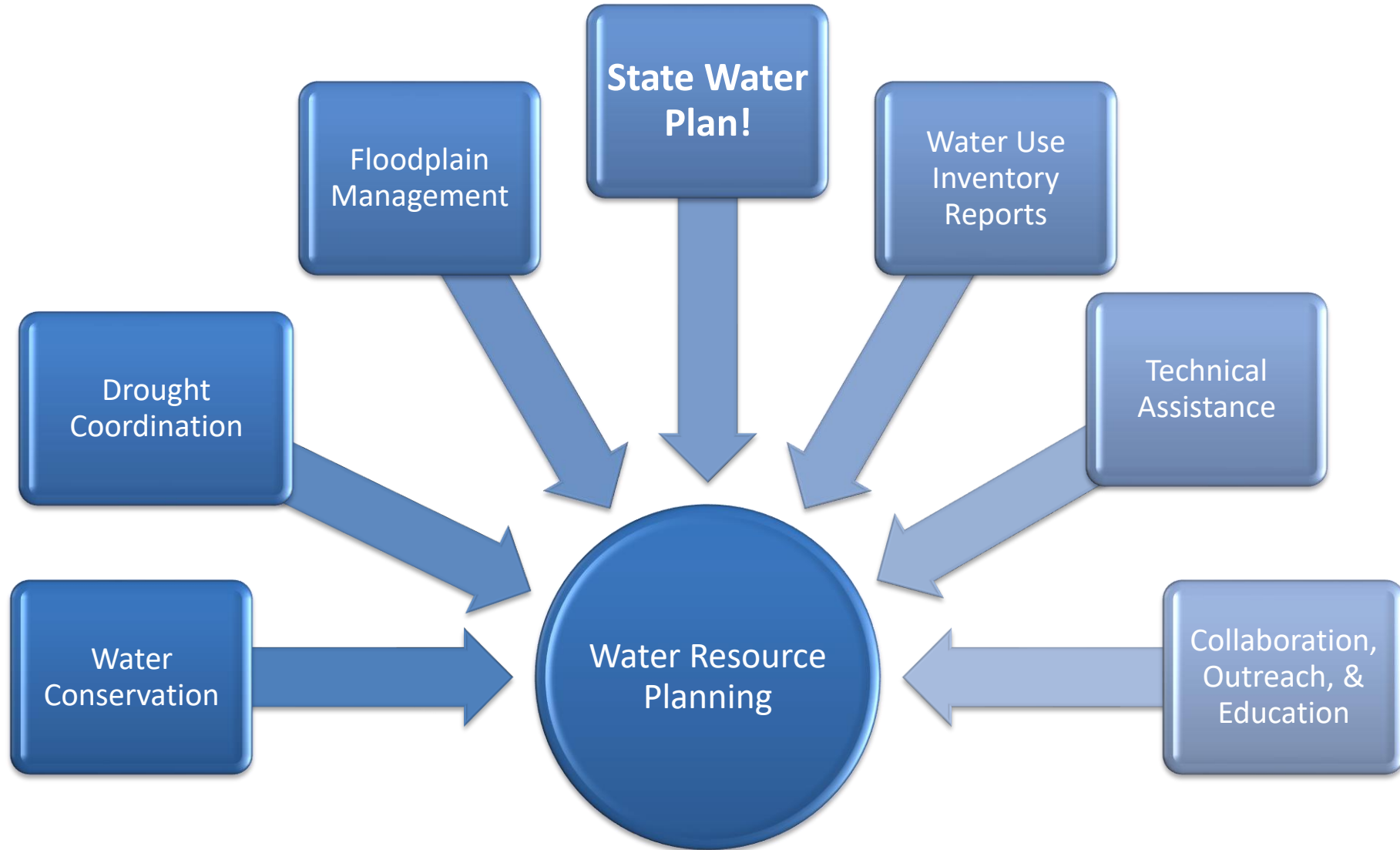
Water Rights
&
Adjudication

Well Drilling
Regulation

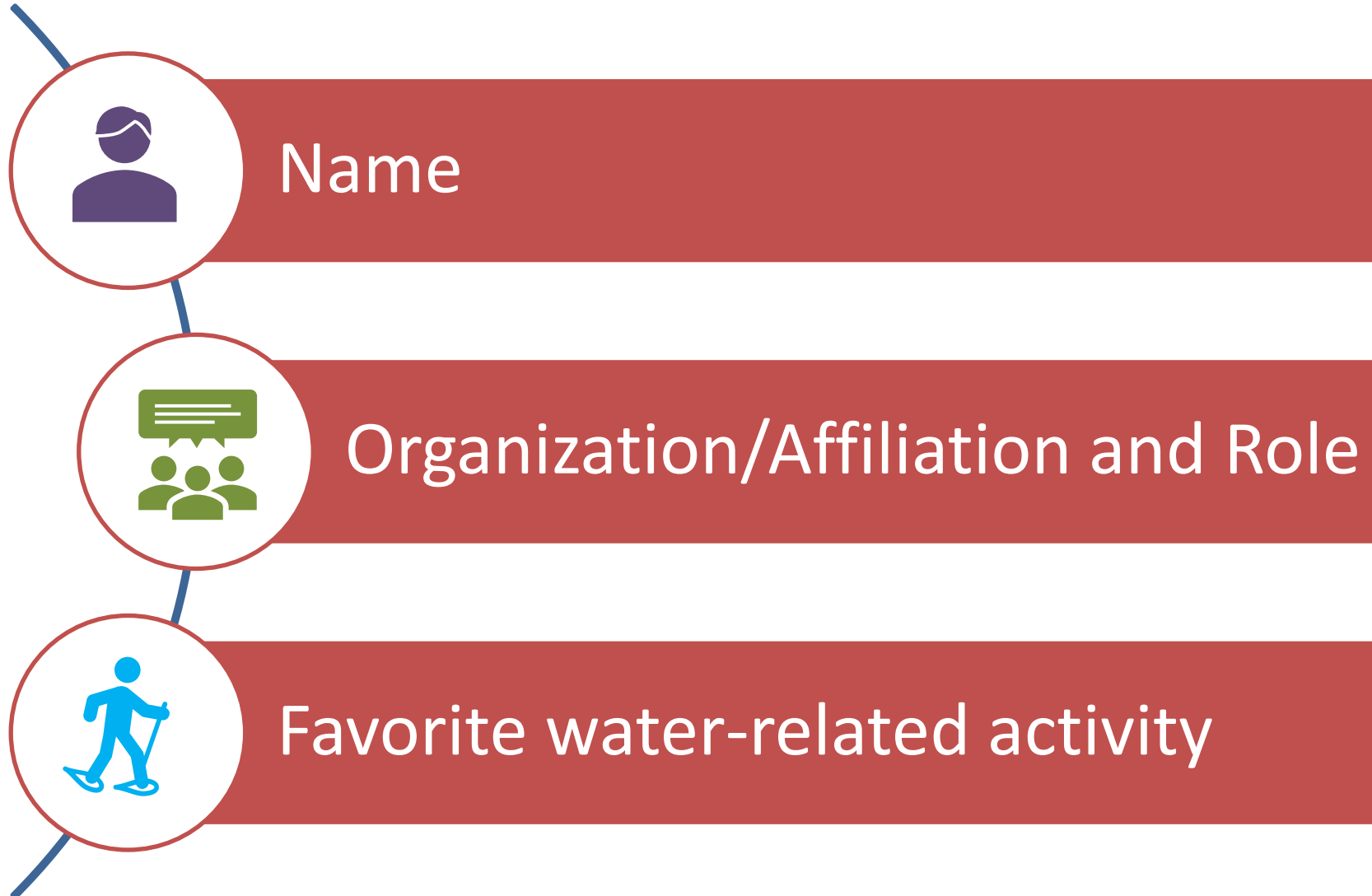
Dam
Safety

Water
Planning

WATER PLANNING & DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROGRAM



STAKEHOLDER INTRODUCTIONS



Nevada State Water Plan

Past and Present

The last State Water Plan was published in 1999...

- Nevada's water resource landscape has changed in the last 20+ years
- Water supplies and demands fluctuate, and water resource planning must evolve
- As the driest state in the nation, **proactive and holistic management is vital**

NDWR is responsible for assisting the development of effective plans for the use of water (NRS 540.011)

- Decisions regarding specific objectives are best determined and implemented at the local level
- An updated plan is needed to establish a comprehensive process for addressing evolving water needs across the state
- The Nevada State Water Plan can help **inform and guide local planning** while also **communicating local concerns and challenges** to policymakers

Nevada State Water Plan

What is it?

What the State Water Plan IS:

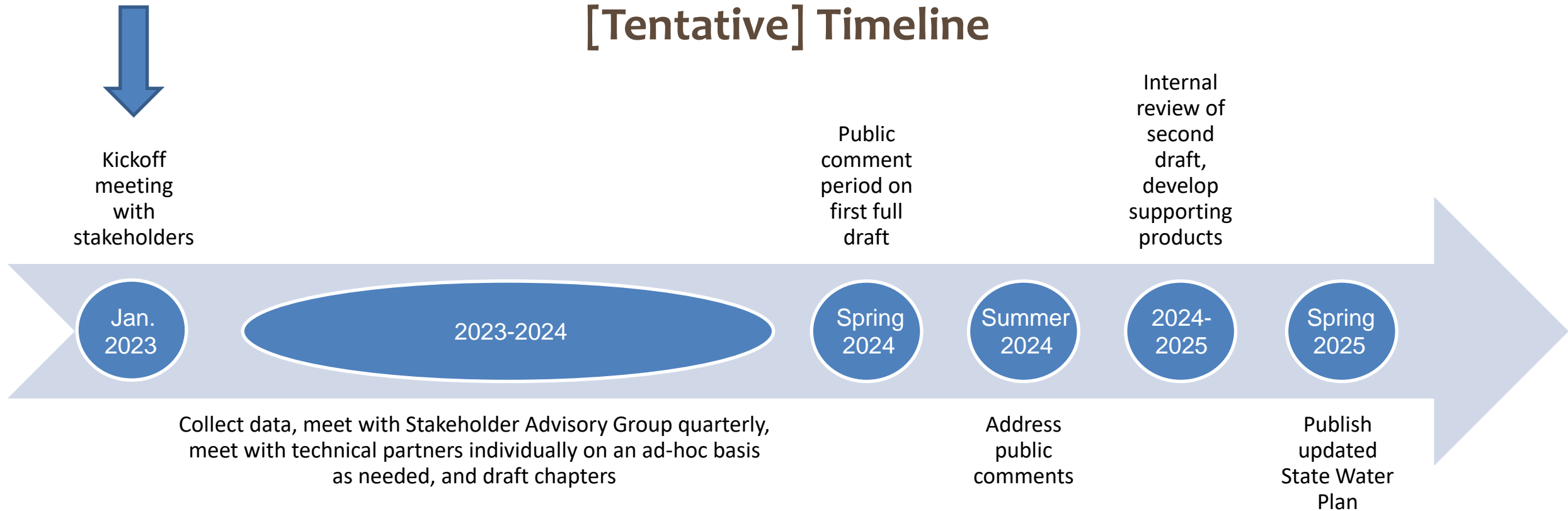
- ☑ High-level planning and policy document
- ☑ Updated assessment of water resources across the state
- ☑ Identification of knowledge gaps and water resource planning challenges
- ☑ Options for management strategies, actions, and policies that can be implemented by various stakeholders
- ☑ Recommendations aimed at increasing the sustainability and improving the management of water resources over the next 20 years

What the State Water Plan is NOT:

- ⊘ The plan does not change water law, nor reallocate water among users
- ⊘ This plan is not new regulations
- ⊘ The plan is not a regional or local water supply plan
- ⊘ The plan will not focus on infrastructure or project planning
- ⊘ The plan is not an advocacy document
- ⊘ The plan will not make recommendations related to Colorado River management

Nevada State Water Plan

[Tentative] Timeline



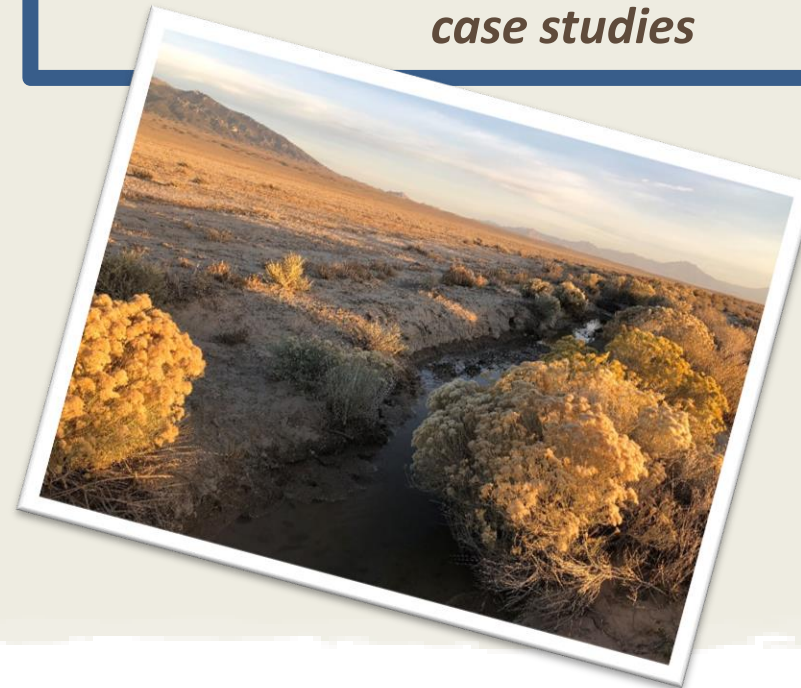
Nevada State Water Plan

General Outline

- Front Matter
- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Climate and Water Resources of Nevada
- Water Use
- Potential Future Water Demands
- Strategies for Meeting Demands
- Findings and Recommendations
- Looking Forward
- Appendices

Vignettes

Short profiles of a variety of water users, projects, etc. will be highlighted throughout the State Water Plan to showcase unique case studies



Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)

Overview & Purpose



“The water of all sources of water supply within the boundaries of the State whether above or beneath the surface of the ground, belongs to the public” (NRS 533.027)



- Incorporate input from a diverse group of stakeholders who represent unique interests and can speak to specific challenges while also looking at the big picture
- Learn about issues and concerns identified by water users
- Collaboratively develop strategies and recommendations to improve water resources planning



While the State Water Plan will be a high-level policy and planning guide, the SAG will help ensure the plan is relevant to a variety of stakeholders across the state



Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)

Roles & Responsibilities

NDWR Water Planning Staff

- Acquires **best available scientific data**
- Convenes stakeholders
- Provide **administrative support** for the SAG
- Collates information
- **Draft sections** and content for the Plan
- Solicits additional expertise as needed
- Consideration of all comments and perspectives

SAG Members

- Provide **guidance** on content
 - What topics should be addressed in the Plan?
 - How can the Plan provide the most value to water users?
- **Review** content of the Plan
- Collectively **discuss** water resource planning challenges and strategies
- Collaborative **formulation of recommendations** for improving water resource planning at all levels

Stakeholder Advisory Group

Expectations

Active and courteous engagement:

- Contribute to discussions
- Provide constructive feedback
- Let others speak
- Listen to perspectives
- Attend scheduled meetings



Next Steps for the State Water Plan Update Process

Early 2023: NDWR staff will be acquiring a list of relevant data sources and drafting foundational sections for the State Water Plan

First SAG task: Short questionnaire (4 questions) to stimulate discussion at the next SAG meeting

1. NDWR water planning staff will send questions to SAG members via email before the next meeting.
2. Responses from SAG members due 1 week prior to next SAG meeting

Schedule next SAG meeting: TBD

1. Tentatively planning for May 2023
2. Share and discuss answers to the questionnaire
3. Review plan content to-date and available data sources

