

# Using Place-based Planning to Develop and Implement Regional Water Supply Strategies

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## Presentation Overview

- What is place-based planning?
- Mid-Coast Water Planning  
Partnership background
- Water Action Plan overview
- Prioritizing actions
- Early implementation approach
- Lessons learned
- Q&A

## What is place-based planning?

- A voluntary, locally initiated and led effort, involving a balanced representation of water interests who work in partnership with the State to understand and meet their instream and out-of-stream water needs (Oregon Water Resources Department)
- Collaborative, integrated approach to water planning recommended in Oregon's 2012 Integrated Water Resource Strategy

# What is place-based planning?

- 2015 Draft Place-based Planning Guidelines
  - Key planning principles
  - Five-step process
    1. Build a collaborative and inclusive process
    2. Gather information to understand water resources and to identify knowledge gaps
    3. Examine current and future water needs for people, the economy, and the environment
    4. Identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to meet water needs
    5. Develop and implement a place-based integrated water resources plan

## What is place-based planning?

- 2015: Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) received legislative authority to begin funding a water planning pilot-phase
- Four planning groups selected to participate in a pilot phase
  - Upper Grand Ronde Sub-Basin
  - Lower John Day Sub-Basin
  - Harney Basin
  - Mid-Coast Region

## What is place-based planning?

- 2022: Oregon Water Resources Commission recognized the final plans of planning groups, including the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership's Water Action Plan
- What next? Prioritization and implementation!
- 2023: Federal American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding through OWRD
  - Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership is using the funding to:
    - Prioritize actions in its Water Action Plan and
    - Support early implementation

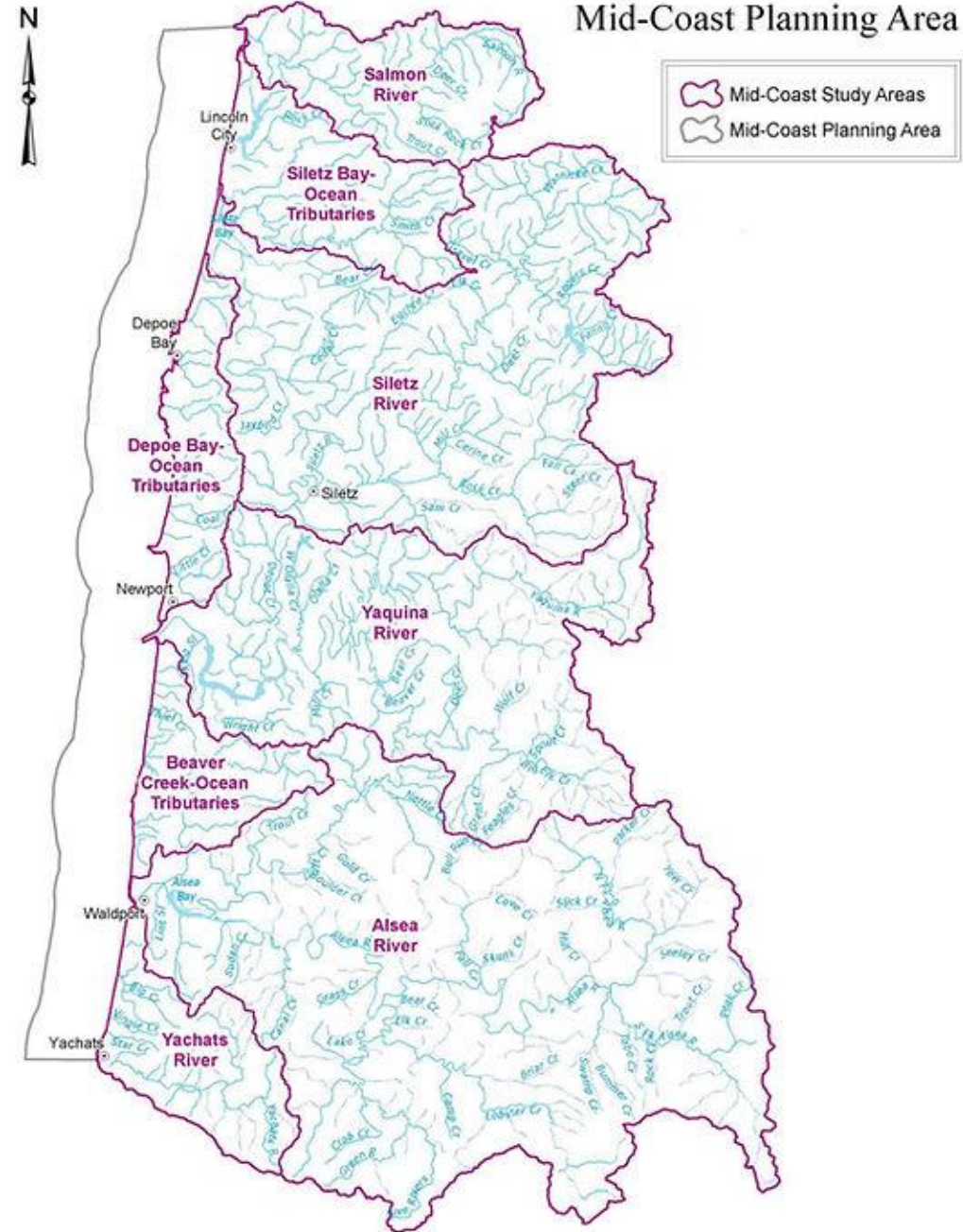


# Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Background

# What is the Partnership?

A collaborative of regional partners working to ensure sustainable water resources for the environment, the economy, and coastal communities.

Established in 2016



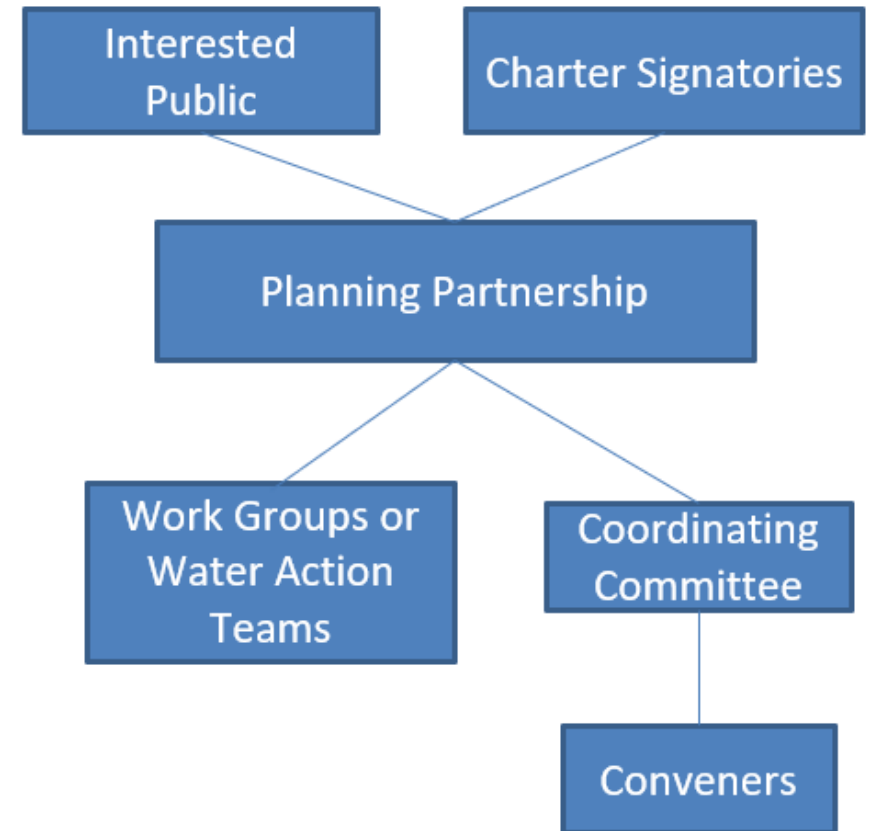


## What is the Partnership?

- More than 250 stakeholder participants
- Partnership meetings, field tours, work groups, public engagement events, and public surveys
- Funding from OWRD (+ARPA), local partners, foundations, participant in-kind
- Work implementation: consultants and coordinator with stakeholder guidance

## What is the Partnership?

- Structure and guiding principles: Charter
- Guiding Principles
  - Partnership
  - Commitment
  - Transparency
  - Clarity
  - Flexibility
  - Action
  - Innovation



## Partnership Activities

- Form Partnership and create Charter
- Characterize water quantity and quality, ecology, and built infrastructure
- Determine existing and future water needs; identify critical issues
- Develop a Water Action Plan with strategies
- Water Action Plan prioritization and implementation support



# Water Action Plan Overview

# MCWPP Water Action Plan Imperatives

**59 actions  
under 8  
categories  
(imperatives)**

Public awareness  
and support

Monitoring and  
data sharing

Regional capacity  
and collaboration

Water  
conservation,  
efficiency, and  
reuse

Ecosystem  
protection and  
enhancement

Resilient water  
infrastructure

Source water  
protection

Water supply  
development

## Water Action Plan Overview

- Imperatives include a description, objectives, and actions
- Action details include:
  - Desired outcomes
  - Potential lead and participants
  - Timeline (phasing)
  - Initial estimated investment
  - Potential funding sources



# Prioritizing Actions

# Prioritization Process

- Many actions, limited resources
- Monthly work group meetings
- Decision support system (scoresheet method)





# Scoring Criteria

Scoring:  
High  
Medium  
Low



Water quantity



Water quality



Stakeholder  
understanding



Readiness

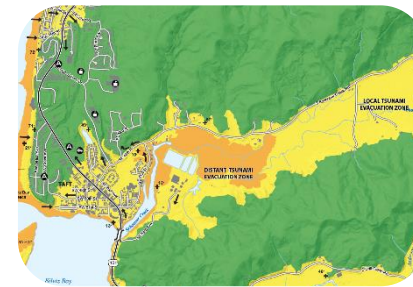
Scoring:  
Yes/No



Instream & out-of-  
stream benefits



Regionwide  
benefit



State or regional  
plan

# Imperative 1: Public Awareness and Support

- Highest priority actions
  - Raise awareness and understanding of regional water issues
  - Water conservation outreach
  - Water quality outreach



# Imperative 2: Regional Capacity and Collaboration

- Highest priority actions
  - Regional water supply planning
  - Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium
  - Green infrastructure and low impact development



# Imperative 3: Monitoring and Data Sharing

- Highest priority actions
  - Stream gages
  - Water quality monitoring
  - Engaging volunteers



# Imperative 4: Water Conservation, Efficiency, and Reuse

- Highest priority actions
  - Understanding reuse opportunities
  - Water conservation incentives
  - Water pricing strategies
  - Commercial and industrial



# Imperatives 5 and 7: Resilient Water Infrastructure and Planning for Water Needs

- Highest priority actions
  - Storage feasibility studies
  - Water meter upgrades



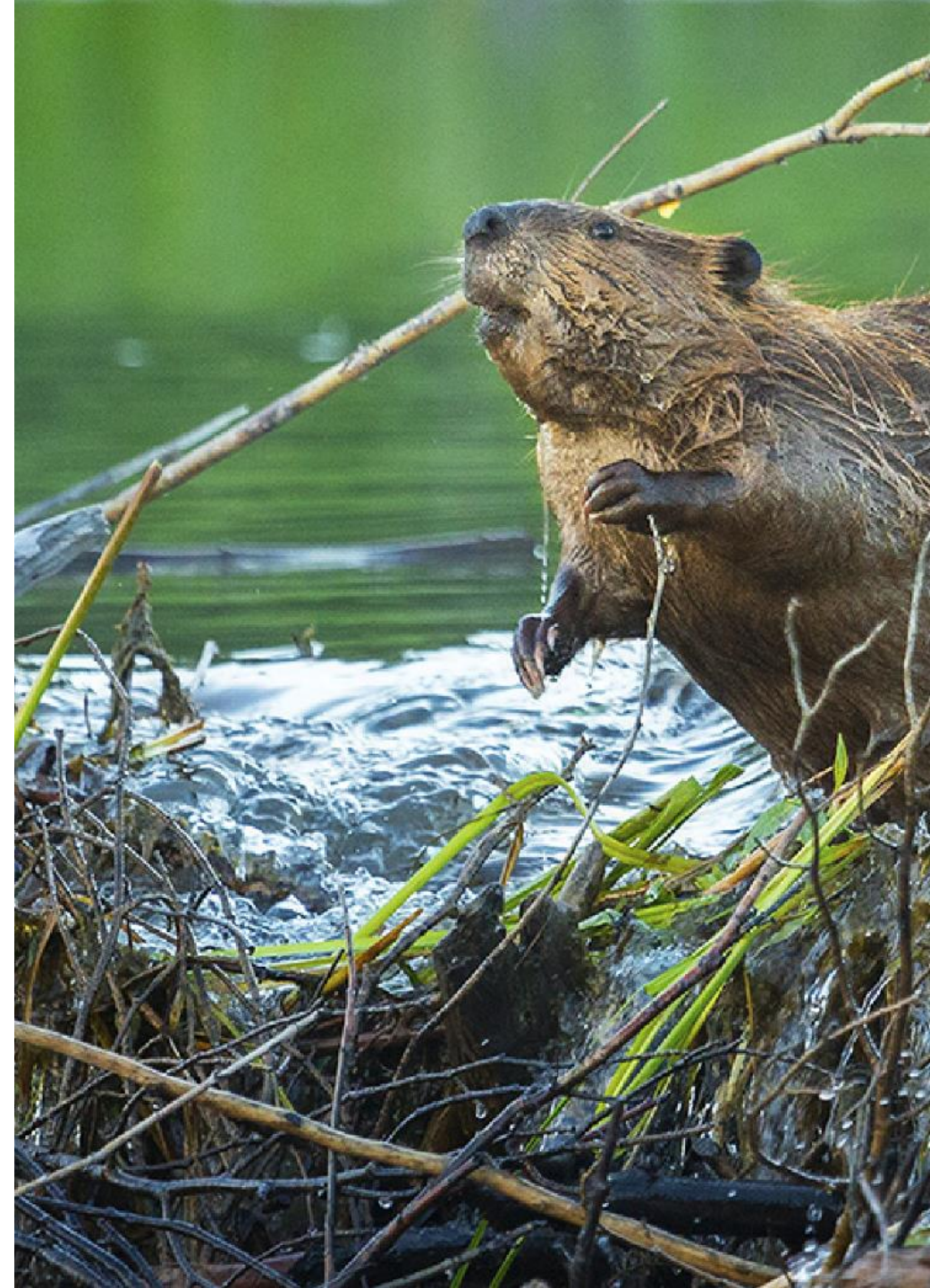
# Imperative 6: Source Water Protection

- Highest priority actions
  - Protect critical lands
  - Integrated pest management
  - Best practices for protecting water quality
  - Harmful algal blooms



# Imperative 8: Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement

- Highest priority actions
  - Riparian restoration
  - Instream flows
  - Partnerships
  - Beaver habitat

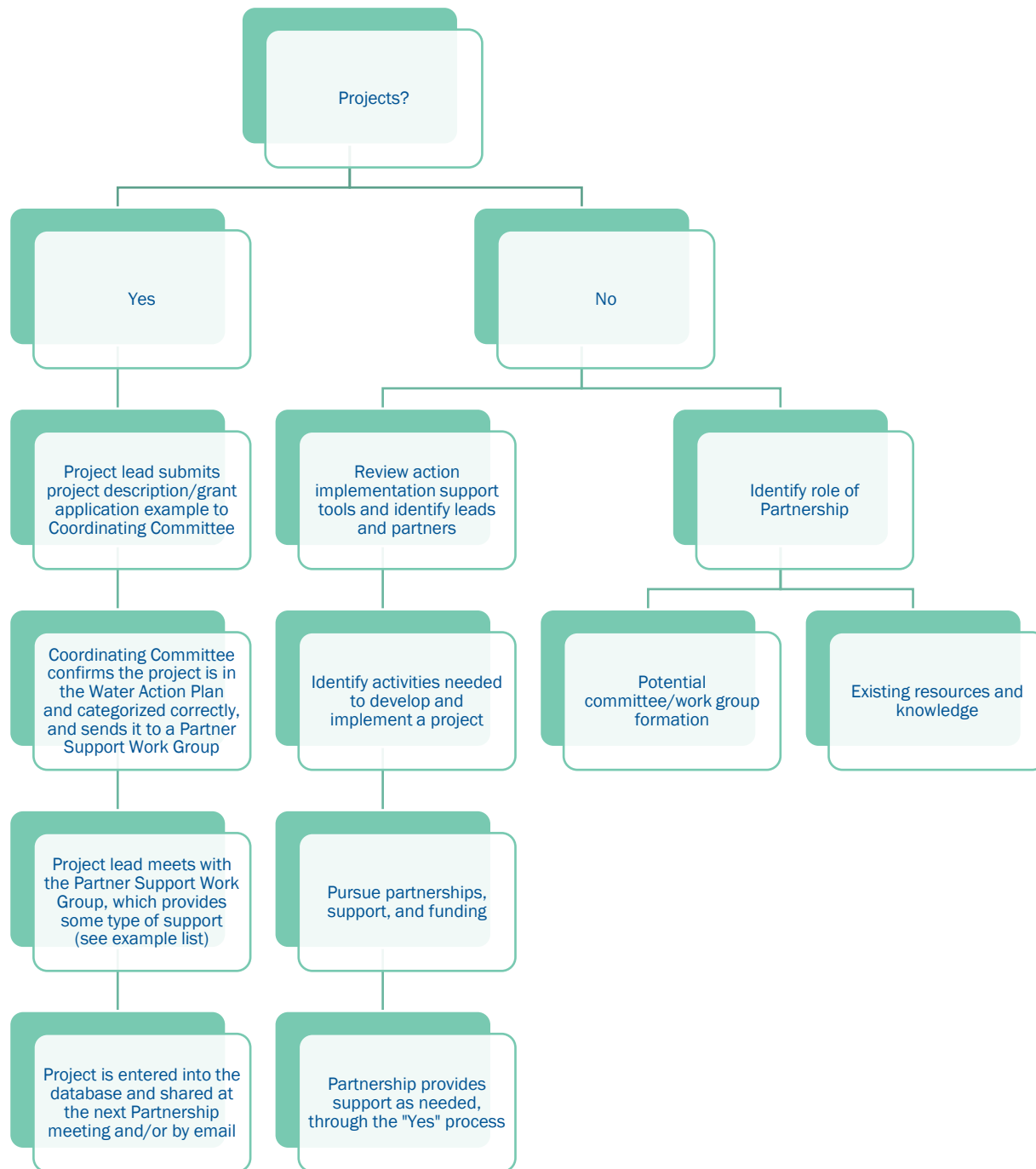






# Early Implementation Support

# Partnership Support Flowchart



# Partnership Support

- Step 1:
  - What actions are being implemented and by whom?
    - Communicating with entities identified as Potential Leads and Potential Partners for actions to check accuracy
    - Compile a list of projects and connect to actions
    - Created a Smartsheet document to help with tracking and managing projects
  - Where are the gaps?
    - Need to identify which actions lack projects or need support for more projects
- Step 2: Need to develop work plans to address gaps

# Partnership Support Examples

- Ideas for funding sources
- Contact information for potential partners
- Letters of support
- Strategic or technical advice to strengthen projects
- Project sharing opportunities
  - Partnership emails, Work Group meetings, Partnership meetings
- Grant writing workshop
- Surveys

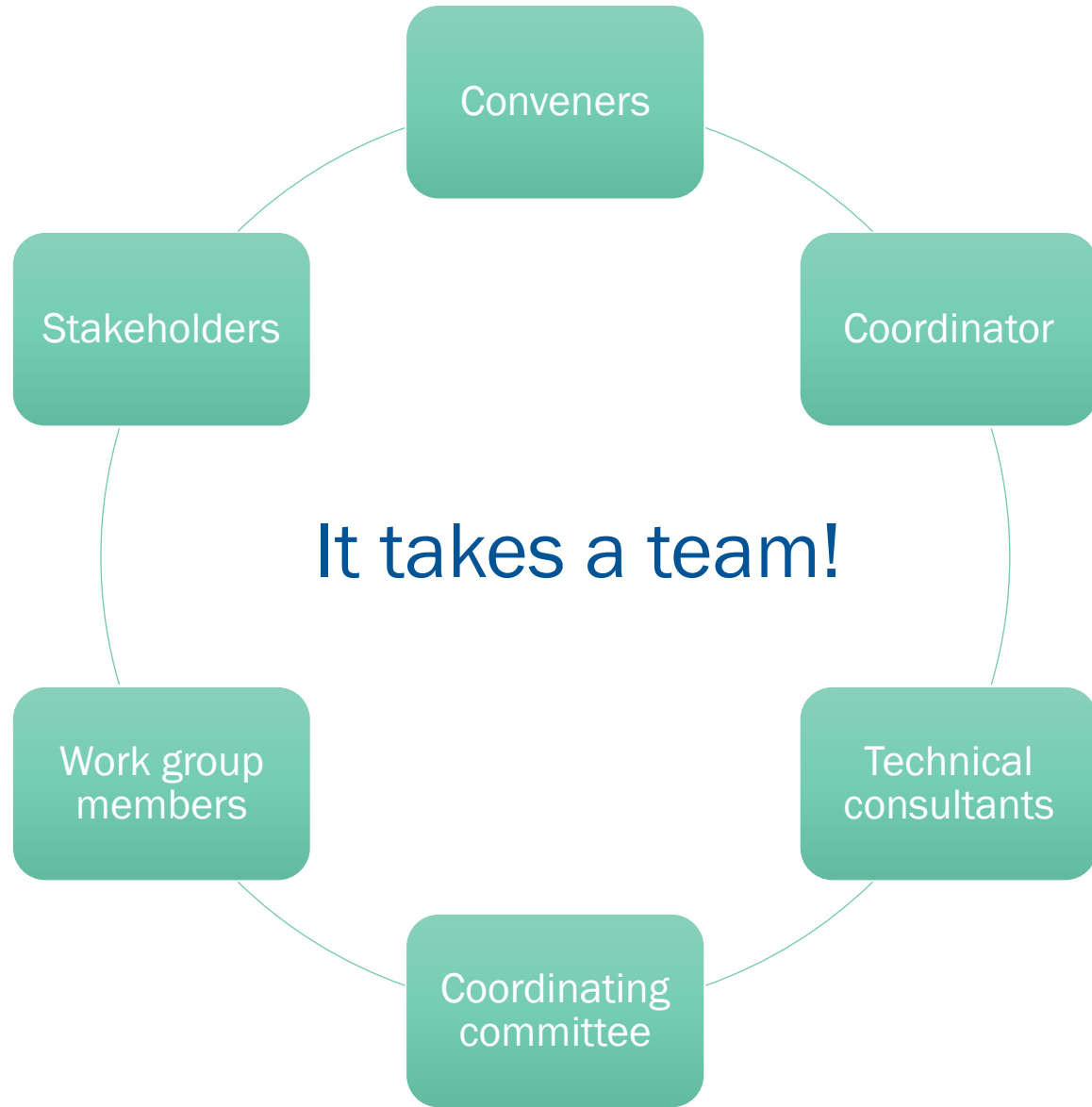
# Partnership Support Examples

- Action Implementation Support Tools
  - Table identifying leads and participants for each action in the Water Action Plan
  - Implementation Guide (To be developed starting with Priority Category A)
    - Guidance for each action
      - Approach
      - Resources
      - Outcomes
  - Action Implementation Tracking Database
    - Database for tracking projects and project accomplishments, as well as how the Partnership is supporting projects
  - Monitoring Tracking Database
    - Spreadsheet to track available data, data being collected, and data needs
    - Supports tracking of performance metrics for actions

# Lessons Learned

- Engage in relationship building throughout the process
- Find ways to sustain engagement
  - Place-based planning is a long process and maintaining connections with stakeholders is critical
  - Strive to maintain:
    - Regular communications, meetings, and tours
      - Involve stakeholders in the planning process of meetings and tours, and strategy and document development
    - Funding (to avoid breaking momentum)
      - A sustainable funding source creates stability and cohesion throughout the process, and can support a coordinator

# Lessons Learned



## Lessons Learned

- Find ways to have accomplishments throughout the process
  - Plan development milestones
  - Try to implement “low hanging fruit” actions while also pursuing implementation of more complex, longer-term actions to help sustain enthusiasm and engagement



A scenic view of a forest stream with a fallen log bridge and sunlight filtering through the trees. The water flows over a small waterfall, and the surrounding forest is lush with green and yellow leaves.

# Questions?

**For more information:  
Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership  
[www.midcoastwaterpartners.com](http://www.midcoastwaterpartners.com)**

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