

MANAGING ALL WATER AS ONE: THE SPRING CREEK WATERSHED APPROACH



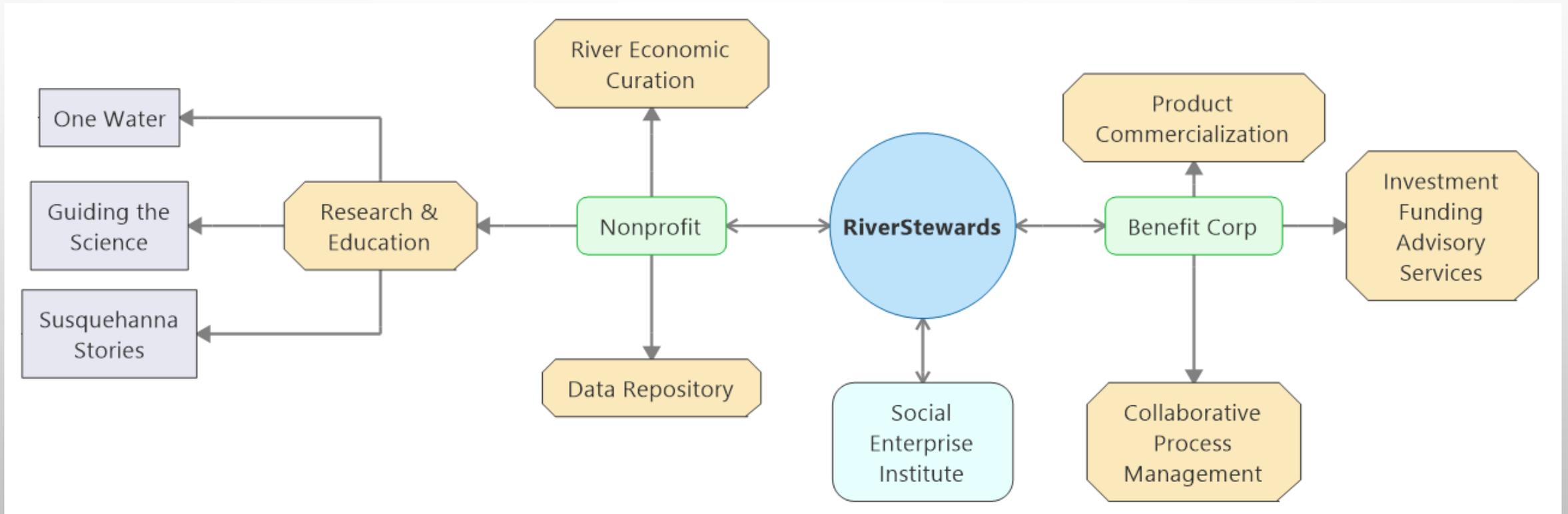
Jessica Aiello, RiverStewards Collaborative

WHAT IS RIVERSTEWARDS?

RiverStewards was founded in 2017 as a collaborative backbone organization to bring together those interested in the Susquehanna River to make a significant, collective social impact.

We recognize the value of the Susquehanna River's social return on investment, which considers the environmental and social values that the river gives to us all, in addition to the economic benefits. Through our continued collective efforts and communication, we raise awareness of the river's importance and how we can sustain it.

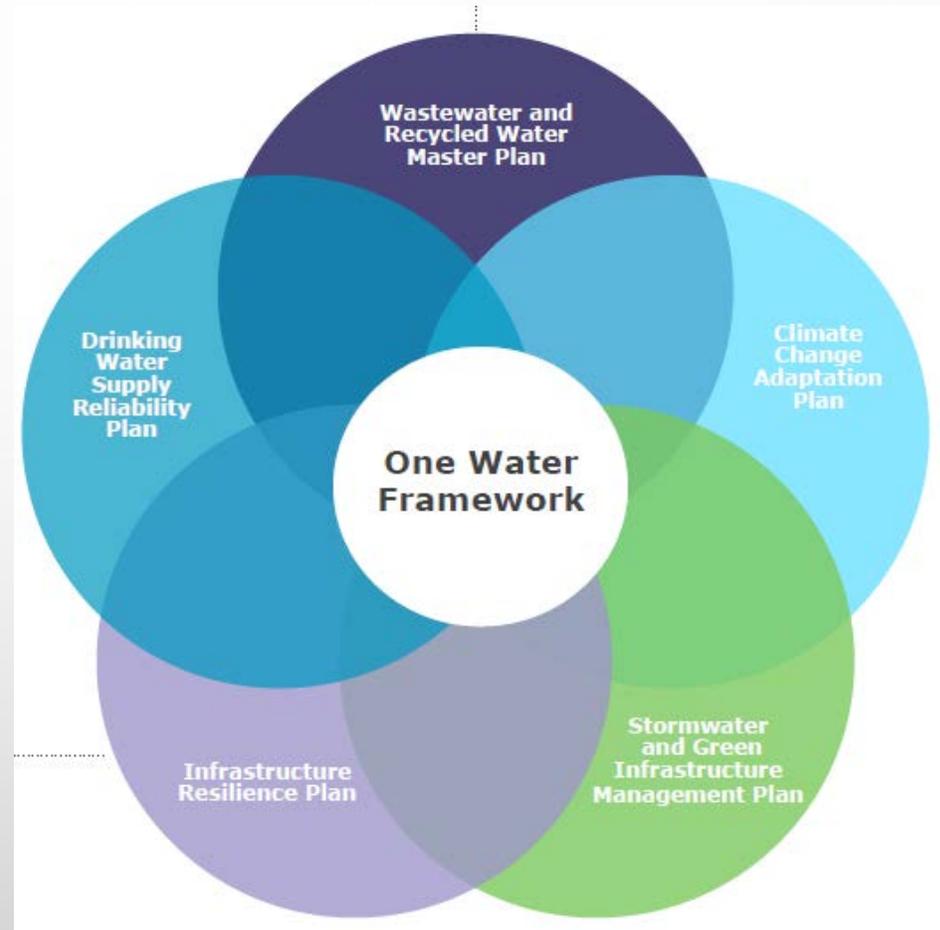
HOW DOES RIVERSTEWARDS OPERATE?



WHAT IS “ONE WATER”?

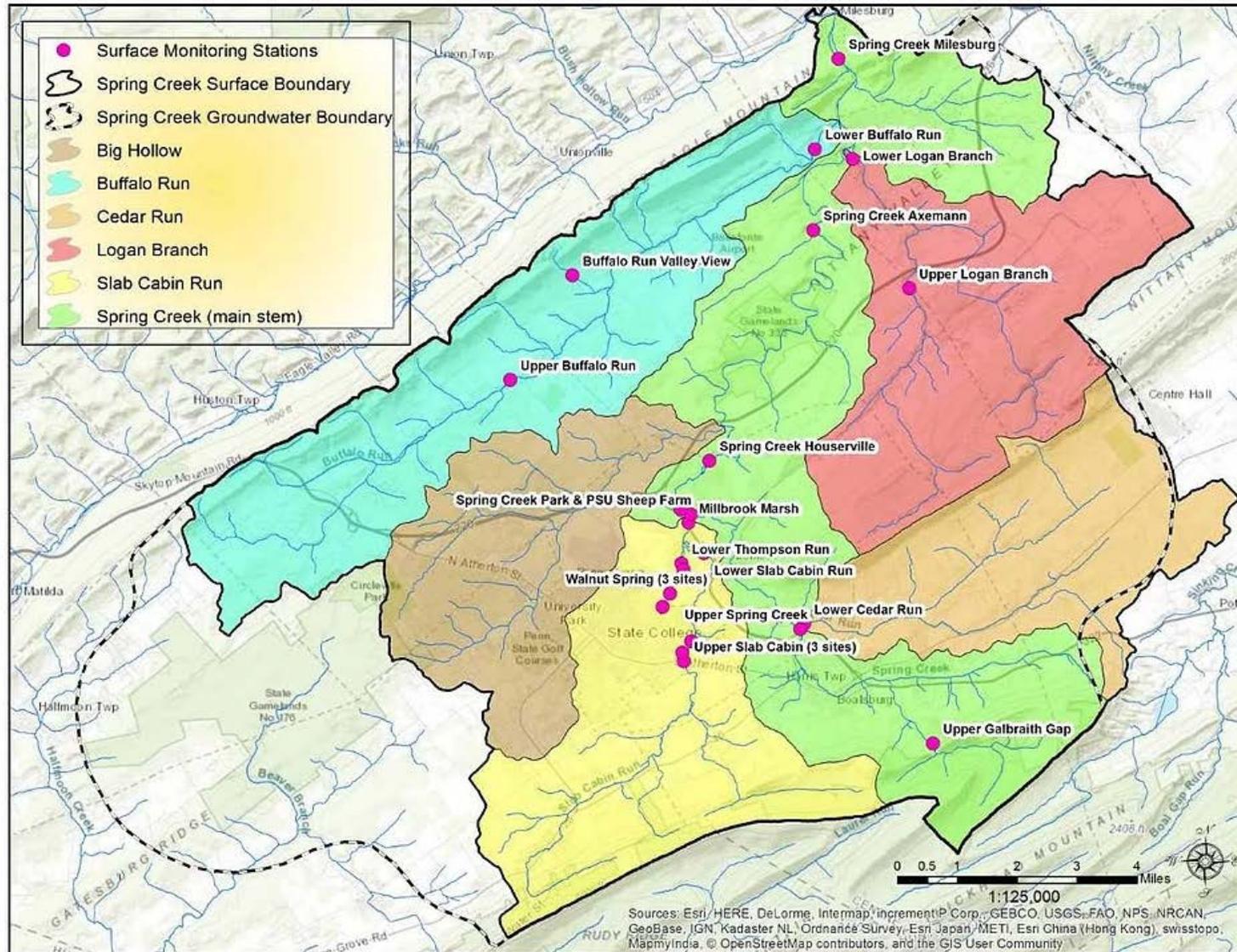
One Water Defined

One Water is an integrated planning and implementation approach to managing finite water resources for long-term resilience and reliability, meeting both community and ecosystem needs.

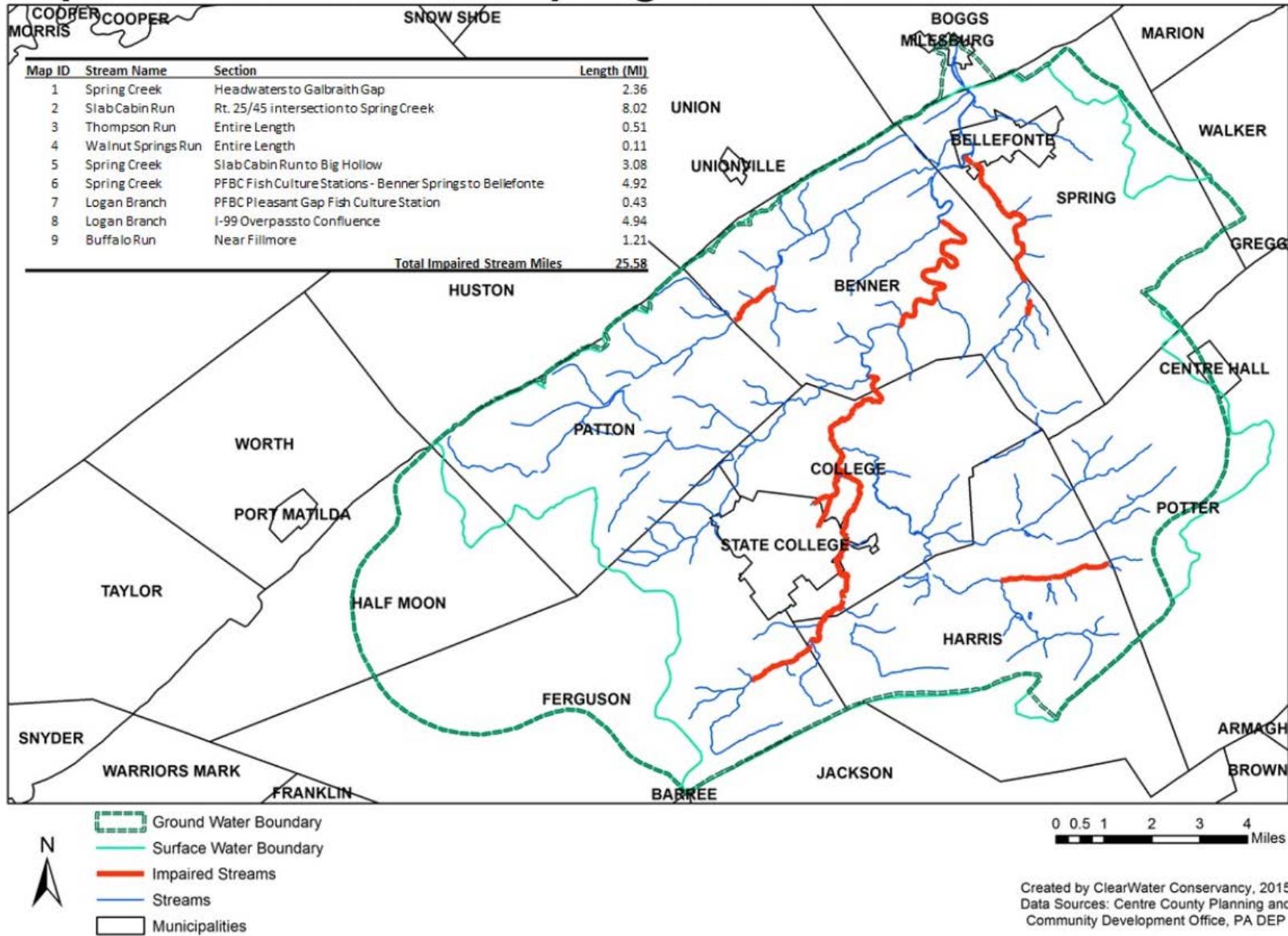


From the “Blueprint for One Water” by the Water Research Foundation

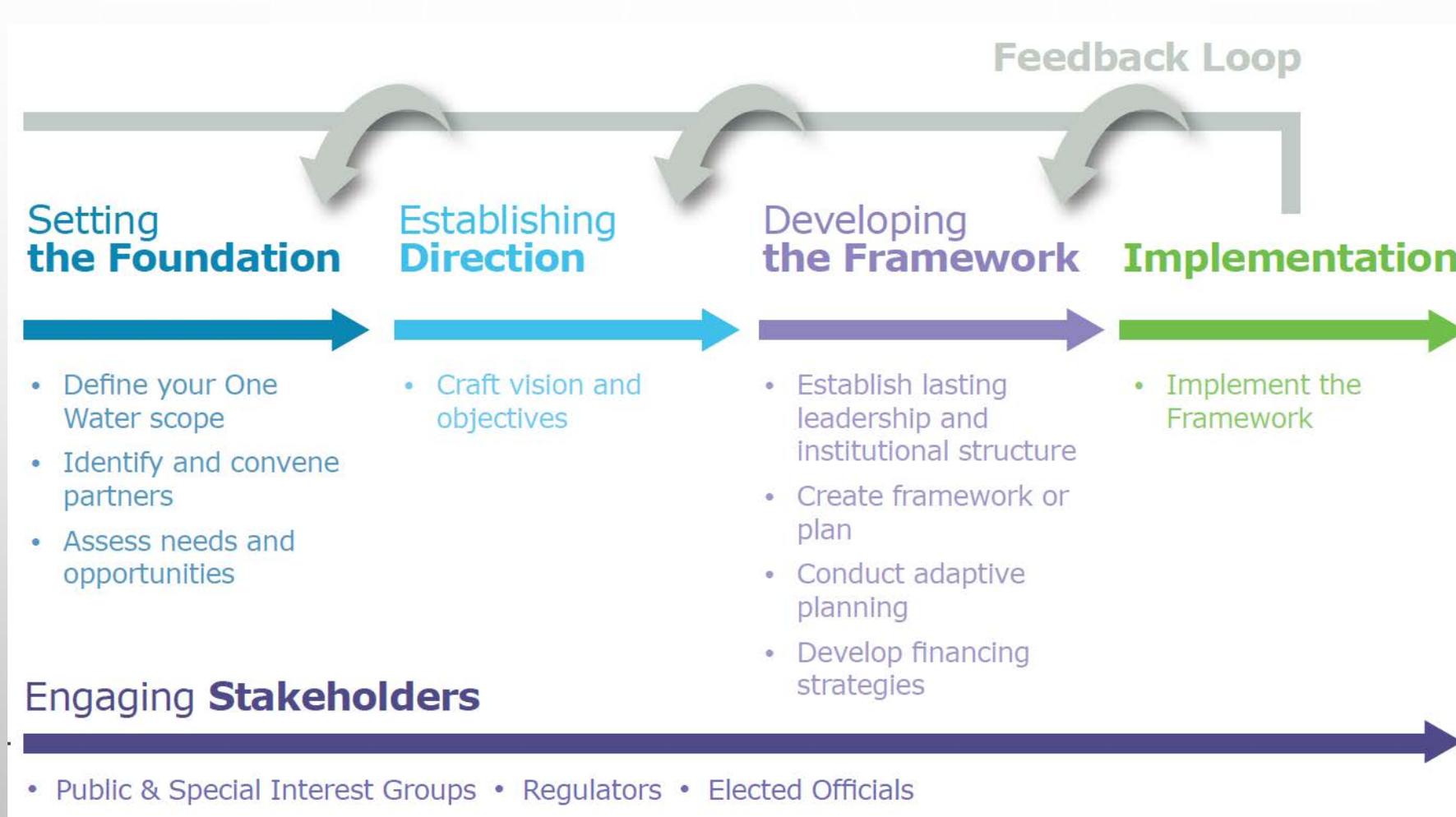
THE SPRING CREEK WATERSHED



Impaired Streams in the Spring Creek Watershed



THE ONE WATER PROCESS



From the "Blueprint for One Water" by the Water Research Foundation

HOW IT WORKED IN SPRING CREEK

1. Setting the Foundation

- Built off a watershed management plan developed in 2003
- Defined their “One Water scope” in January 2018
- Research into other One Water processes across the US
- Held first public forum in April 2018

2. Establishing Direction and Engaging Stakeholders

- Created desired outcomes and proposed timeline
- Held second public forum in June 2018
- Created workgroups for water quality and quantity to develop portions of the One Water plan
- Multiple separate and joint workgroup meetings took place

3. Developing the Framework

- Workgroups met several times to hone goals and objectives, strategies and metrics for the plan
- A final public meeting to unveil the draft One Water plan was held in December 2018
- The Spring Creek Watershed Commission refined the plan and will approve it at November meeting

LESSONS LEARNED #1

1. Make sure everyone involved knows exactly what the One Water process entails by focusing considerable time on this education up-front.
2. The push for One Water planning should come from the water utilities but involve as many stakeholders as possible (inside and outside the watershed/region). This helps with buy-in, data collection, divvying up of duties, etc. And it is never too late to invite others to the table if they were overlooked or not initially interested.
3. A regional entity like the Spring Creek Watershed Commission being involved can help bring those stakeholders to the table and provide continuity and trust.

LESSONS LEARNED #2

1. Consider developing a one-page high-level agreement document that leaders of each organization involved can sign to show their commitment toward plan development and what that entails.
2. Think about the types of data that will be needed to write the plan early in the process.
3. Find a facilitator who is familiar with the One Water process, can remain neutral, has good negotiation skills, and is an effective writer.
4. Know where the funding will come from to pay for both the planning process and the implementation phase or progress could stall and ultimately fail.

QUESTIONS?



The complete white paper can be read and downloaded from <https://riverstewards.info>



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