

124 North Broadway, Crookston, MN 56716  
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January 30, 2026

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

Members of the Crookston City Council may participate by telephone or other electronic means. If you would like to watch live, please like and subscribe on our YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofCrookstonChannel>

***For quorum purposes, if you are unable to attend, please call Tina at 281-1232. Thank you.***

## **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, February 2, 2026

Immediately Following City Council

City Hall Council Chambers

### **AGENDA:**

1. West Central Regional Water District Presentation - Lucas Spaeth
2. Discussion regarding the Tri-Valley Grant
3. CHEDA Discussion

Mayor/Council: **Stainbrook, Shostell, Fischer, Briggs, Cavalier, Brekken, Klatt, Hibma, Ault**

Staff: **Selzler, Butt, Getsman, Hefta, Heldstab, Pyles, Roscoe, Wyum, Devier, Spivey, Rystad**

Other: Holten, Mike Bibow (AE2S), Stephen Slick (AE2S)

Media: KROX, Crookston Watch, City Website, CH: 3, City FB



A Safe, Sustainable  
Water Supply for  
Western Minnesota

# Presentation to Crookston Ways & Means

February 02, 2026



Scan the QR code or visit  
[wcrwd-ae2s.hub.arcgis.com](https://wcrwd-ae2s.hub.arcgis.com)



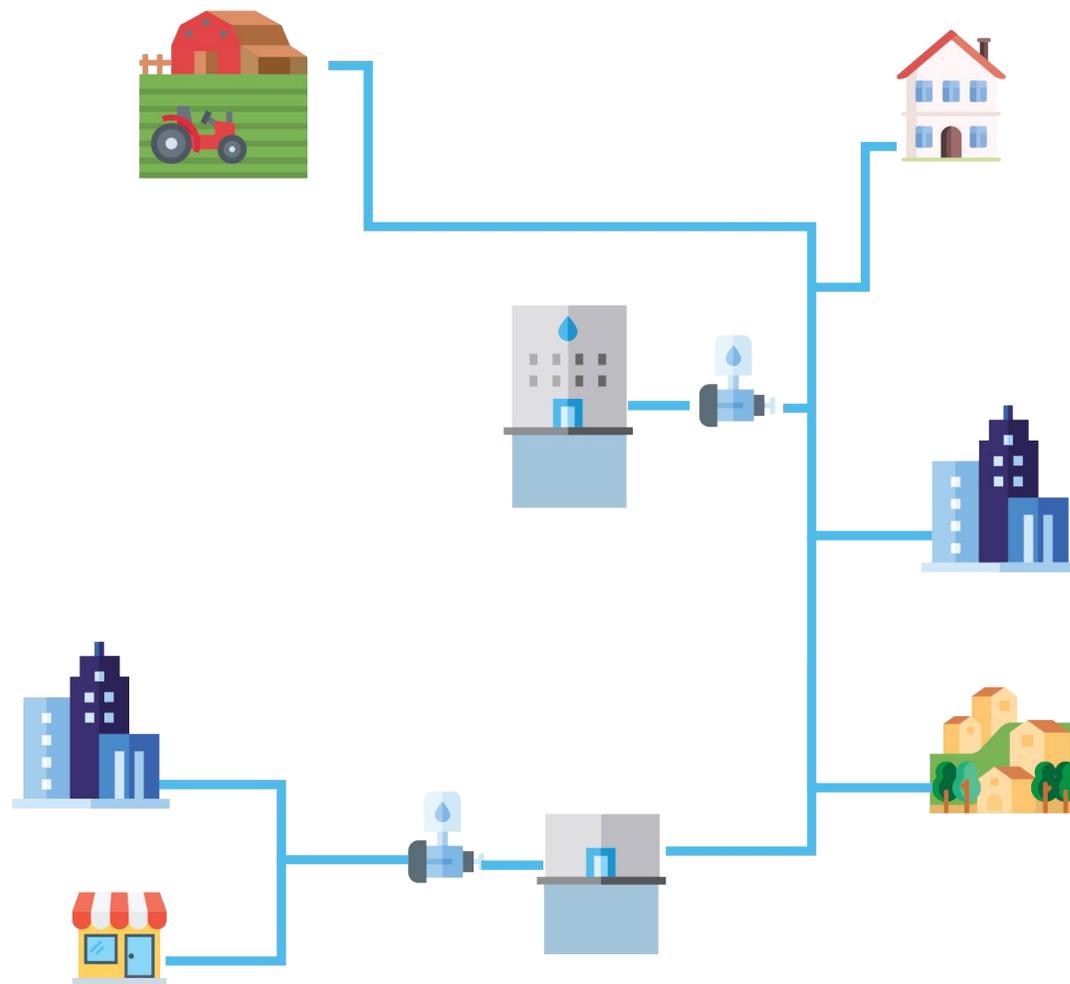
# Regional Approach

## What Is It?

A water system designed to deliver service to an area, often serving multiple **regions, communities, and rural customers.**

## Why Is It Important?

Regionalization provides reliable water service for residents and businesses, helps smaller or financially limited systems manage expenses, supports municipal, rural, and county governments, and improves emergency preparedness and resilience.



# Regional Approach

## Benefits of a Regional Water System

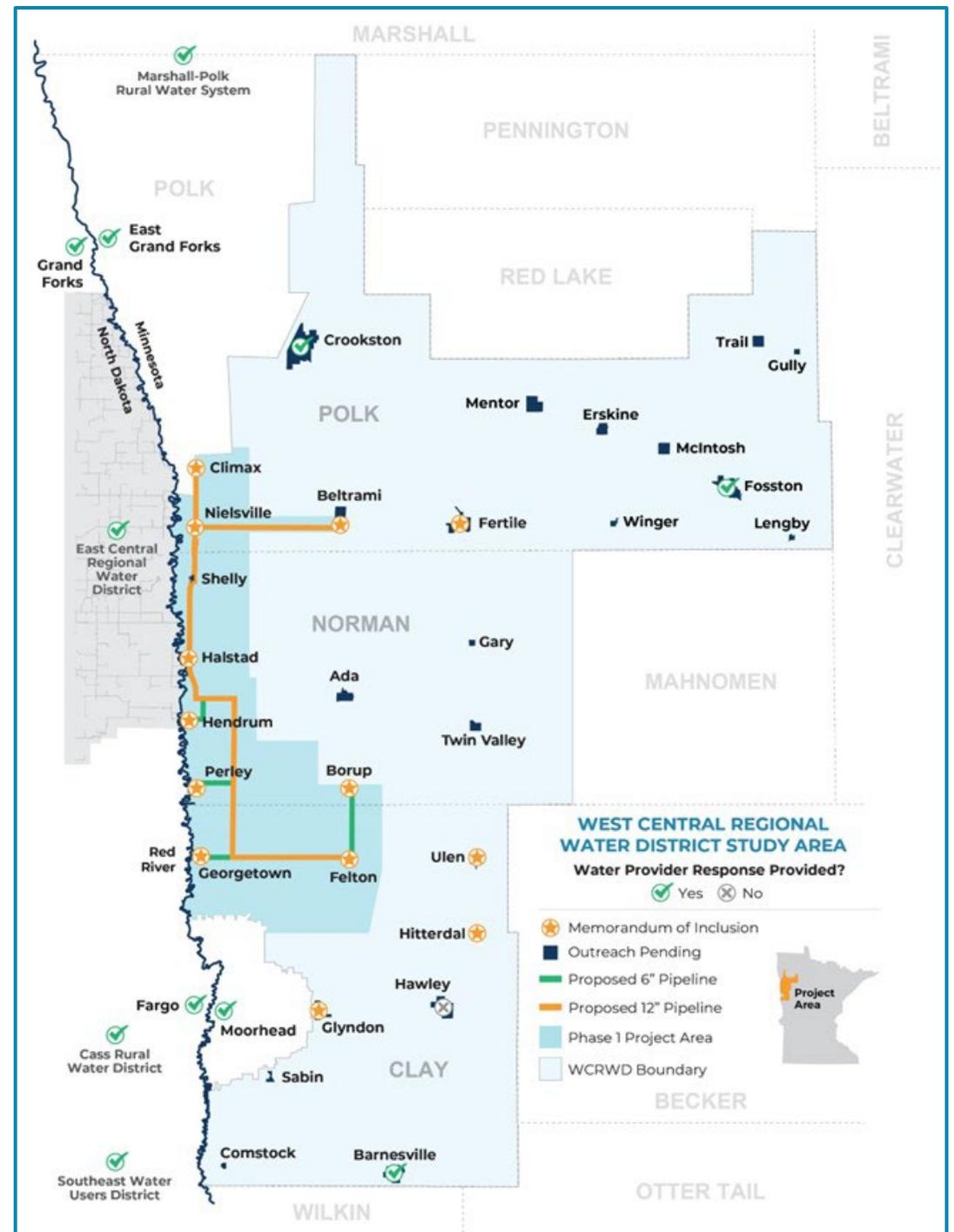
- High-quality supplemental or replacement of finished water supply
- Regionalization of Licensed Operators
- Larger service area lessens impact on individual water bills
- O&M & replacement costs spread amongst 15,000 people instead of 1,500
- Allows the burden of significant infrastructure investments to be shared, reducing the financial impact on smaller communities taking advantage of the increased economies of scale
- Decades of worry-free water
- Opportunities for population growth & economic development
- Compliance with ever changing regulatory environment





A Safe, Sustainable  
Water Supply for  
Western Minnesota

- Spring 2024 - Established by Clay, Norman, & Polk Counties 30 Cities - 40,000 people
- Supply from existing Municipal and Rural Water Systems
- First rural water district formed in Minnesota since 1985
- Governed by a 9 Member Board and Supporting Steering Committee





# Governance

## WCRWD Board of Commissioners

- **Steve Jacobsen**  
Norman County
- **Ezra Baer**  
Clay County
- **Kevin Campbell**  
Clay County
- **Don Martodam**  
Clay County
- **Brian Evenson**  
Polk County
- **Paul Engelstad**  
Polk County
- **Paul Reese**  
Polk County
- **Warren Strandell**  
Polk County
- **Lucas Spaeth**  
Norman County

# Need for Project

- 💧 **Water Quality Concerns**
- 💧 **Aging Infrastructure**
- 💧 **Lack of Licensed Operators**
- 💧 **High Capital Costs**
- 💧 **Emerging Contaminants**



## Arsenic Contamination in Private Wells

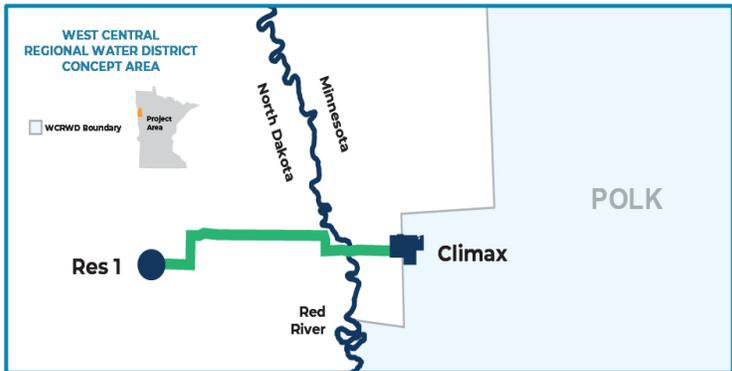
Tested wells in Clay, Norman, and Polk Counties exceed EPA standards of 10 micrograms per liter

Long-term exposure increases risk of cancer, nervous system issues & high blood pressure

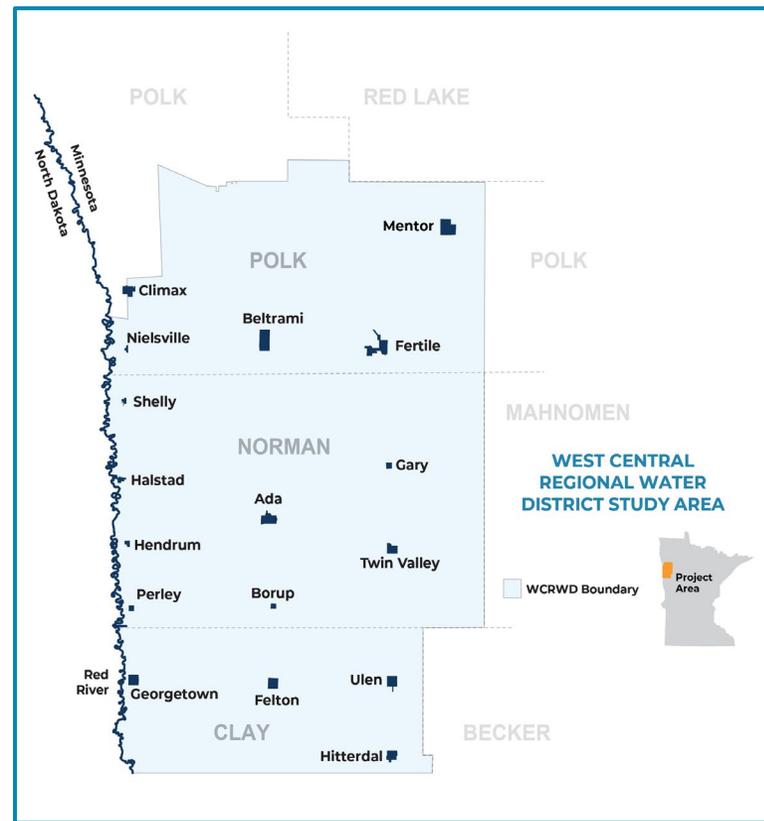
- 39% Clay County
- 43% Norman County
- 21% Polk County

# Evolution of Project Boundaries and Formation

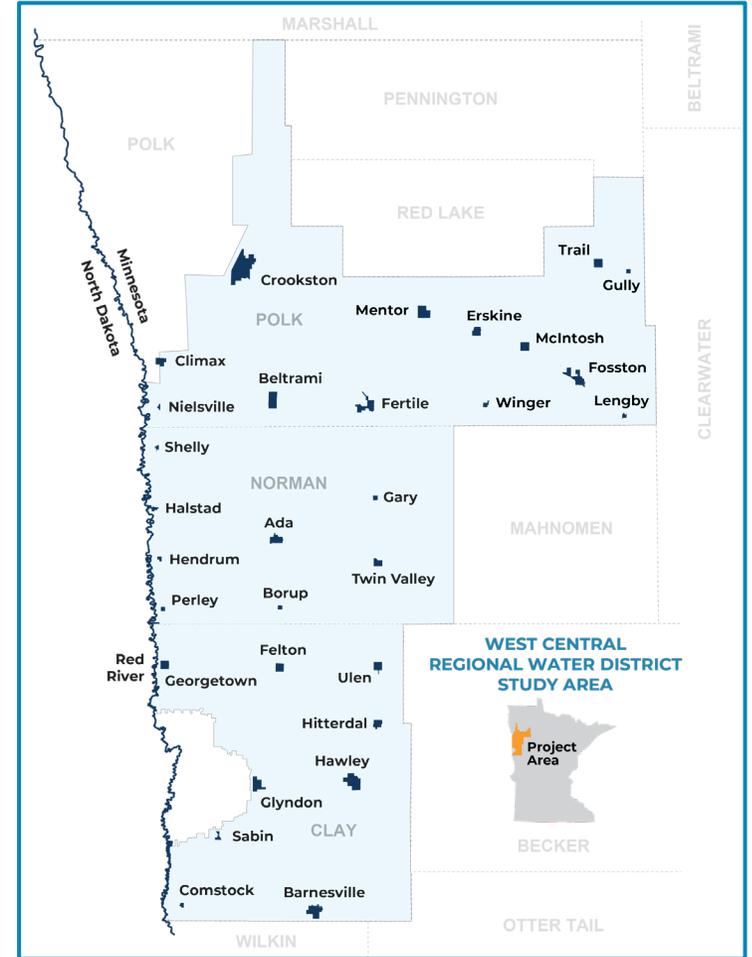
Initial project boundaries have evolved significantly since project inception



Project Inception  
2019-2020



Spring 2023



Today

# Proposed Improvement

## Objective

- Provide a sustainable, long-term potable water supply for Norman, Clay, and Polk Counties.

## Strategy

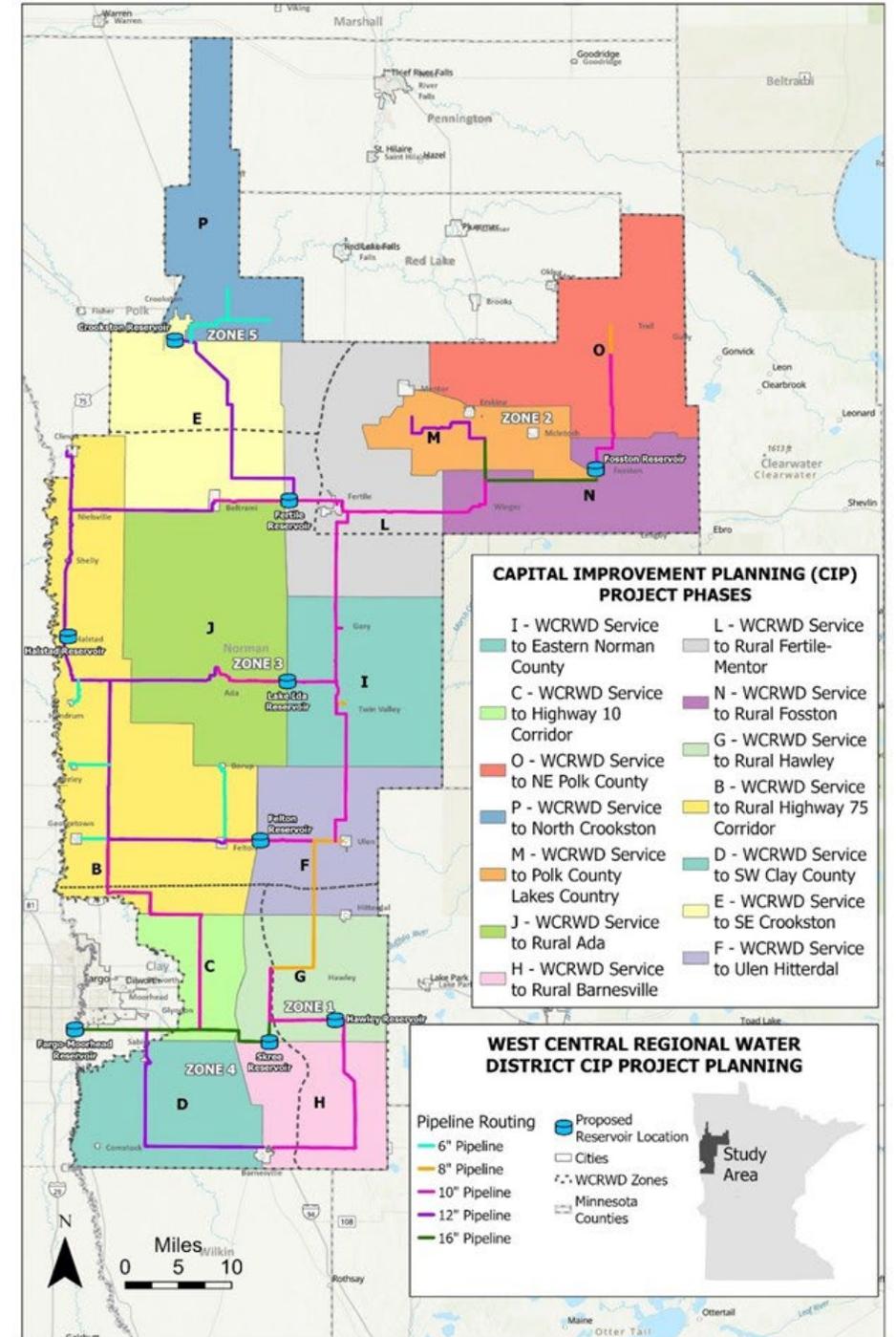
- Phased, zone-based development of regional pipelines, storage, and pumping infrastructure
- Source selection and phasing driven by demand, cost, terrain, existing infrastructure, and water capacity

## Implementation Focus

- Serve population centers first with major transmission pipelines
- Expand distribution to rural users
- Prioritize development of Zone 3, building on prior efforts

## Water Source Considerations

- Existing sources and treatment facilities
- Capacity, demand, water quality, rates, and operational factors





# Completed Items & Next Steps

## Completed Items:

- ✓ Counties the West Central Regional Water District, via resolution.
- ✓ File petition to initiate District Court proceedings.
- ✓ Appointment of engineer for the project.
- ✓ Develop and submit a preliminary engineering survey for the project.
- ✓ Conduct the 1st public hearing and issue hearing notices.
- ✓ Court issues an order for a detailed engineering survey.
- ✓ Submitted the detailed engineering survey to the court.

## Next Steps:

- Clay County Courthouse will send out Public Notices
- Authorization of Project – Second Hearing April 17<sup>th</sup> (attendance is optional)
- Continued coordination & collaboration with Crookston on future projects

# WCRWD Public Notice

## Clay County Courthouse will be sending out approx. 19,500 mailers to residents residing within the WCRWD Project Area:

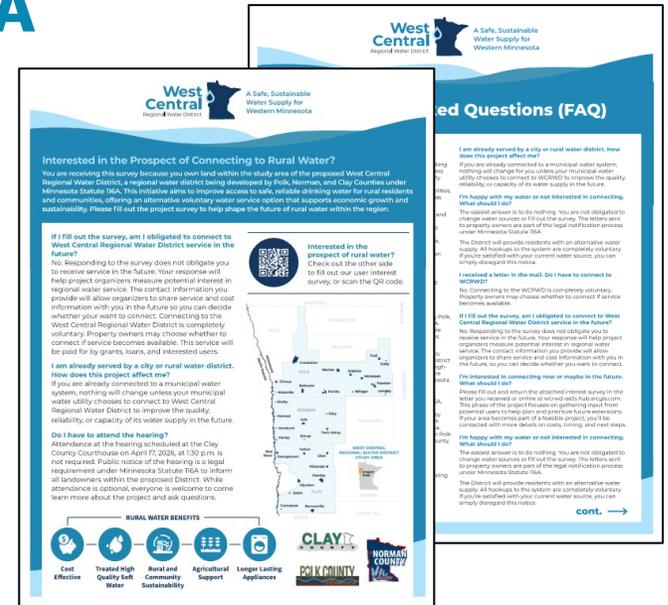
- Mailings are required by Minnesota Statute 116A
- Provide information on:

- o Upcoming public hearing date: April 17, 2026
  - Attendance is optional
  - WCRWD is always available to answer questions
- o General WCRWD information
  - Who we are
  - What is regionalized rural water

## - Mass mailer with additional information

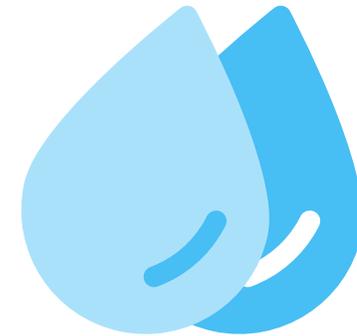
- o User interest survey
  - Used to gauge interests and water quality concerns in the area

## - Frequently Asked Questions will be sent to cities, agencies, and neighboring rural water districts as local residents are likely to ask questions



# What Does This Mean For Crookston?

- **WCRWD will continue coordination with Crookston**
- **Opportunity for Crookston to act as a water supplier or future regional collaboration**
- **Regionalization provides benefits to the broader area by enhancing water supply and addressing water quality challenges**
  - Affordable & predictable costs
  - Consistently high-quality, treated soft water
  - Support for rural & community sustainability
  - Improved agricultural reliability
  - Extended appliance life



**West  
Central**  
Regional Water District



A Safe, Sustainable  
Water Supply for  
Western Minnesota



**Thank you. Questions?**