

A sunset over a field of grain with a dark teal text box overlaid. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and red clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon. The foreground shows a field of golden-brown grain, possibly wheat or barley, with some stalks in sharp focus.

**EPA BUILDING BLOCKS FOR REGIONAL RESILIENCE**

**WELCOME**

Workshop #1

# Workshop Agenda

## TOPICS FOR TODAY

- Welcome and Overview
- Opening Remarks: Commissioner Thom Petersen
- Presentation: Risks to the Region
- Review of Outcomes and Pre-Workshop Homework
- Group Activity: What Does Resilience Look Like in Southern Minnesota?
- Presentation: Success Stories from the Region
- Wrap-up and Next Steps

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# Welcome and Overview

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# Opening Remarks



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# Commissioner Thom Petersen

## MINNESOTA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Commissioner Petersen is a long-time resident of Royalton Township near Pine City where he lives on a horse farm. Before being appointed Commissioner, Petersen served as the Director of Government Relations for Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) since 2002, working on behalf of MFU's farmer-members in both Washington, D.C. and St. Paul.

Prior to his work at the Minnesota Farmers Union, Commissioner Petersen spent most of his life working for his family and his own horse and farm business. He has a wide range of experience in state and federal farm policy, and travels to almost every county in Minnesota each year to fully understand how these policies affect farmers' daily lives. He has served on many boards and committees, including the University of Minnesota Extension Citizens Advisory Committee, Farmers Legal Action Group, Citizens Utility Board, Minnesota Ag in the Classroom, Minnesota State Organic Task Force, Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition, and the Minnesota Fair Plan.

Commissioner Petersen received his Associate's degree from Normandale Community College and studied at both the University of Minnesota and University of Georgia. The Commissioner and his wife Alana live in Pine City with their two sons. The Petersens show horses around the state and have competed at the Minnesota State Fair for over 25 years.



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SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

# Risks to the Region

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# Dr. Kenneth Blumenfeld

STATE CLIMATOLOGY OFFICE, MN DNR

Dr. Kenneth ("Kenny") Blumenfeld is a Senior Climatologist with the State Climatology Office at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, where he serves as the main climate change science contact for the state. In his work, he focuses on climate trends, extreme events, and developing climate monitoring networks. Kenny enjoys talking to Minnesotans about their weather, and frequently pursues what he calls "creative climate science" endeavors, including co-creating a documentary movie about winter in Minnesota during the harsh winter of 2013-14.




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# Project Outcomes



# Expected Project Outcomes



A better **understanding of pre-existing vulnerabilities** to the farm community that makes them even more adversely impacted by flooding

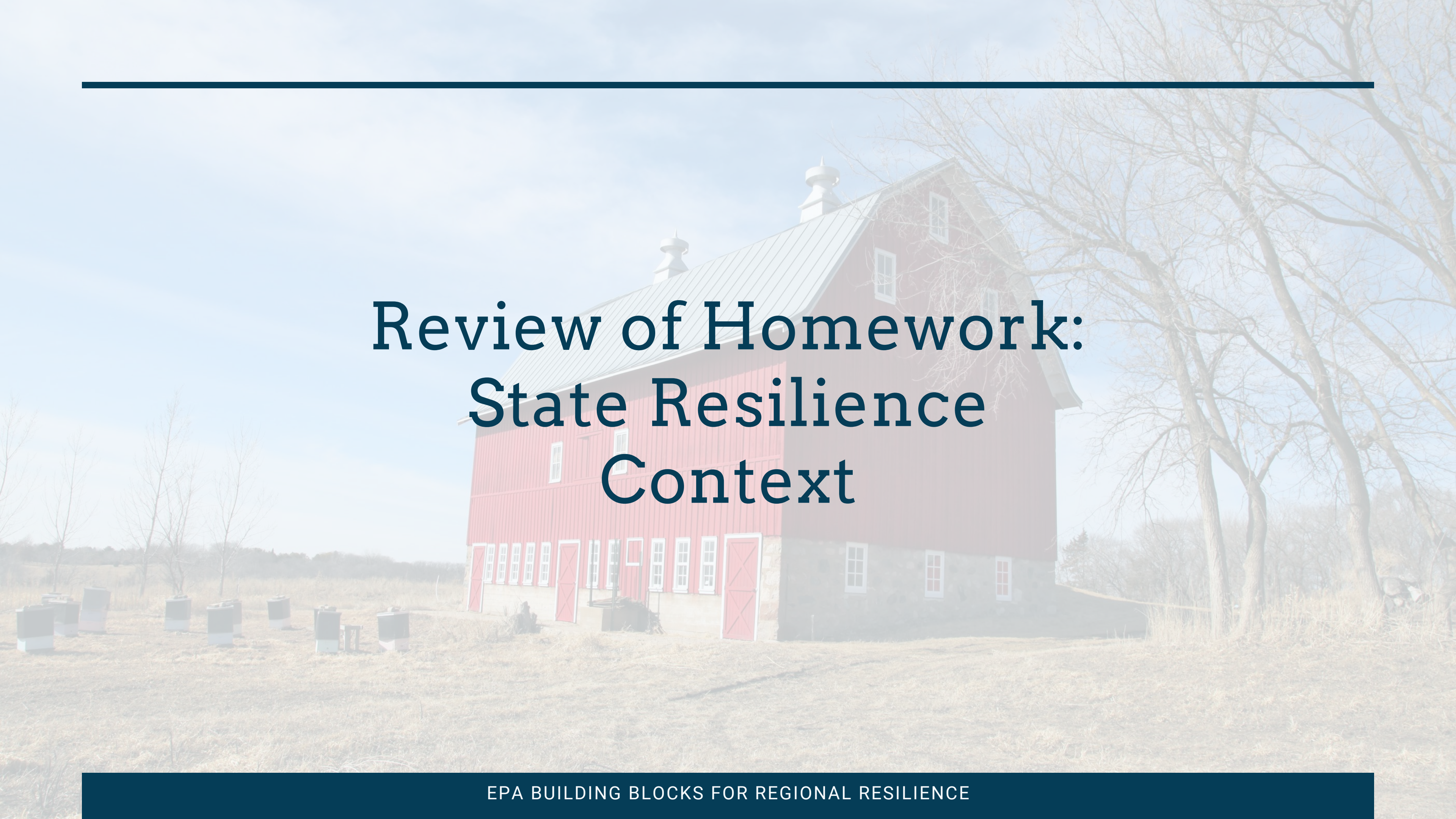
A collection of tangible **success stories**, peer-to-peer examples from within the state, of how the farm community reduced flood risk that also had co-benefits for other identified issue/priority area.

Specific recommendations on tangible **action steps** the region can take to address the problem, (in both the near-term and long-term), including natural hazard mitigation actions and climate adaptation strategies.

Identification of key **funding sources and partners** to implement specific priority adaptation/resilience objectives.

A plan for setting up a regionally specific Southern Minnesota **resilience task force**.

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# Review of Homework: State Resilience Context

# What is Resilience?

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA



## REGIONS FACE MULTIPLE HAZARDS

Resilience is about building the capacity of the community, at various scales, to prepare for, withstand, recover, and maintain its identity in the face of actual or anticipated hazard occurrences, allowing for continuity of community and quick recovery if a disaster occurs.

## WE MUST PREPARE FOR FUTURE DISASTERS

Many regions are not prepared for the weather and climate they are experiencing today, much less for worsening impacts in the future or a rare but high impact event.

## RECOVERY SHOULD BE FUTURE-ORIENTED

As communities recover from recent disasters and face future disasters, resilience must focus on community revitalization that builds up and diversifies regional economies to resist and adapt to external shocks.

# STATE POLICY CONTEXT

**Minnesota Governor's Executive Order 15-13** requires that all state agencies must carry out the necessary planning for emergency preparedness response, recovery, hazard mitigation, continuity of operations and service continuation of responsibilities.

**Minnesota State Statute Chapter 12, Emergency Management**, directs that all emergency management functions of the state be coordinated to the maximum extent with comparable functions of the federal government and other states and localities.



# STATE POLICY CONTEXT

## HSEM

HSEM is responsible for ensuring the state has a FEMA approved All-Hazard Mitigation Plan to address the many hazards that impact the state and leads implementation. This plan was updated in 2019.

## RAT

The State's Resilience Adaption Team is a collaborative effort that works towards adapting to climate change, reducing risk and impacts and increasing resiliency of Minnesota communities.

## MN DNR

MN DNR has a State Climatology Office housed at the University of Minnesota which provides expertise and guidance about climate science and projects future weather patterns based on climate science.

## FEMA

FEMA currently has three mitigation grant programs administered by the State of Minnesota: The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program (PDM), and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program.

# STATE POLICY CONTEXT

## MN STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The 2019 state Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) has a goal to:

***build and support local capacity and commitment to increase resiliency to all hazards.***

### Objectives

- Increase awareness and knowledge of hazard mitigation and climate adaptation principles and practice among local public officials.
- Encourage the use of FEMA Advance Assistance and phased applications by local governments utilizing state agency experts.
- Provide direct technical assistance to local public officials and help communities obtain funding for mitigation and climate adaptation planning and projects.
- Encourage communities to update and implement local hazard mitigation plans and incorporate climate adaptation with other land use planning mechanisms.
- Provide training and assist jurisdictions in developing and implementing cost-beneficial mitigation and climate adaptation projects.
- Improve data and vulnerability assessments on locally owned/operated infrastructure and critical facilities.





## MINNESOTA'S CLIMATE IS CHANGING

The state is becoming warmer and wetter, with milder winters, fewer cold extremes and more frequent and intense rain storms.

## CHANGES IMPACT OUR WAY OF LIFE

These changes have resulted in altered growing seasons, destroyed forests, challenged natural resource management, limited recreational opportunities, and damaged infrastructure. It has also affected the conditions of water bodies needed for drinking and agriculture.



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# PAST DISASTERS

- . Southern Minnesota currently has  
**10 open federal disasters and  
13 open state disasters.**

This agricultural belt of the state has seen adverse flood impacts to physical infrastructure, such as roads and rural electric utilities, as well as to the farming community with loss of crops and livestock.



# Recent Disaster Declarations



## JUNE + JULY 2014

Presidential Disaster Declaration for Severe Storms Straight-line Winds, Flood, Landslides and Mudslides.

**\$41 million in Public Assistance**



## JUNE + JULY 2018

Presidential Disaster Declaration for Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-line Winds and Flooding *Total assistance not available*



## SEPTEMBER 2016

Presidential Disaster Declaration for Minnesota Severe Storms and Flooding

**\$6.75 million in Public Assistance**

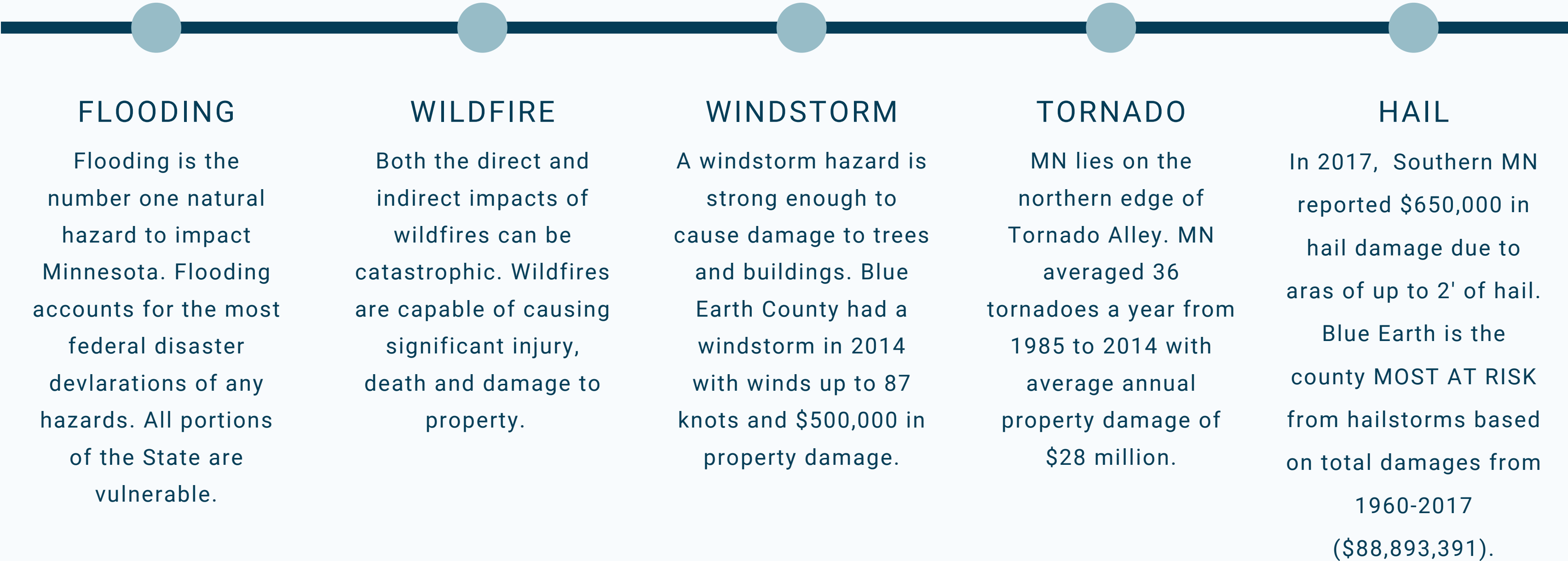


## MARCH + APRIL 2019

Presidential Disaster Declaration severe winter storms, straight-line winds, and flooding *Total assistance not available*

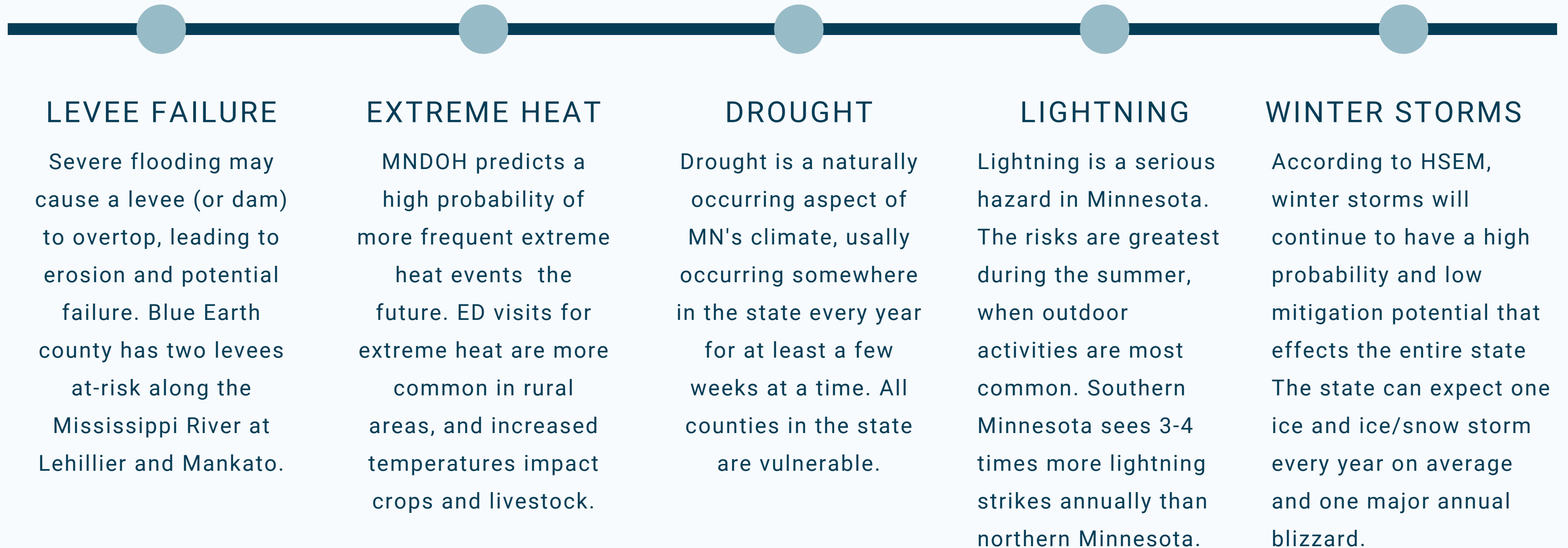
# Past Disasters

## REGION FACES MULTIPLE HAZARDS



# Past Disasters (cont.)

## REGION FACES MULTIPLE HAZARDS



# Working with Partners

## PARTNERSHIPS HAPPEN AT MANY LEVELS

- Within an agency/organization
- With decision makers, in and out of the agency
- With involved stakeholders
- With the community as a whole

## THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD

- Identify these different groups of people,
- understand their role in the process, and
- prioritize the engagement needed for a successful process.



# Working with Partners

## WHO

Identify stakeholders who should be involved, including the broader public and groups who are often underrepresented and hard to reach. Engage a broad range of stakeholders with the necessary expertise, values, and viewpoints at each stage of assessment and implementation.

## WHAT

Identify what each stakeholder or stakeholder group's role is in the resilience building process, in implementing strategies, and within the community.

## WHEN

For identified stakeholders, determine the level of input and outreach that is appropriate and necessary based on their desired level of engagement and planning role. Align stakeholder expectations with the planning requirements, budget and resources available.

## HOW

Finally, determine the best approaches to engaging and reaching the stakeholders. Certain processes, and certain stakeholders may prefer a traditional formal outreach approach while others prefer digital tools, videos, short interactions, or other mechanisms.



# Working with Partners

## IDENTIFYING THE "WHO?"

- The stakeholder owns an important asset.
- The stakeholder has the authority to regulate, make policy or make decisions.
- The stakeholder will be affected by the assessment or strategies.
- The stakeholder has the potential to help or hinder the process.
- The stakeholder has specialized expertise that will help with technical questions.
- The stakeholder may be able to provide funding or otherwise assist in implementing strategies.
- The stakeholder represents an underrepresented group.
- The stakeholder can make critical connections to other relevant topic areas and/or projects which the project team is unaware.
- The stakeholder has the time and ability to commit time and effort to the project.

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# Defining Resilience Locally

WHERE IS LOCAL?

## SOUTHERN MN COUNTIES

The counties comprising Region 9 are the focus of this workshop and our discussions about resilience locally:

Blue Earth

Brown

Faribault

Le Seur

Martin

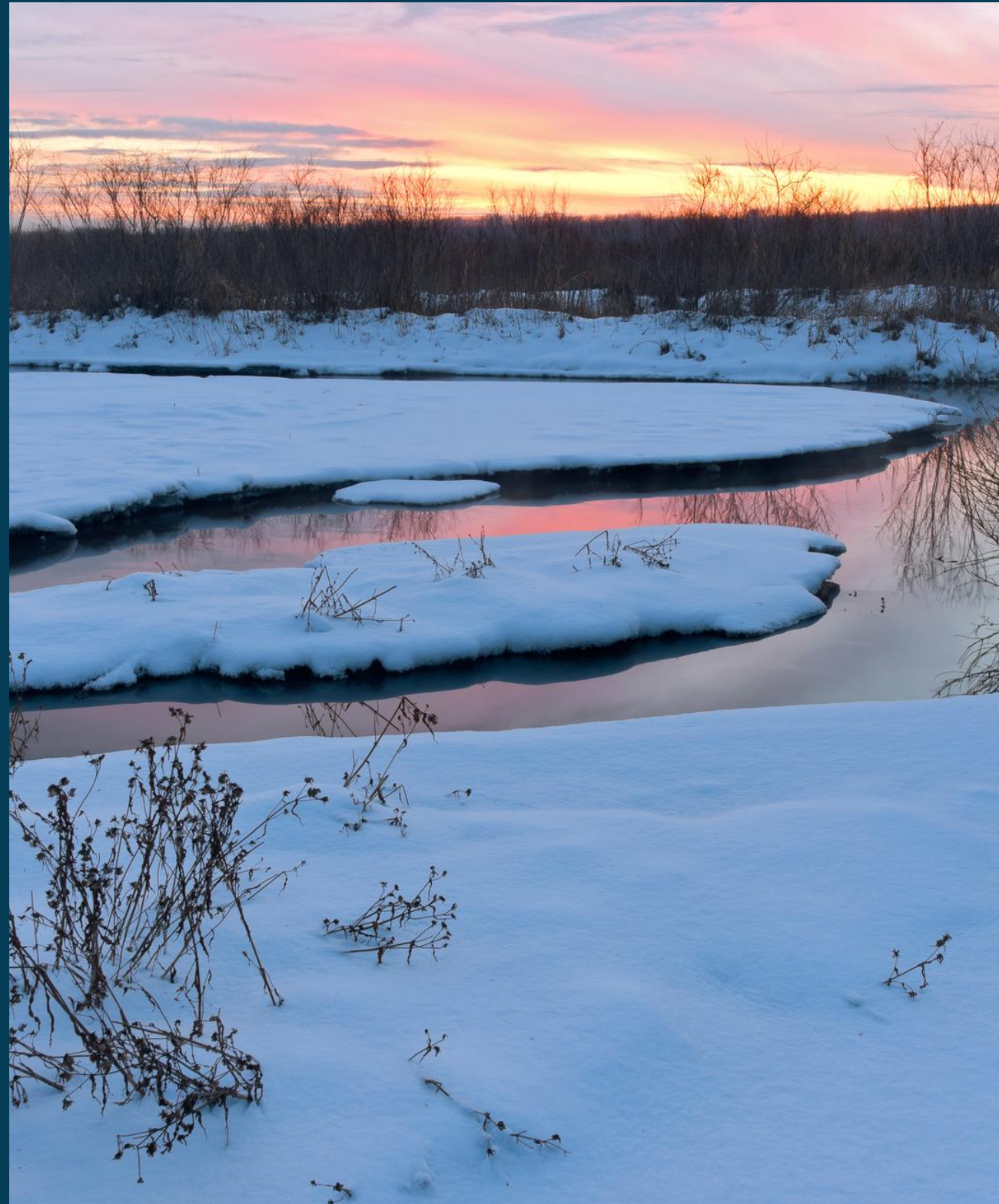
Nicollet

Sibley

Waseca

Watonwan





# Defining Resilience Locally

## REGION 9 ADAPTATION PLAN

Region 9 has developed an adaptation plan with the following Resilience Goals and Objectives:

1. Maximize soil and water conservation efforts
2. Expand alternative genetics and crop choices
3. Manage the infrastructure
4. Increase adaptive capacity in health system to respond to disease events
5. Expand risk management and management planning across planning platforms
6. Special focus on resilience sector strategies
7. Utilize locally sources foods and crops to ensure sustainability





# Defining Resilience Locally

## BLUE EARTH COUNTY HMP

Blue Earth County is vulnerable to a variety of potential natural disasters, which threaten the loss of life and property in the county, such as tornadoes, flooding, wildfires, blizzards, straight-line winds, ice storms and droughts. These have the potential for inflicting vast economic loss and personal hardship.

- The plan Steering Committee prioritized these hazards and updated mitigation actions.
- The county government, in partnership with the state, has made a commitment to prepare for the management of these events.
- The county is also committed to ensuring that county elected, and appointed officials become informed leaders regarding community hazards so that they are better prepared to set and direct policies for emergency management and county response.

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GROUP ACTIVITY

# What Does Resilience Look Like in Southern Minnesota?

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# Success Stories from the Region

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# Nicole Griensewic Mickelson

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, REGION NINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Region Nine Development Commission, which serves nine counties in South Central Minnesota. Region Nine works with and on behalf of counties, cities, townships, and schools to develop various programs and identify solutions in the areas of economic development, business development, healthy communities, transportation, community development, as well as leveraging regional resources. Griensewic Mickelson's passion for public service is reflected in Region Nine's accomplishments, including national innovation awards for transportation projects, communication and marketing, and flood mitigation. Her responsibilities include overall administration, planning, organization, direction and control of Region Nine's programs and services. Griensewic Mickelson is an active board and committee member for multiple organizations throughout Minnesota. Currently, she is an Executive Committee Member of the Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota, an Advisory Board Member for the Great Lakes Training Initiative, and a Board of Directors Member for Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. Griensewic Mickelson is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Her professional background includes extensive private sector and non-profit leadership experience.



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WORKSHOP #1

# Wrap-up + Next Steps

# Wrap-up + Next Steps



## WORKSHOP #2 AGENDA

- State and Regional Resilience Goals
  - State Context, Sharon Stephens, interagency R&AT
  - State HazMat Plan, Jen Nelson, MPCA
- Review of Southern Minnesota's Regional Resilience Ranked Priorities
- Group Activity: Implementation Plans

# Wrap-up + Next Steps



## PRE-WORKSHOP HOMEWORK

- Please visit the workshop website to access the pre-workshop homework for the next session and fill out a survey to rank your top regional resilience priorities.
- All workshop materials are available on the website.

[brsinc.com/minnesota](https://brsinc.com/minnesota)

# Wrap-up + Next Steps



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING  
YOU AT THE SECOND WORKSHOP!

August 26, 2020 at 10:00 AM



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# Conclusion