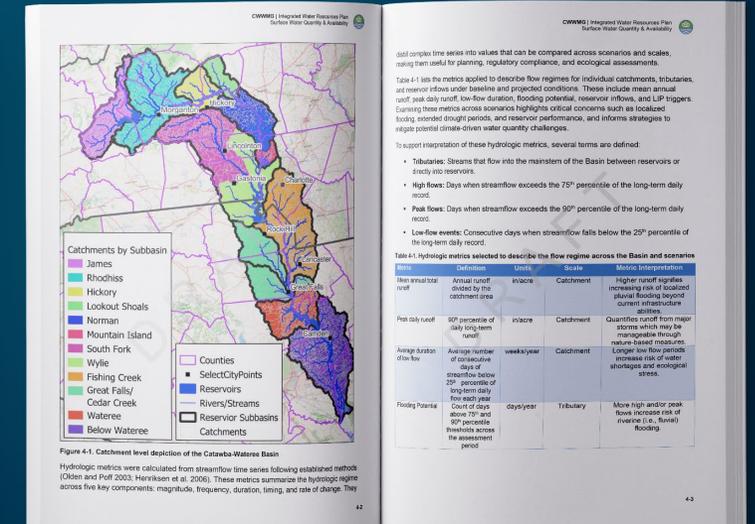


Breakout C: One Water & Regional Collaboration

RECOMMENDATIONS

All recommendations require coordination and collaboration from partners across the Basin.



One Water & Regional Collaboration



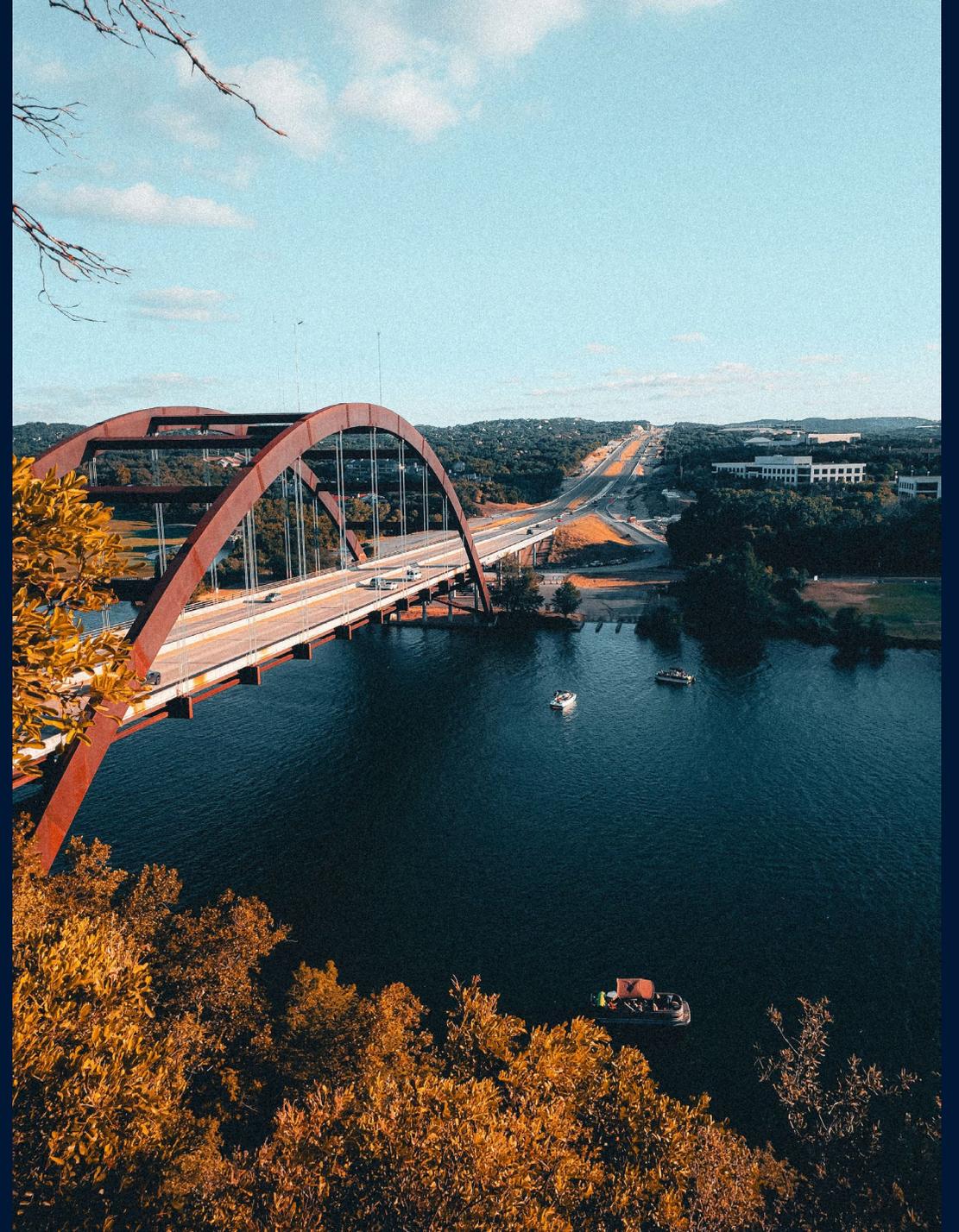
Erica DePalma
Senior Program Manager,
US Water Alliance

ONE WATER + REGIONAL COLLABORATION

**Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group 9th Annual
Water for All Summit**
March 12, 2026



uswateralliance.org



Goals for Today

Understand the core concepts of One Water

Connect One Water to effective regional and/or local collaboration approaches.

Consider pathways for implementing an equitable One Water future in North and South Carolina

Our Agenda

01

Warming up the Waters

Framing, Activity +
Share Out

10 minutes

02

Diving into One Water

Presentation + Q&A +
Discussion

15 minutes

03

From Theory to Action: Workshopping Activity

35 minutes

An aerial photograph of a wide river at sunset. The sky is a gradient of orange, red, and blue. Several barges are visible on the water, with their lights reflecting on the surface. The water is dark blue, and the barges are silhouetted against the bright sky.

01

Warming up the Waters

Framing, Activity +
Share Out

10 minutes

The US Water Alliance is a cross-sector membership organization that advances a One Water future for all.



EDUCATE.

We educate the nation on the true value of water and engage an expanding base of One Water champions through mutual discovery, learning, and communications.



INITIATE.

We initiate new approaches and solutions to our most pressing water challenges, leveraging powerful partnerships, authentic engagement, and cultural strategies to advance One Water.



ACCELERATE.

We accelerate the adoption and scaling of the mindset, practices, and policies behind the One Water approach to advance a better quality of life for all.



CELEBRATE.

We celebrate what works to advance the One Water movement and solutions to inspire and spread innovation in water system transformation.

The US Water Alliance is a National EFC

About the US Water Alliance's National Environmental Finance Center

The US Water Alliance is a national nonprofit dedicated to building a sustainable water future for all. In 2023, the US Water Alliance became an EPA-designated National Environmental Finance Center (EFC).

Our EFC provides **free technical assistance** to communities to help improve their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

Technical Assistance Support Pathways



The US Water Alliance's EFC offers locally-driven support to communities facing challenges with their water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. We work with water providers and community members to identify water infrastructure challenges and explore potential solutions. Once those solutions are defined, we work to connect communities with state and federal funding sources, like the State Revolving Funds.



We work with an extensive network of partners to provide comprehensive community support, including:

- Engineering and technical support
- Needs assessments
- Workforce development
- Financial and rate assessments
- Funding application support
- Post-award advising

Any support we provide is at no cost to the community.

To request assistance or learn more, reach out to us at:
efc@uswateralliance.org

Community Guidelines

The topics presented can lead to conversations that may be difficult or uncomfortable. These Community Guidelines help identify ways that we can uphold a respectful culture and engage more mindfully.

Be open and respectful.

Be present.

Speak from your own experience.

Respect all kinds of knowledge.

Be conscious of intent vs. impact.

Be aware of power dynamics.

Avoid jargon, acronyms, and industry language.

Activity / Share Out

Ponder or write down your thoughts!

What do you wish people knew about what it takes to supply water to communities?

02

Diving into One Water

Presentation + Q&A +
Discussion

15 minutes



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One Water is a response to complex water challenges



What is One Water?

An integrated and inclusive approach to water management that recognizes all water—drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, groundwater, and reused water—as valuable and interconnected resources.

The One Water Mindset



Value water at every stage and in every form



Focus on achieving multiple benefits



Approach decisions with a systems mindset



Use watershed-scale thinking and action



Intervene with right-sized solutions

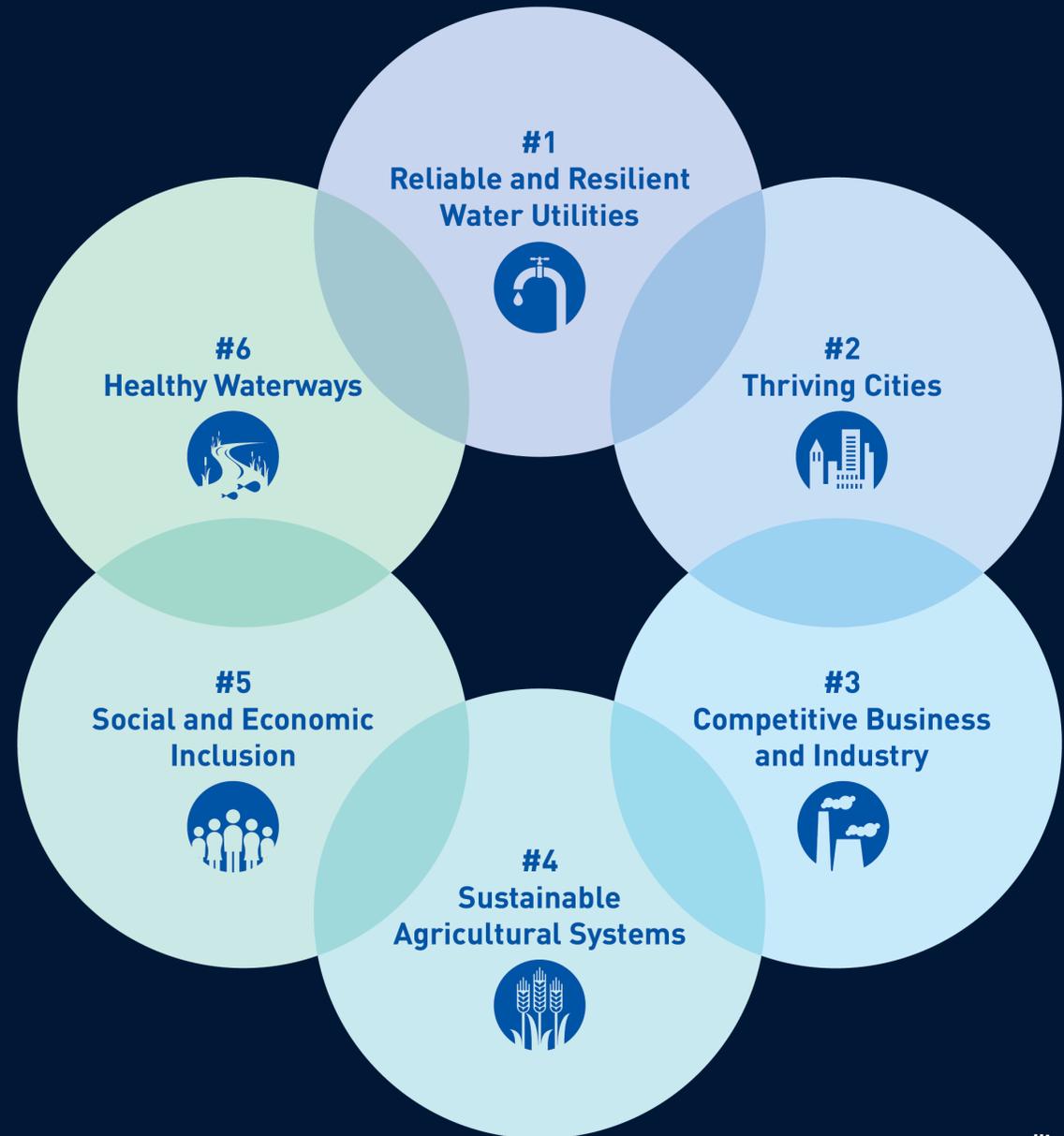


Center inclusion and partnerships

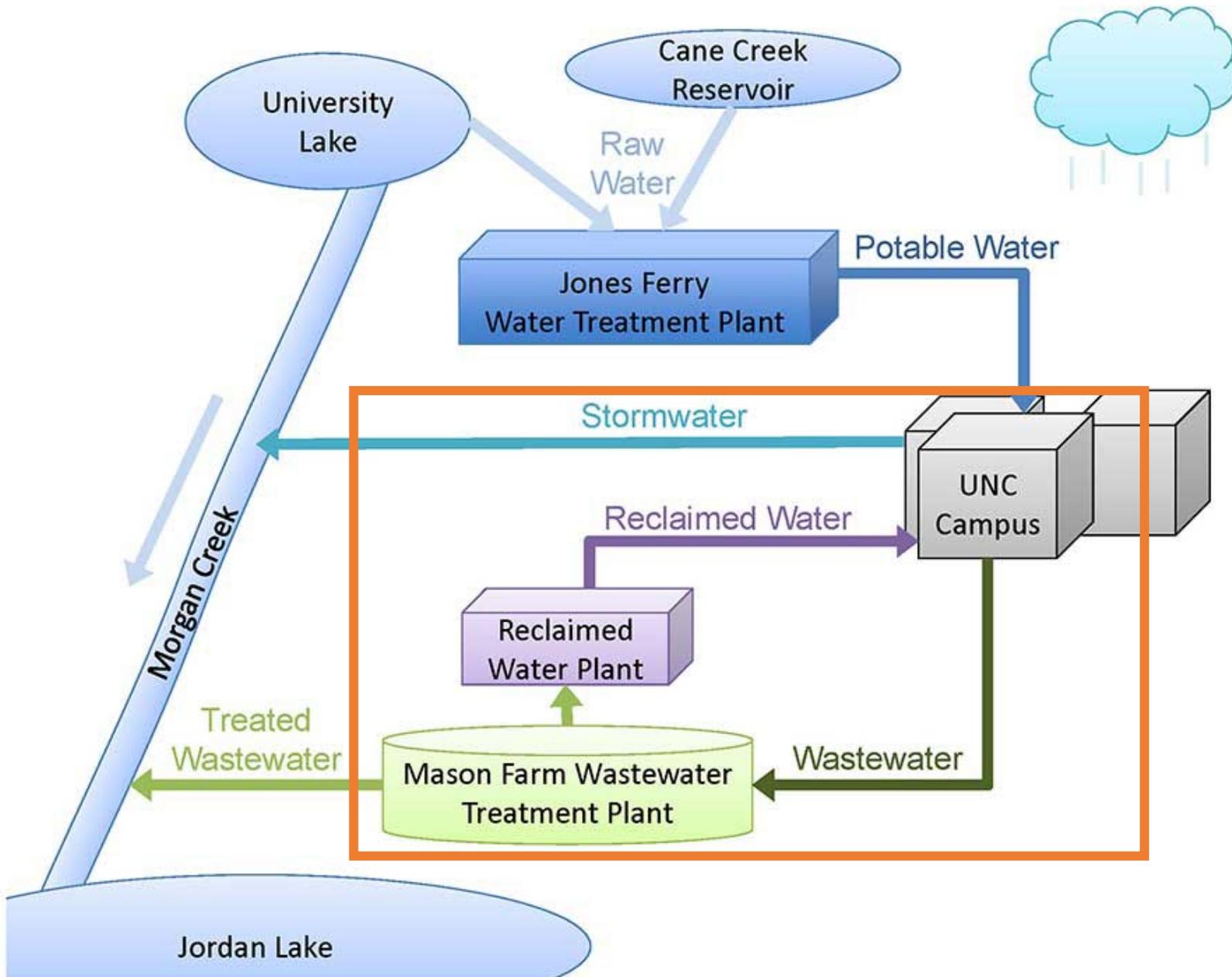


Account for climate action urgency and opportunities

Potential outcomes and benefits of a One Water Approach



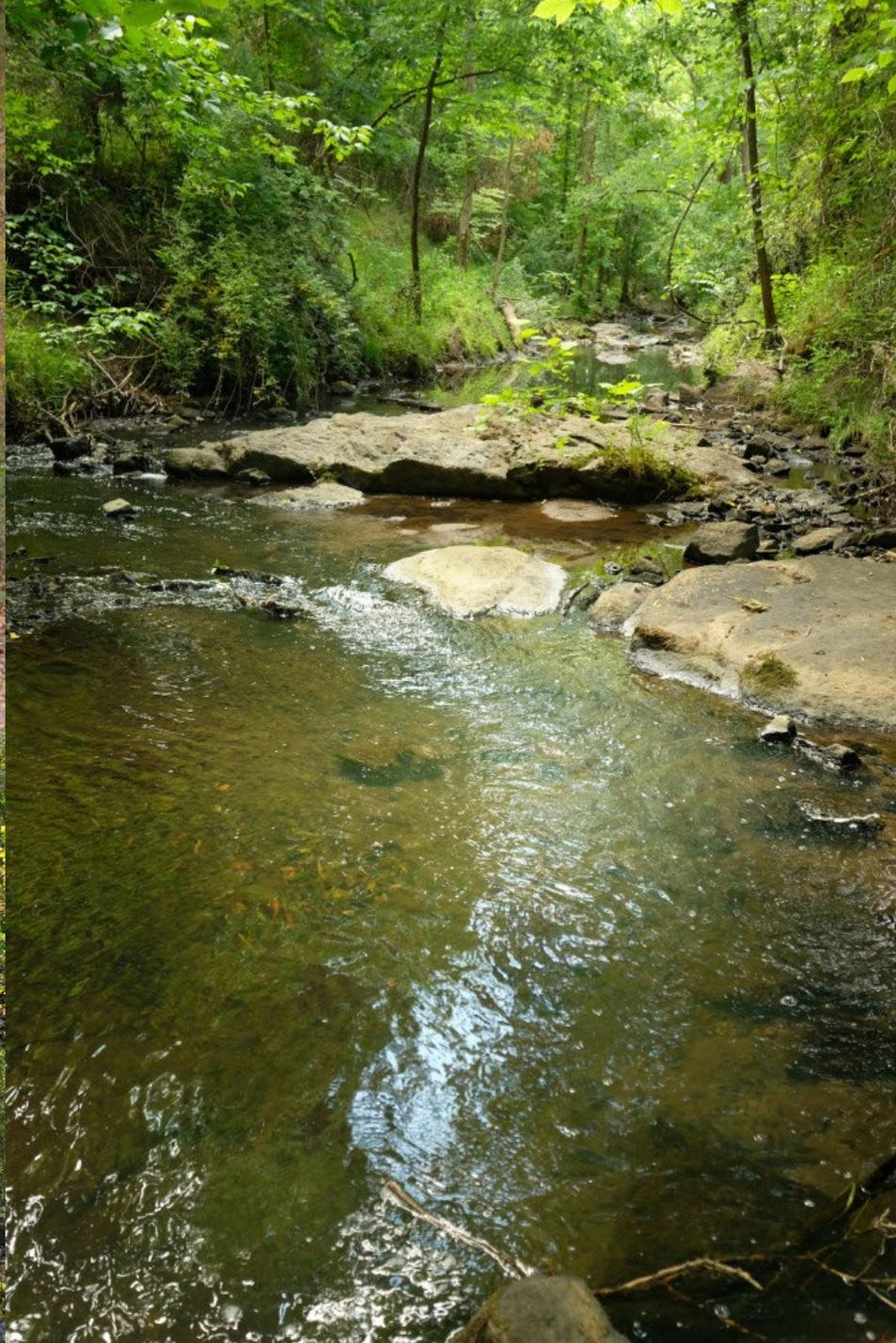
In practice, what does One Water look like?



Site Scale

Partnership
between OWASA
and UNC:
Reclaimed water
on campus

UNC Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC



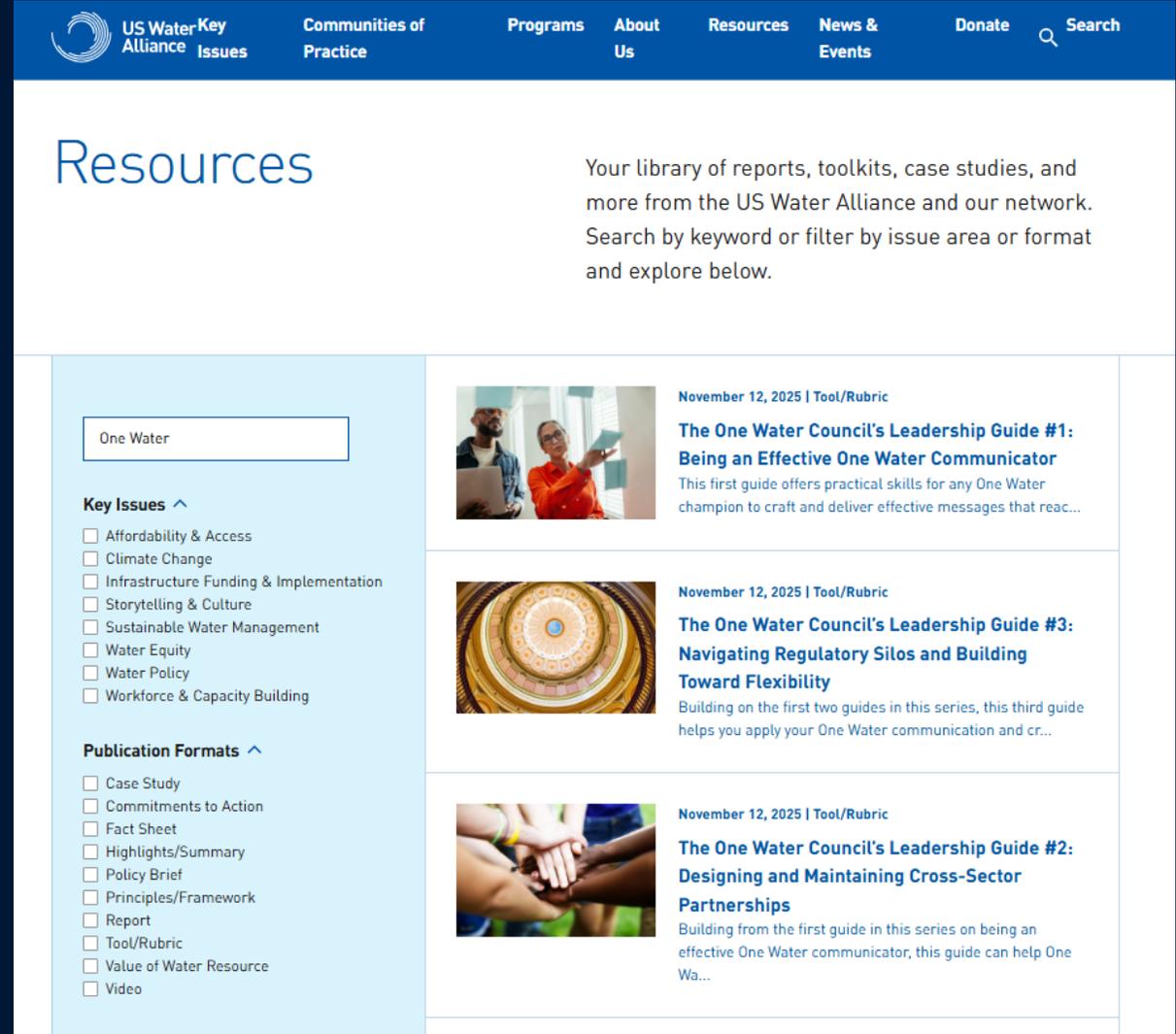
Local Stream restoration and greenway project

Little Sugar Creek
Greenway and Stream
Enhancement, Polk
Historic Site to South
Carolina State Line

Mecklenburg County,
NC

(photo credit: Mecklenburg Co Parks and Rec)

Find more One Water resources on our website!



The screenshot shows the 'Resources' page of the US Water Alliance website. The top navigation bar includes the US Water Alliance logo, 'Key Issues', 'Communities of Practice', 'Programs', 'About Us', 'Resources', 'News & Events', 'Donate', and a search icon. The main heading is 'Resources', followed by a sub-heading: 'Your library of reports, toolkits, case studies, and more from the US Water Alliance and our network. Search by keyword or filter by issue area or format and explore below.' On the left side, there is a search box containing 'One Water'. Below it are two filter sections: 'Key Issues' and 'Publication Formats', each with a list of checkboxes and an upward arrow icon. The 'Key Issues' list includes: Affordability & Access, Climate Change, Infrastructure Funding & Implementation, Storytelling & Culture, Sustainable Water Management, Water Equity, Water Policy, and Workforce & Capacity Building. The 'Publication Formats' list includes: Case Study, Commitments to Action, Fact Sheet, Highlights/Summary, Policy Brief, Principles/Framework, Report, Tool/Rubric, Value of Water Resource, and Video. The main content area on the right displays three resource cards. Each card features a small image, a date and format (November 12, 2025 | Tool/Rubric), a title, and a brief description. The first card is titled 'The One Water Council's Leadership Guide #1: Being an Effective One Water Communicator'. The second is 'The One Water Council's Leadership Guide #3: Navigating Regulatory Silos and Building Toward Flexibility'. The third is 'The One Water Council's Leadership Guide #2: Designing and Maintaining Cross-Sector Partnerships'.

US Water Alliance Key Issues

Communities of Practice

Programs

About Us

Resources

News & Events

Donate

Search

Resources

Your library of reports, toolkits, case studies, and more from the US Water Alliance and our network. Search by keyword or filter by issue area or format and explore below.

Key Issues

- Affordability & Access
- Climate Change
- Infrastructure Funding & Implementation
- Storytelling & Culture
- Sustainable Water Management
- Water Equity
- Water Policy
- Workforce & Capacity Building

Publication Formats

- Case Study
- Commitments to Action
- Fact Sheet
- Highlights/Summary
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- Value of Water Resource
- Video

November 12, 2025 | Tool/Rubric

The One Water Council's Leadership Guide #1: Being an Effective One Water Communicator

This first guide offers practical skills for any One Water champion to craft and deliver effective messages that reac...

November 12, 2025 | Tool/Rubric

The One Water Council's Leadership Guide #3: Navigating Regulatory Silos and Building Toward Flexibility

Building on the first two guides in this series, this third guide helps you apply your One Water communication and cr...

November 12, 2025 | Tool/Rubric

The One Water Council's Leadership Guide #2: Designing and Maintaining Cross-Sector Partnerships

Building from the first guide in this series on being an effective One Water communicator, this guide can help One Wa...

Questions?

The best way to dive into One Water is to get inspired by how others are making it work.



03

**From Theory
to Action:
Workshopping
Activity**

35 minutes



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Reflection and Table Talks

How would you define One Water?
What's resonating? What's not?

Workshop Activity / Share Out

- 1) Review the case study at your table individually (5 minutes)
- 2) Come together with your table group to discuss the questions listed at the bottom of the case study (10 minutes)
- 3) Share highlights with the full group (10 minutes)

From Theory to Action!

Thank you!

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uswateralliance.org

