

Environmental Sustainability Committee

October 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Leslie Kepler (Chair), Rich Sampson (Co-Chair), Dan Fogel, Dana Hicks, Trisha Knight

Members Absent: Jeremy Shook, Kerem Saral

Commissioners: Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Hunt (board liaison)

Staff: Bobby Williams, Assistant Town Manager (staff liaison)

Chair Kepler called meeting to order at 3:34 and welcomed guests from Charlotte Water who were in attendance to present on the proposed Interbasin Transfer (IBT).

Director of Charlotte Water Angela Charles and Deputy Director Ron Hargrove introduced themselves and presented an update on the proposed Interbasin Transfer.

Quorum reached at 3:36 with arrival of Dana Hicks.

Highlights from presentation include:

- Currently updating model through 2075
- Evaporation is the number 1 source of water loss at 204 mid
- This is a long process (If NCDEQ deems adequate, public hearing and decision around 2028)
- IBT is about consumption and discharge – all supply side.
- As an advisory committee – what action should be considering?
 - Huntersville is on both sides of the line (Catawba and Yadkin basins)
 - Limited effect to lake levels
 - Needed to support growth of East Huntersville
 - Have seen less use per capita in recent years

Presentation concluded

Chair Kepler advised the committee ESC needs action on Trees from last meeting's presentation and discussion and the draft resolution regarding the Carbon Dividend Act.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes – Rich Sampson motioned to approve, Dan Fogel seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Next, the committee discussed the Town Tree Ordinance and Mitigation options. That discussion led to a motion to recommend to the town board to support staff in pursuit of the following:

1. Townwide tree survey
2. Save specimen trees (i.e. allow mitigation for up to 1/3 of removal of specimen trees for example)
3. Limited mitigation for Heritage trees unless unhealthy (and revise definition of Heritage trees on the Heritage Tree List and put higher weight/amount for mitigation)

Trisha Knight made a motion to bring these three recommendations to the Town Board. Dan Fogel seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Trisha is also preparing a presentation for the Board's November 4th meeting to be shared with this committee for review by October 30th for any feedback and revisions.

Consideration of Draft Resolution for Carbon Dividend Act – A draft resolution was shared from the Citizen Climate Lobby website. Committee members suggested revision of the resolution to be a readable one page document that does not repeat what is in the act, and seek a recommendation to support it and the rationale. This was tabled at this meeting with a suggestion for Kerem, Jeremy and Mary Ann to continue their conversations about this item and bring back something to consider at the next meeting. It was also requested for Mary Ann to poll the town board members to know if they support it or not as revisions to the resolution are considered.

Rich Sampson made a motion to adjourn. Dan Fogel seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM



Charlotte Water Interbasin Transfer (IBT) Modification Request

HUNTERSVILLE COUNCIL OCTOBER 10, 2024

SUBMIT QUESTIONS & COMMENTS TO: IBTProject@charlottenc.gov

What is this meeting about?

- ◁Charlotte Water is **not** asking for permission to *withdraw* more water from the Catawba River
- ◁We **are** exploring the need to increase the maximum amount of water we are *legally allowed to not return* to the Catawba River Basin after it is used in the neighboring basin (Rocky River)



What is this meeting about?

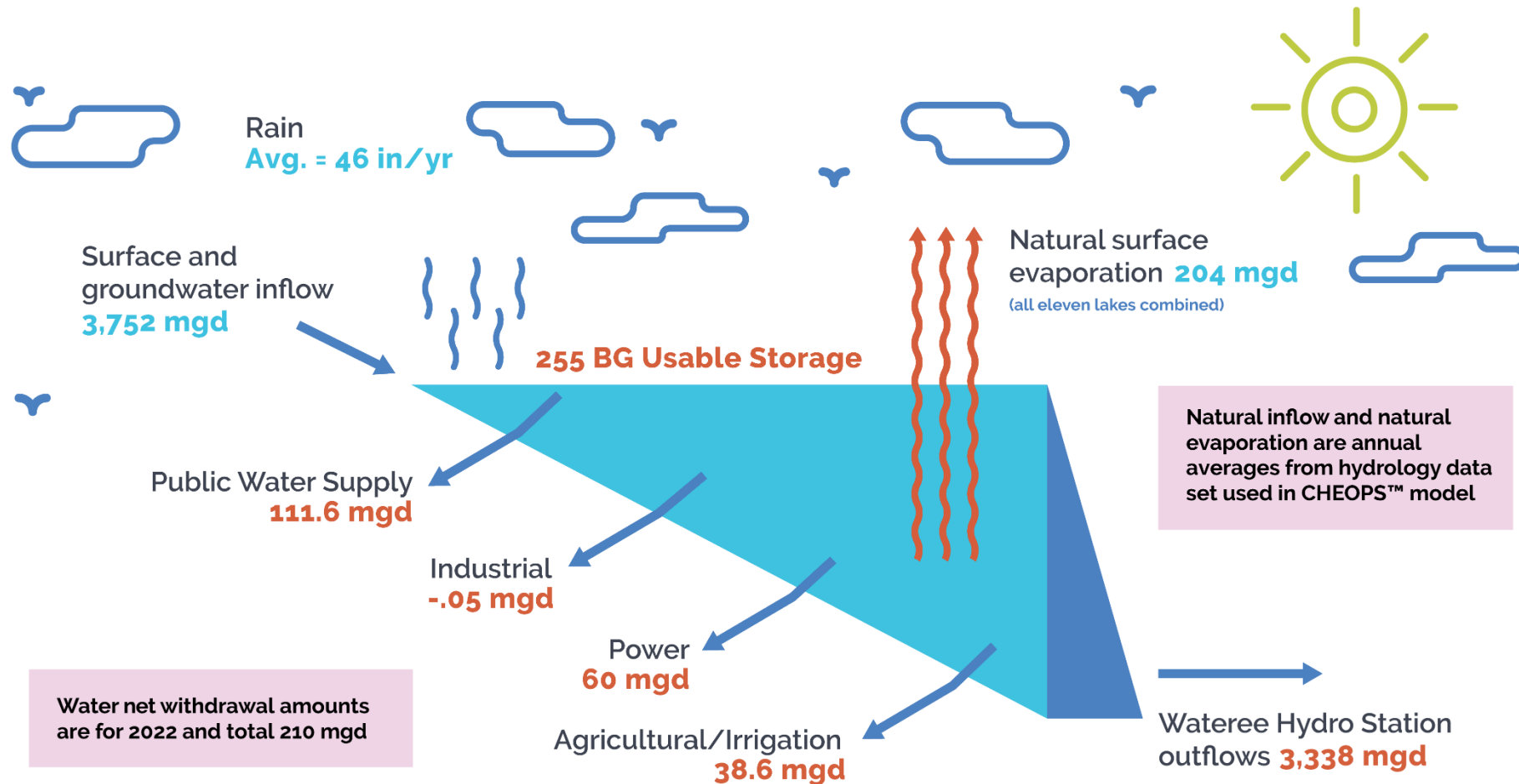
- ◀ Notify the public about our potential request to transfer more water from the Catawba River to the Rocky River in the future
- ◀ Charlotte Water is **not** asking for permission to *withdraw* more water from the Catawba River
- ◀ We **are** exploring the need to increase the amount of water we are allowed to *transfer* to the Rocky River Basin



Impacts of this request?

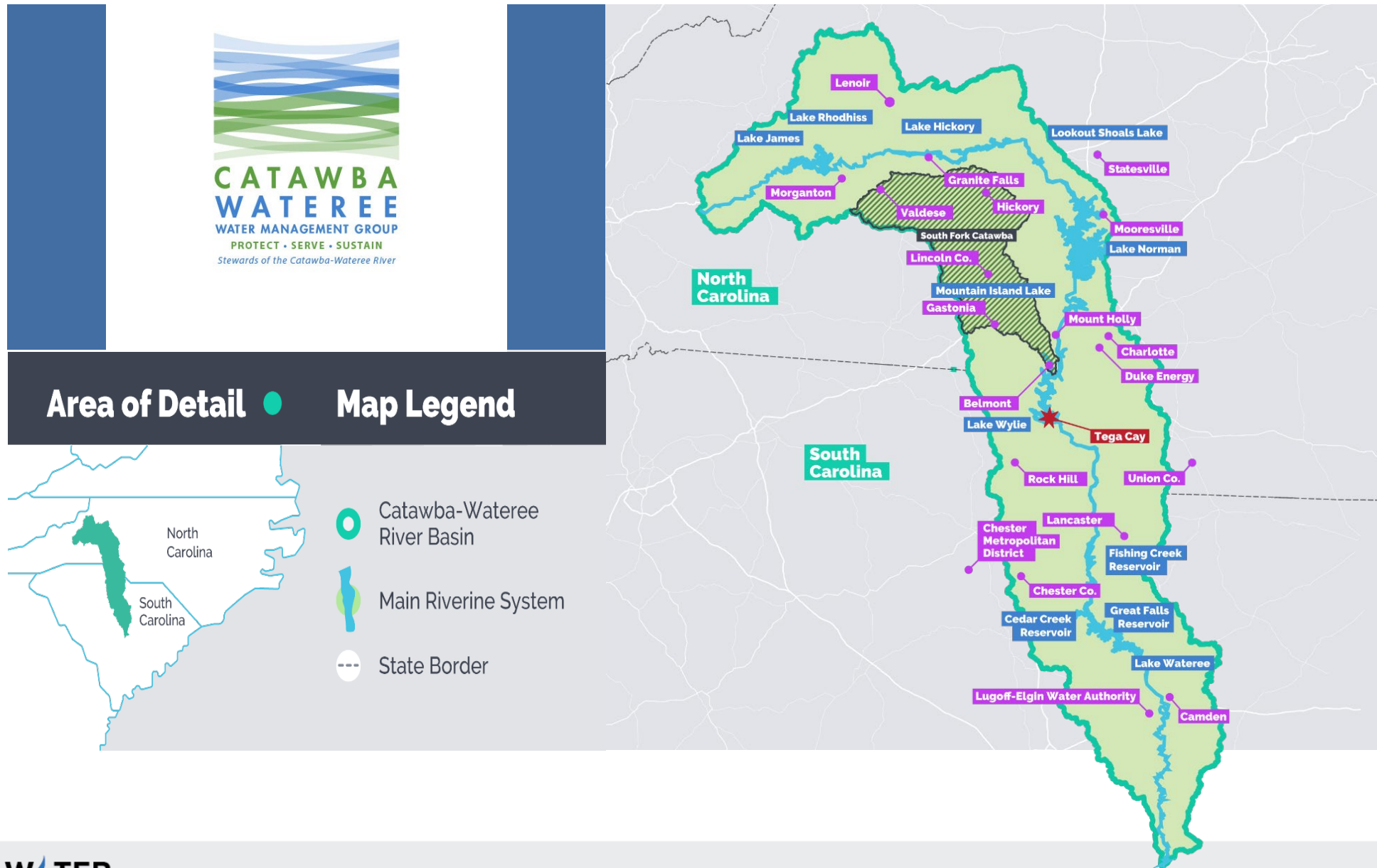
- ◀ The potential request to transfer an additional 30 million-gallons-per-day (MGD) would be less than a 1% of the flow through the Catawba-Wateree system on a daily basis
- ◀ The modeling of the Catawba-Wateree system was developed by Duke Energy in 2006 for the FERC relicensing process
 - Demand projections through 2058 were included in that model for water withdrawals
 - Local water supply plans for NC and SC communities were included in projections
 - Future growth and potential for IBT increases in several reservoirs were forecasted, including Charlotte's
- ◀ Charlotte's potential request is within modeled projections
- ◀ CWWMG is currently updating the model through 2075

The Lakes and Partnerships Help Rainfall Drive the System



* mgd = million gallons per day; BG = Billion Gallons.

<https://catawbawatereewmg.org/our-work/water-resources-plan>

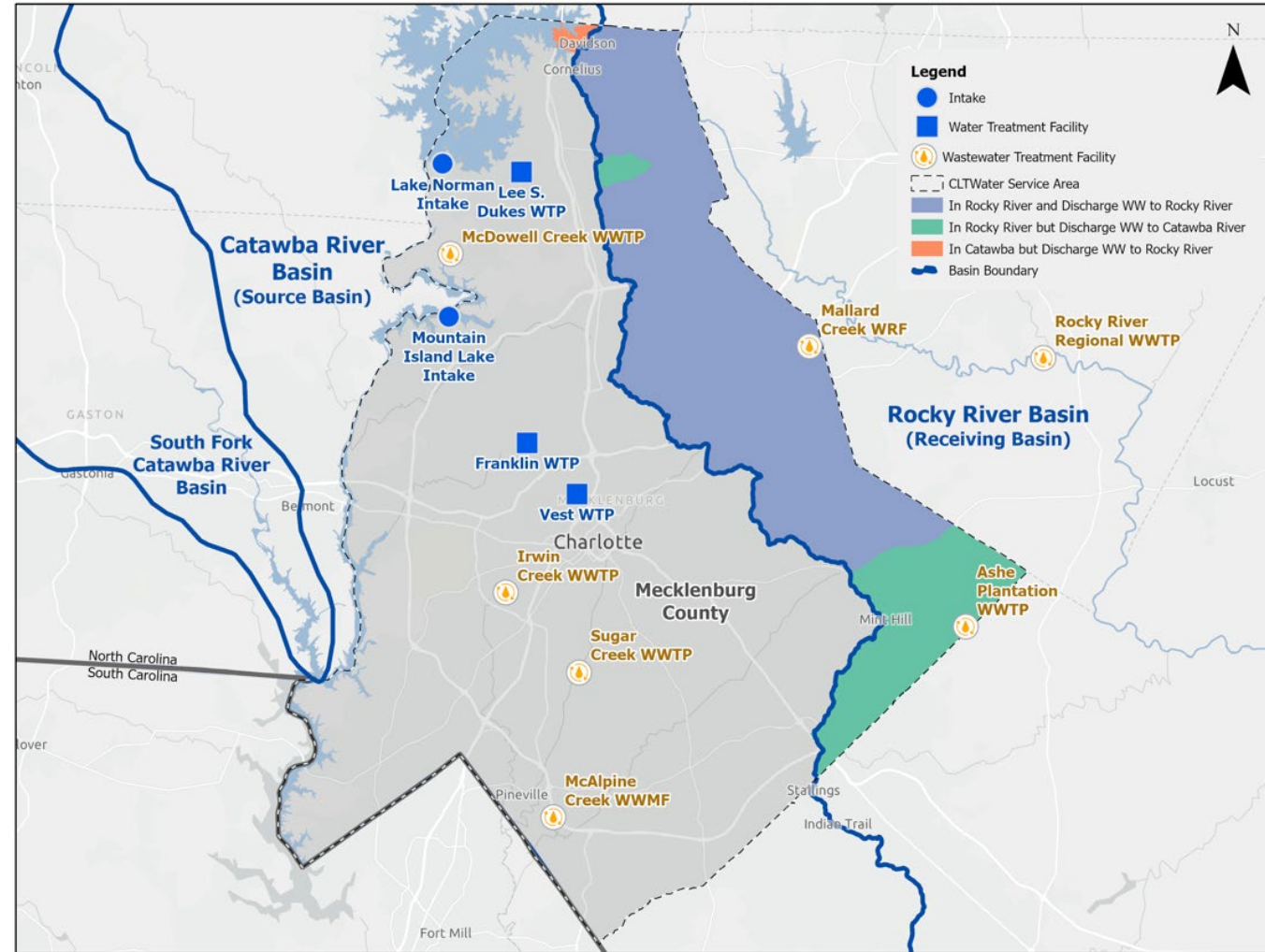


Presentation Outline

- ◁ About Charlotte Water
- ◁ What is an IBT?
- ◁ Why is an IBT modification needed now?
- ◁ What is the IBT modification process and schedule?
- ◁ What alternatives are being considered?
- ◁ How can I comment and participate in the process?
- ◁ Questions

About Charlotte Water

- ▶ Service Area includes Mecklenburg County and surrounding counties with customers in both Catawba & Rocky River Basins
- ▶ Largest public water and wastewater utility in NC
- ▶ Population Served – 1,145,392

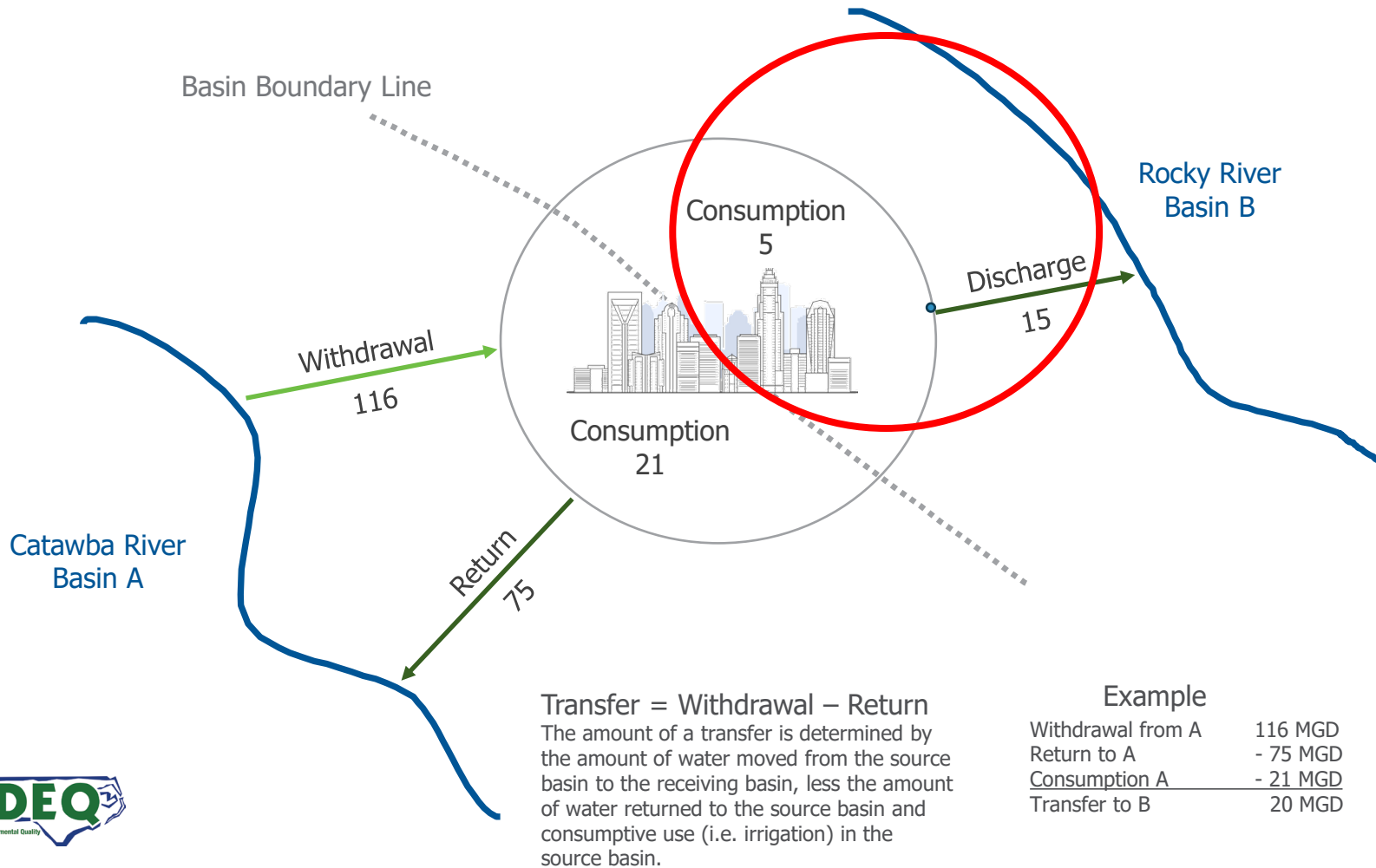


Proactive Planning

- ◀ 2002 – Initial IBT of 33 MGD Peak Day
- ◀ Now planning for next 30 years before the limit is exceeded
- ◀ Long-term Partner with Catawba Wateree Water Management Group and Other Stakeholders
- ◀ Local and Regional Conservation and Drought Planning

As projected, the original IBT supports Charlotte Water's system through approximately 2028. Additional water through the modification process is timely.

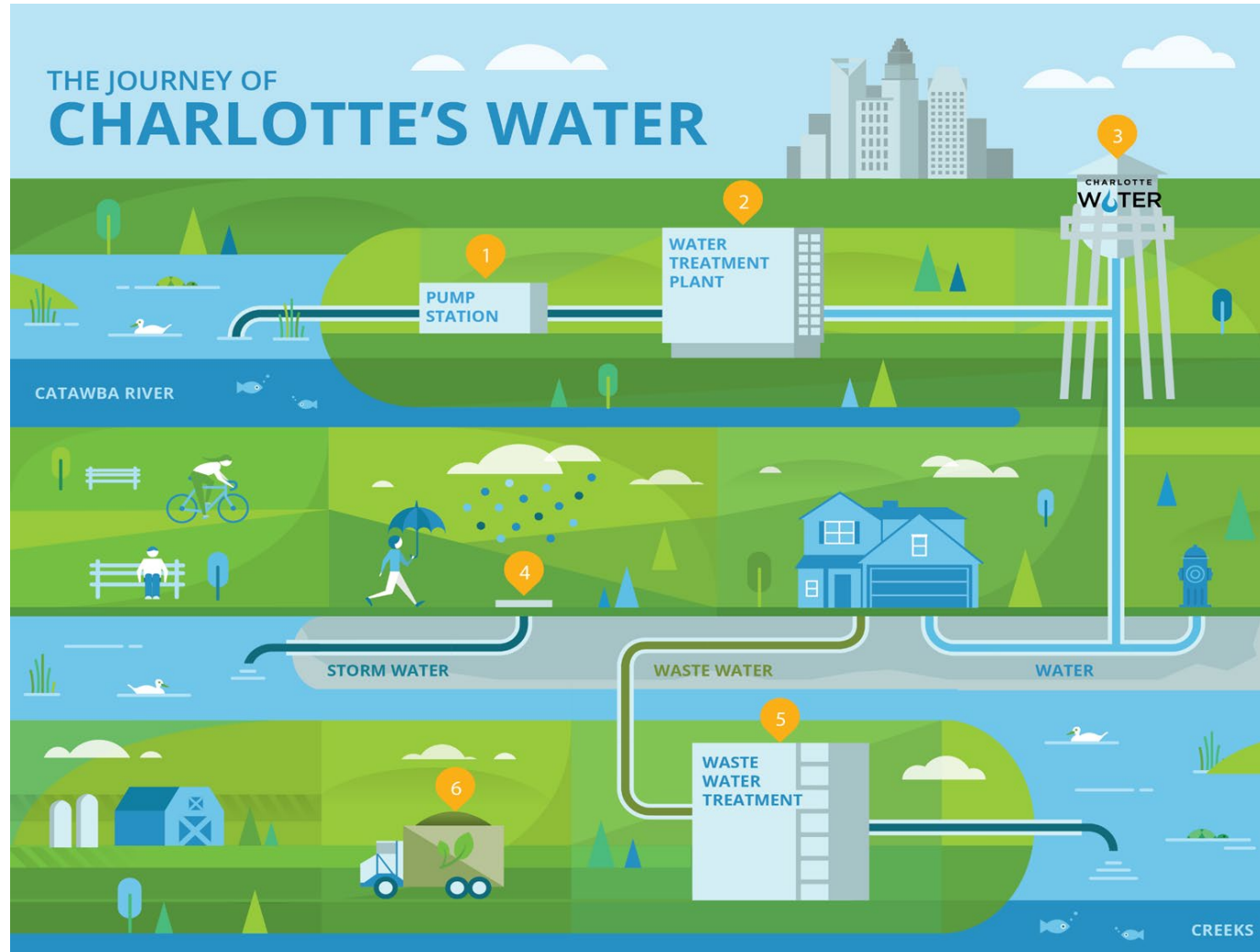
What is an Interbasin Transfer (IBT)?



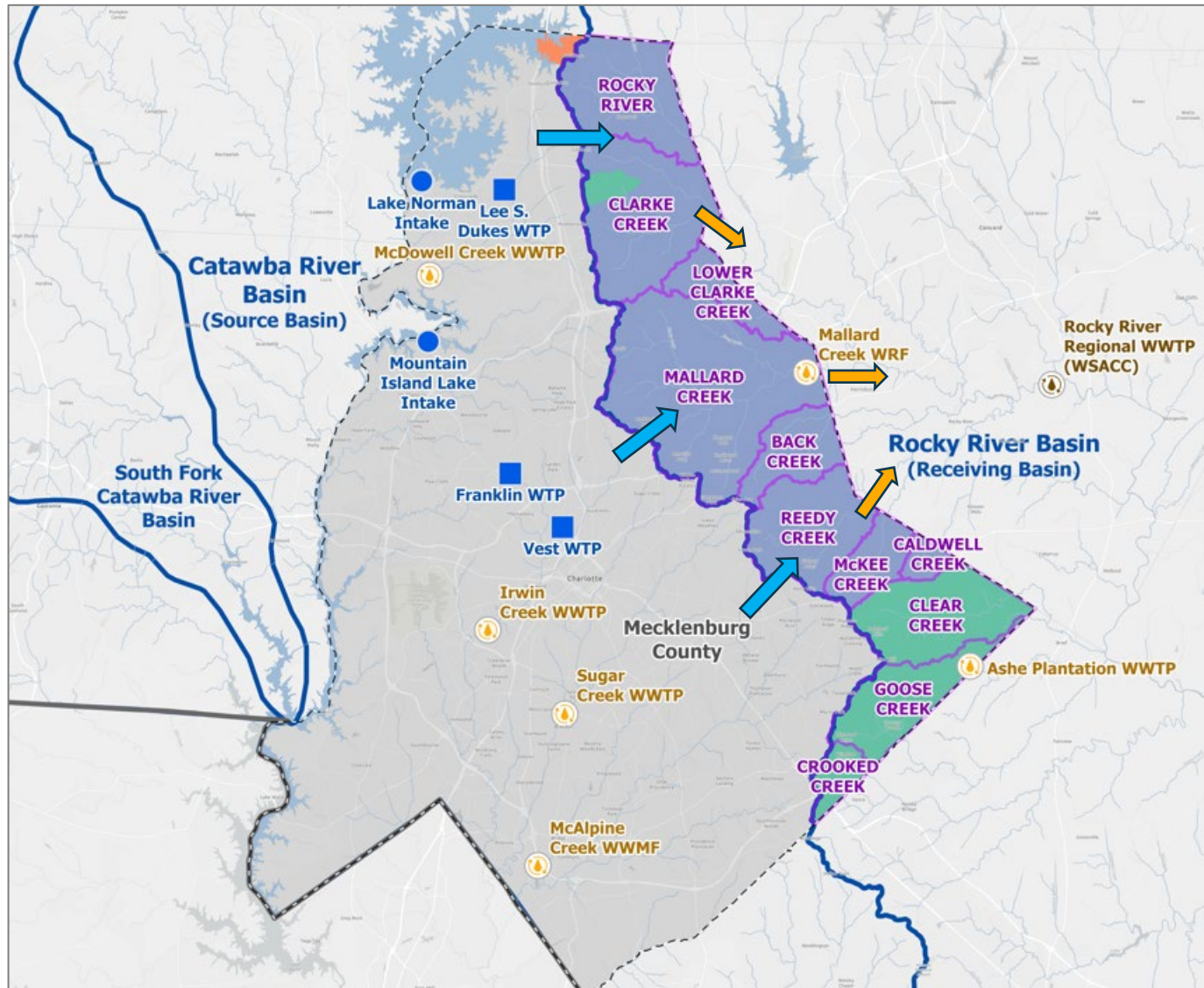
An IBT is a withdrawal, diversion or pumping of water from one source river basin to another river basin. The water from the source basin is treated and distributed to customers for everyday water usage, then collected and treated at wastewater treatment plants before



Charlotte's Water Cycle



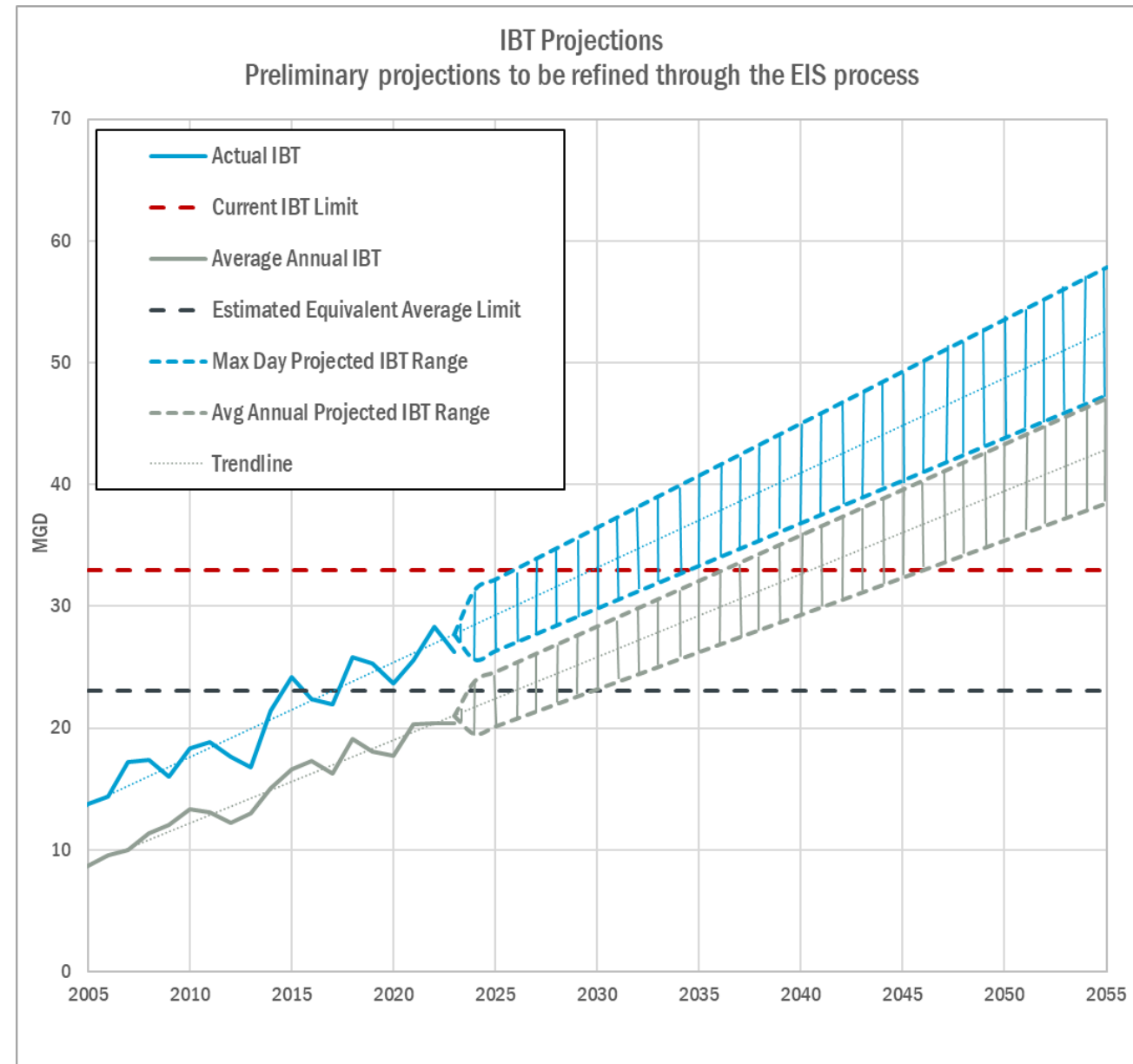
What is an IBT?



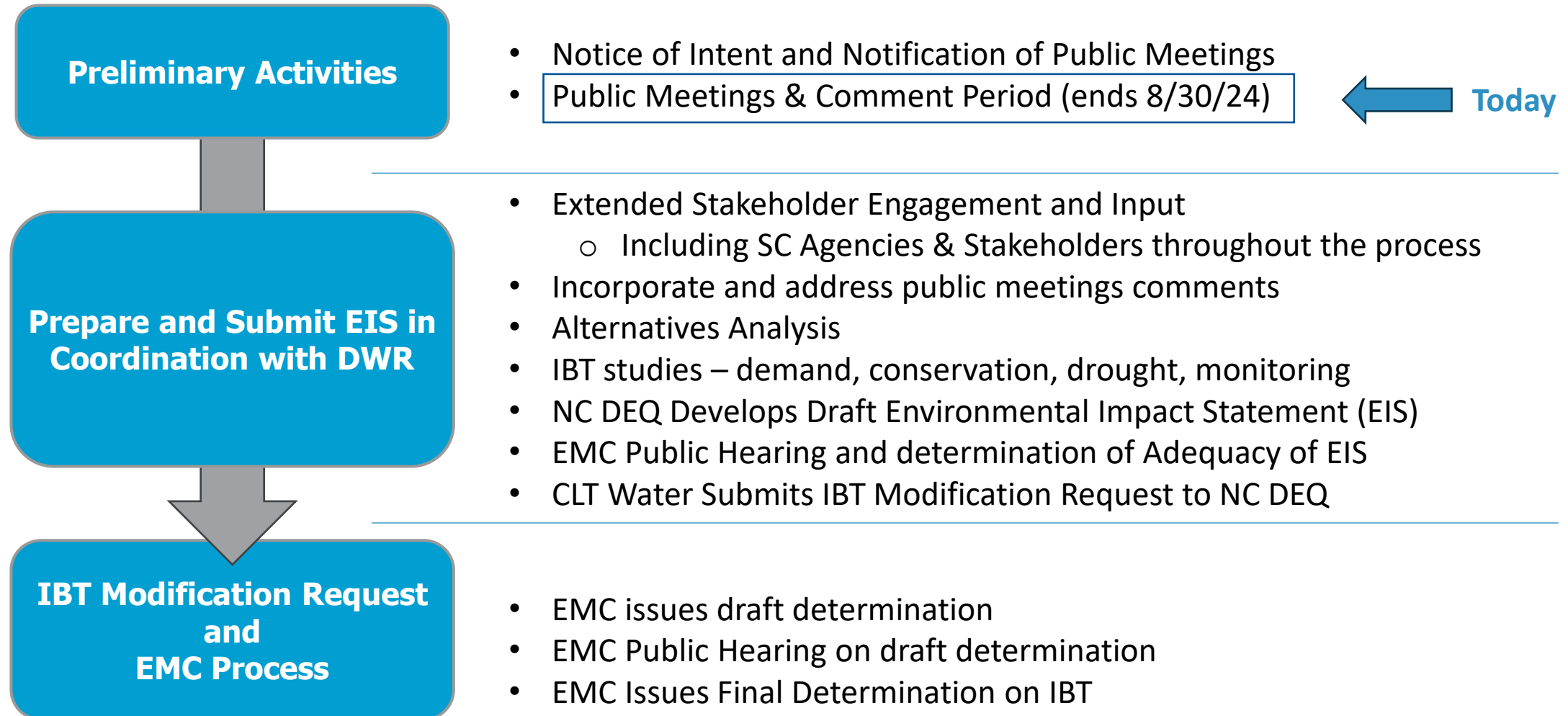
An IBT is a withdrawal, diversion or pumping of water from one source river basin to another river basin. The water from the source basin is treated and distributed to customers for everyday water usage, then collected and treated at wastewater treatment plants before portions are discharged to the receiving

Why is an IBT Needed?

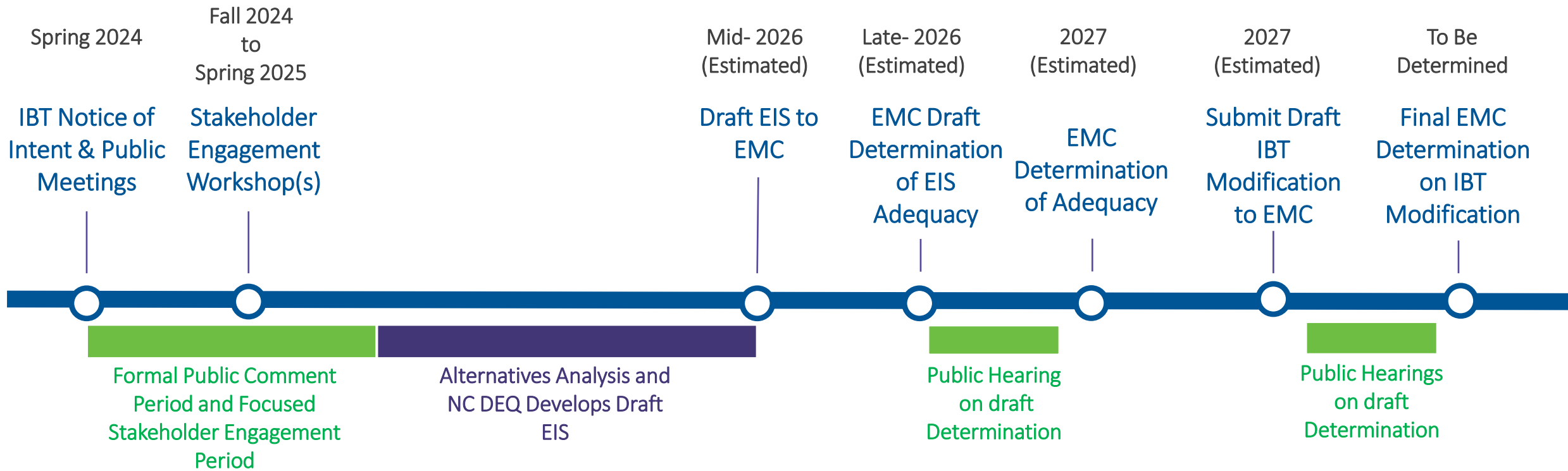
- ◀ 2002 IBT Certification limit is 33 MGD Peak Day
- ◀ Currently at 79% of limit
- ◀ Based on population projections, current IBT will be exceeded between 2028-2030 as previously planned



IBT Modification and EIS Development Process



IBT Modification Preliminary Schedule*



***Coordination with SC DES Throughout**

Acronyms:

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

IBT – Interbasin Transfer

NC EMC – NC Environmental Management Commission

NC DEQ – NC Department of Environmental Quality

Preliminary Alternatives

◀ Preliminary Alternative Categories Considered

- Pump wastewater back to the Catawba Basin
- Blending effluent with raw water at WTP (limited to 20%)
- Potable reuse from effluent (not currently allowed)
- New water sources in the Yadkin Basin
- Increase existing IBT through modification

◀ Alternatives Evaluation Criteria

- Capital costs
- Schedule
- O&M costs
- Benefits/risks
- Environmental factors
- Construction feasibility

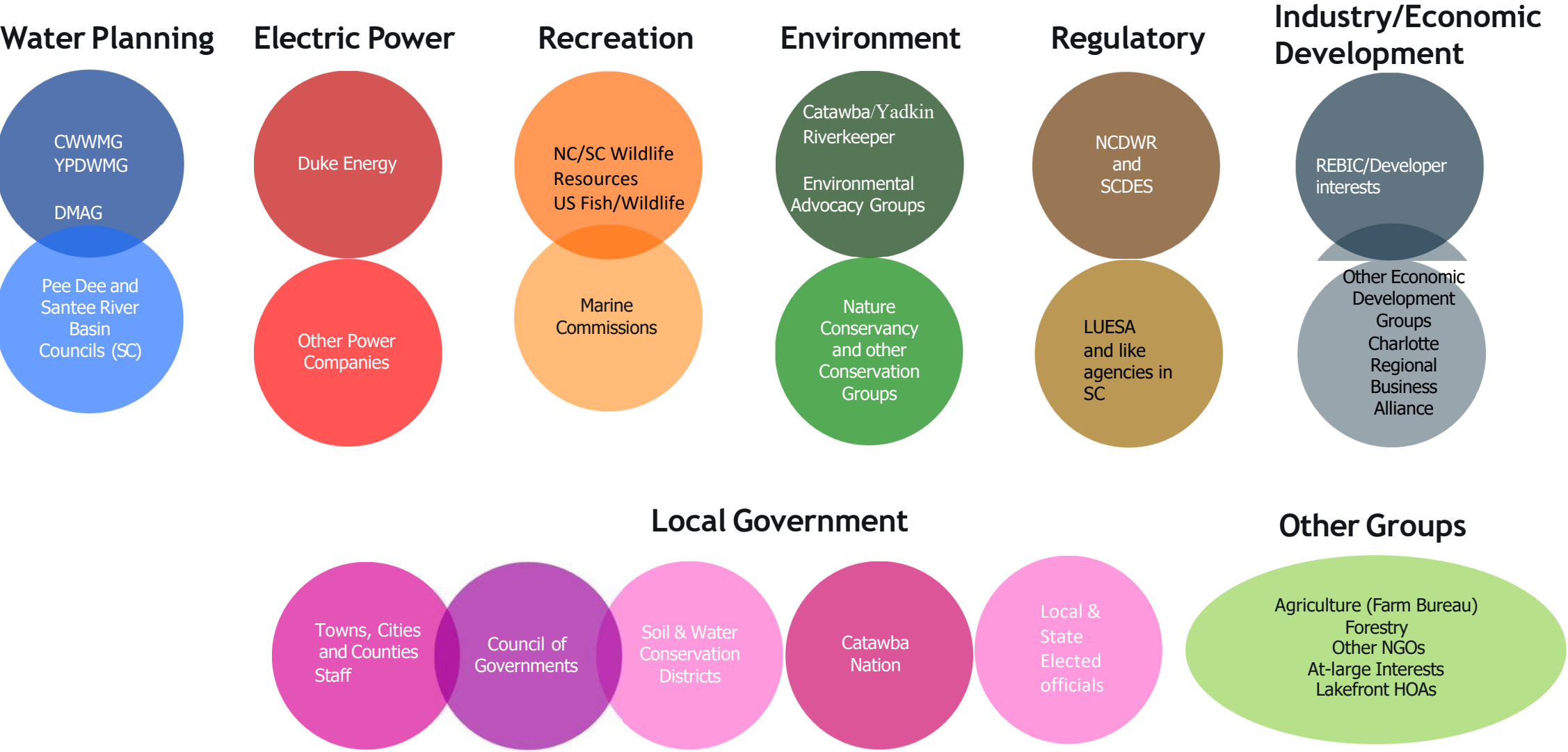
◀ Actionable alternatives raised during scoping will be considered

◀ Further refinement during EIS

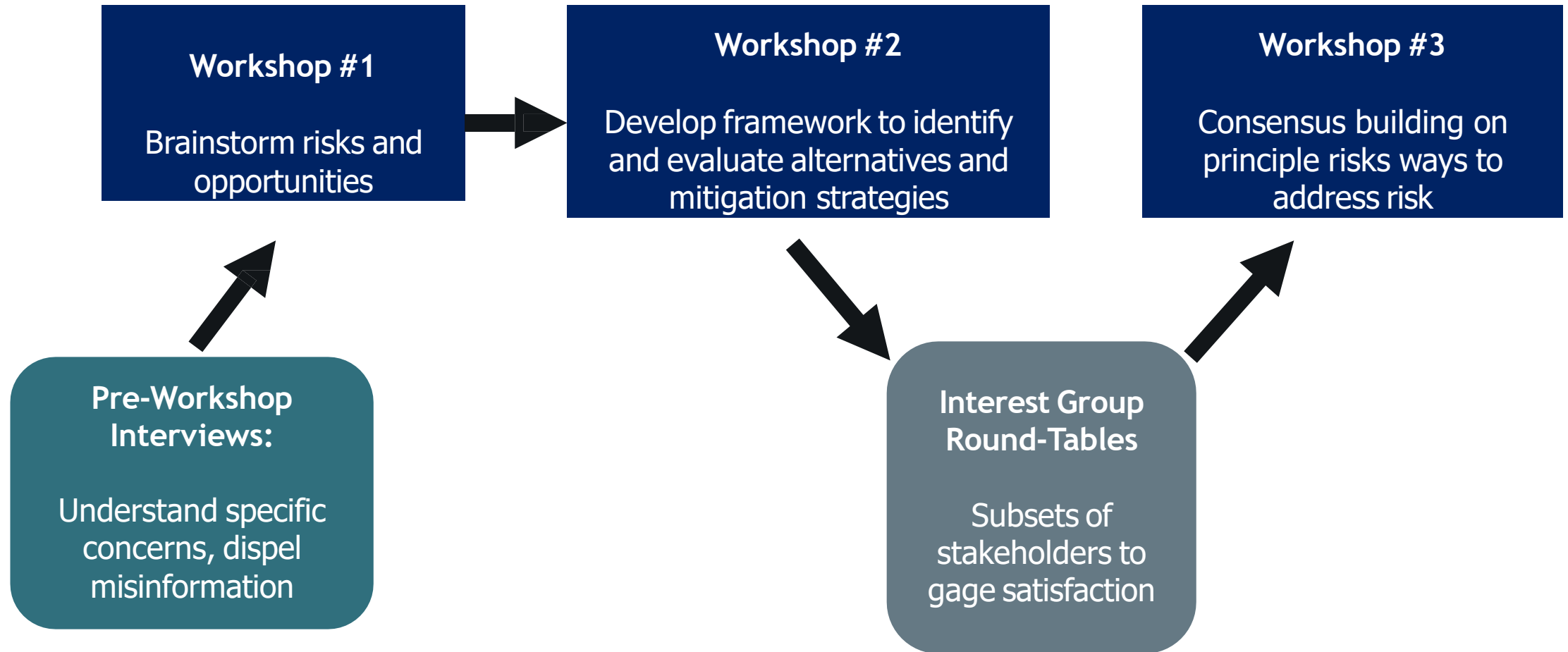
Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

- ◁ Goal: Identify actionable alternatives to increasing IBT that should be evaluated within the scope of the EIS
- ◁ Looking for stakeholders to represent broad and diverse interests
- ◁ Stakeholders will have the ability to shape the alternatives that will be considered
- ◁ Logistics:
 - Fall 2024
 - Professional facilitation – CDMSmith selected
 - Multiple workshops – At least 3
 - Meeting format – in-person with virtual option

Draft Stakeholder Interests



Example Workshops Structure



Questions or Comments?





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