



# Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee

Wednesday, May 25

1:00 – 4:00 pm

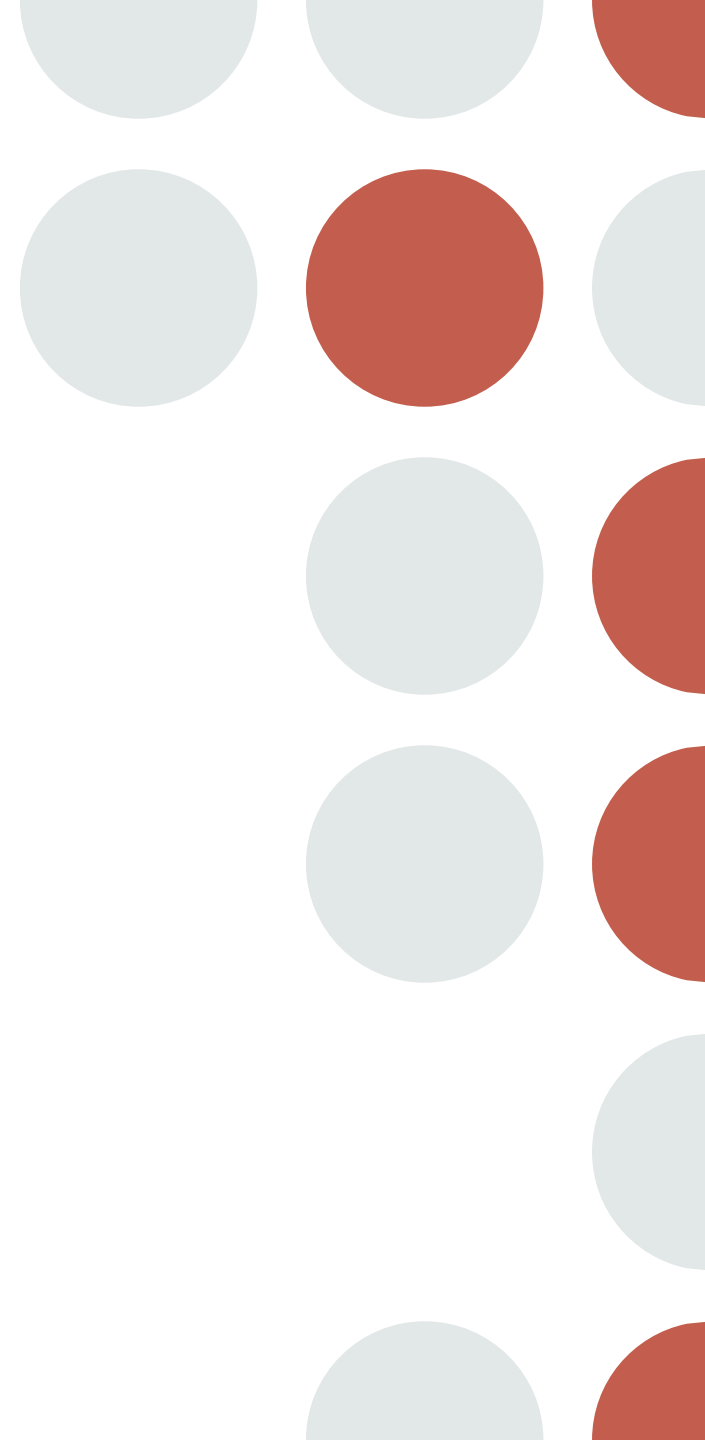
# Introductions



**Welcome and Opening Remarks:** What would you like your fellow BAC members to know about why you are here?

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
  - WA Legislation to Support Implementation of the W<sub>W</sub>W2050 Strategic Plan
  - Updates, Agenda Requests
  - Public Comment
  - Reflections from BAC Members
  - Wrap up & Next Steps
- 



# Walla Walla Potential Legislative Request

May 25, 2022

Dave Christensen  
Water Resources Program



# Overview

- Process
- Approach
- Elements of Ecology's initial thinking



# Goal for today

We are seeking your feedback on these concepts before we develop draft language for your review in June



# Legislative process

- Request legislation process:
  - Program prioritization of issues
  - Agency approval process
  - Office of Financial Management and Governor's Office
  - Seek sponsors, who then introduce bill(s) – or submit through the budget development process (if a budget proviso)
- Process winnows number of proposals initially identified by programs by 80-90 percent



# Approach

- Options:
  - Budget proviso
  - Amend existing authorities (chapter 90.90 RCW)
  - Create a new chapter with new authorities (e.g. WW Partnership)
- What approach is best?
  - Budget proviso process is (much) simpler, but is not codified (only exists during the biennium)
  - OCR has authority for much of what needs to happen in the Walla Walla, but a new section in chapter 90.90 RCW is “less visible”
  - New chapter creates higher visibility and importance, but duplicates existing agency authorities (and subjects Walla Walla to more competition)





# Our initial thinking on approach

- Seek to amend OCR statute (chapter 90.90 RCW) by amending existing language and adding a new section
- Base authority on implementing the Walla Walla river basin strategic plan
- Specify that the general formula for 1/3 of developed water for instream use and 2/3 for new uses does not apply
- Clear identification as an integrated water resource management strategy

**Comments/Discussion?**



# Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee

- Advised by the bi-state Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee (BAC), which shall include representatives from a broad range of interests:
  - Agricultural
  - Environmental
  - Tribal
  - Local, state and federal governments

**How much detail should be included? Describe interests?  
Which interests? Name specific groups?**



# Other guiding principles

- Water supply solutions provide concurrent benefits to both instream and out-of-stream uses and ecosystem function
- Water allocation consistent with any agreements (such as a compact) with Oregon and CTUIR
- Tribal consultation identified specifically
- Direction that bi-state regulatory framework is consistent with existing adjudications to ensure that water use by holders of adjudicated surface water right certificates are not impaired by use under junior groundwater right certificates, claims and permits

## Comments/Discussion?



# Development of projects

- Clear authority to construct projects physically located in Oregon
- A minimum of 50% percent of the total costs to finance the implementation of the integrated plan must be funded through non-state sources

**Comments/Discussion?**





Thank you for your time!

Dave Christensen

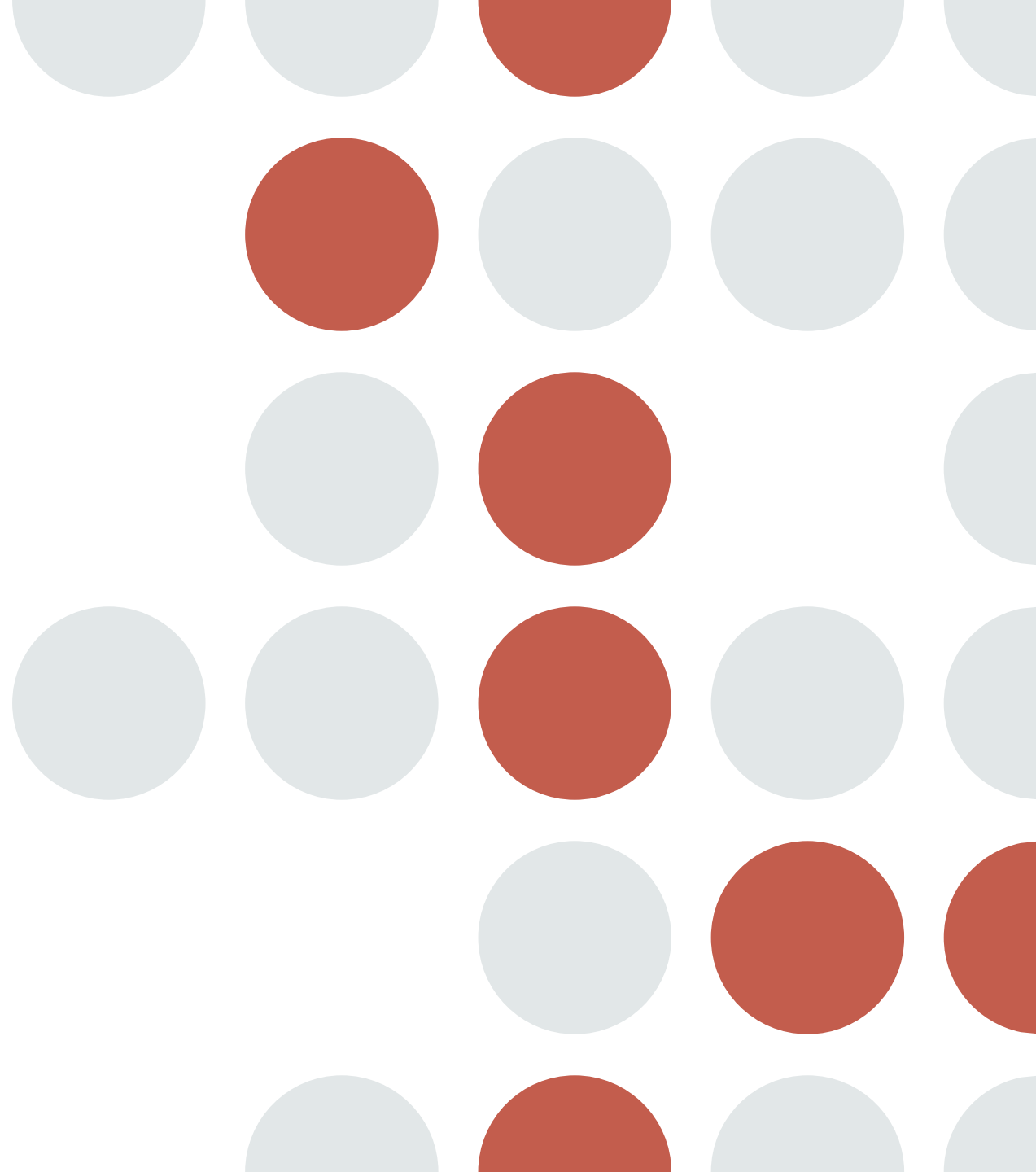
Water Resources Program

[Dave.Christensen@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Dave.Christensen@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 489-4227



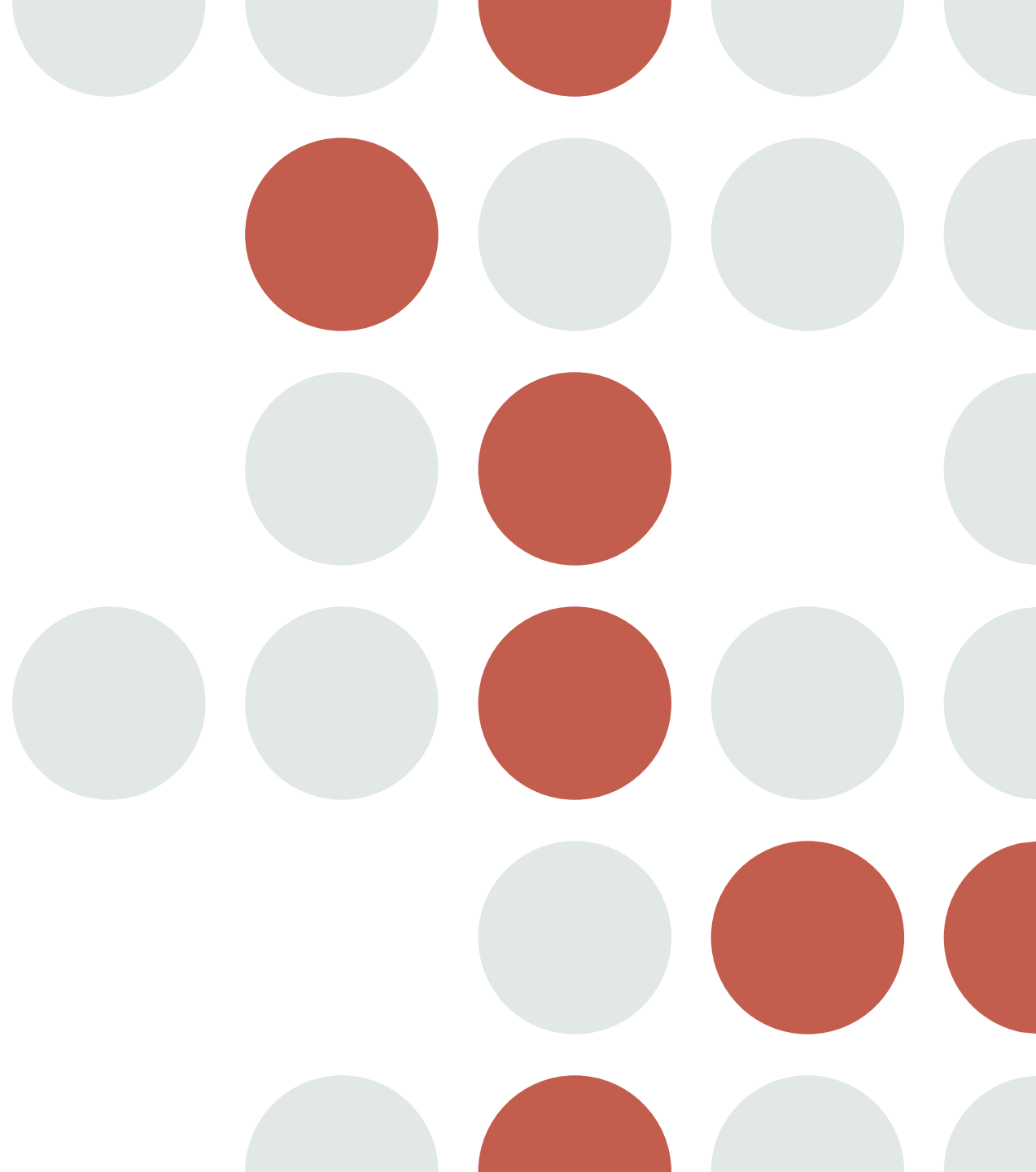
**10 minute break!**

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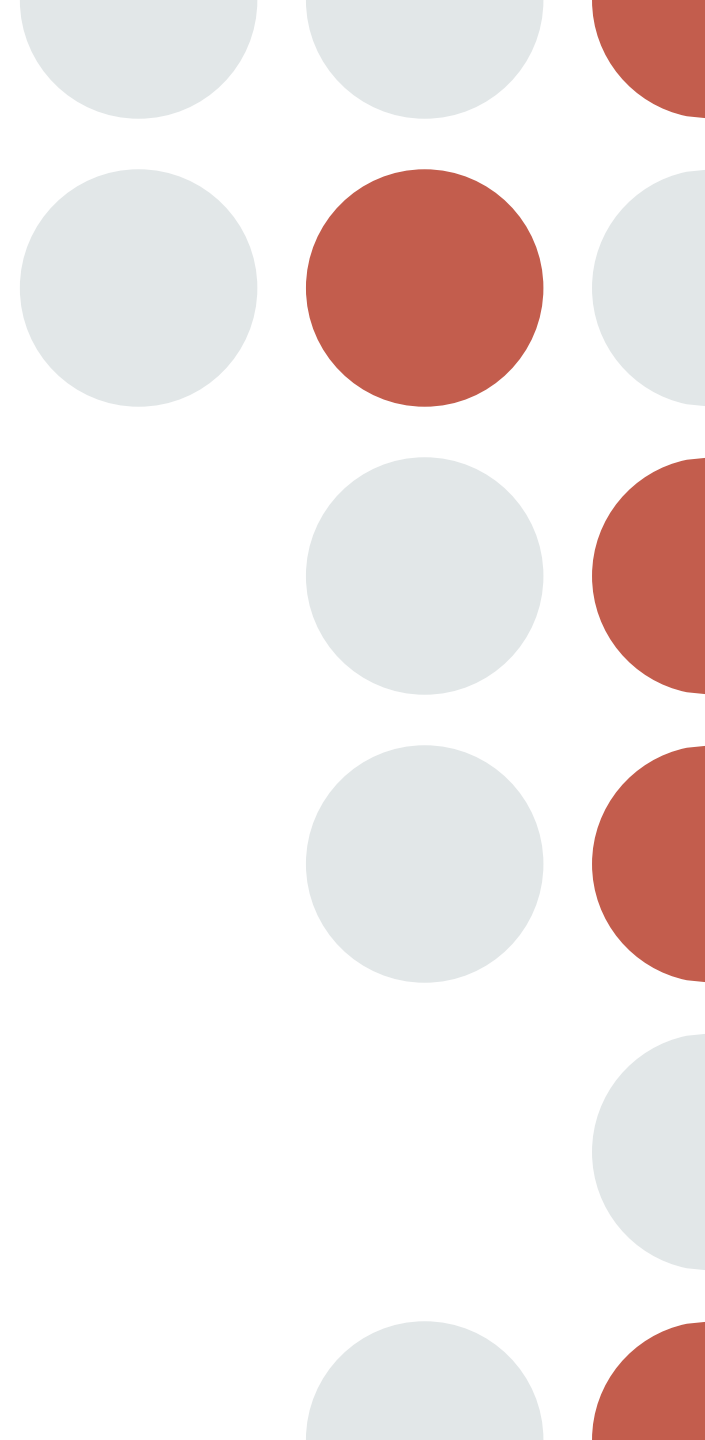
# Updates & Agenda Requests

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# Updates

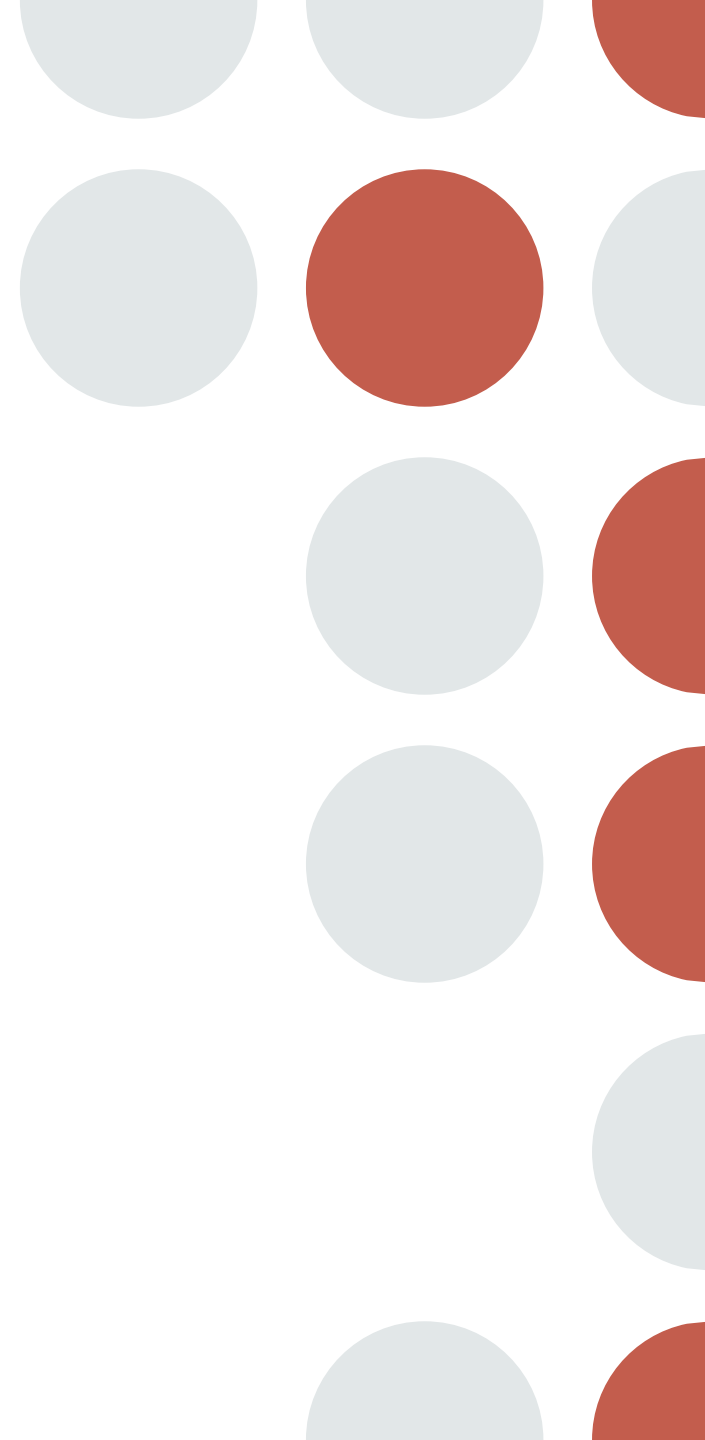
- Bi-State Flow Study
  - US Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study
  - Project and Funding Updates from BAC members
  - Update on recent WG meetings
    - Implementation
    - Policy, Funding, and Outreach
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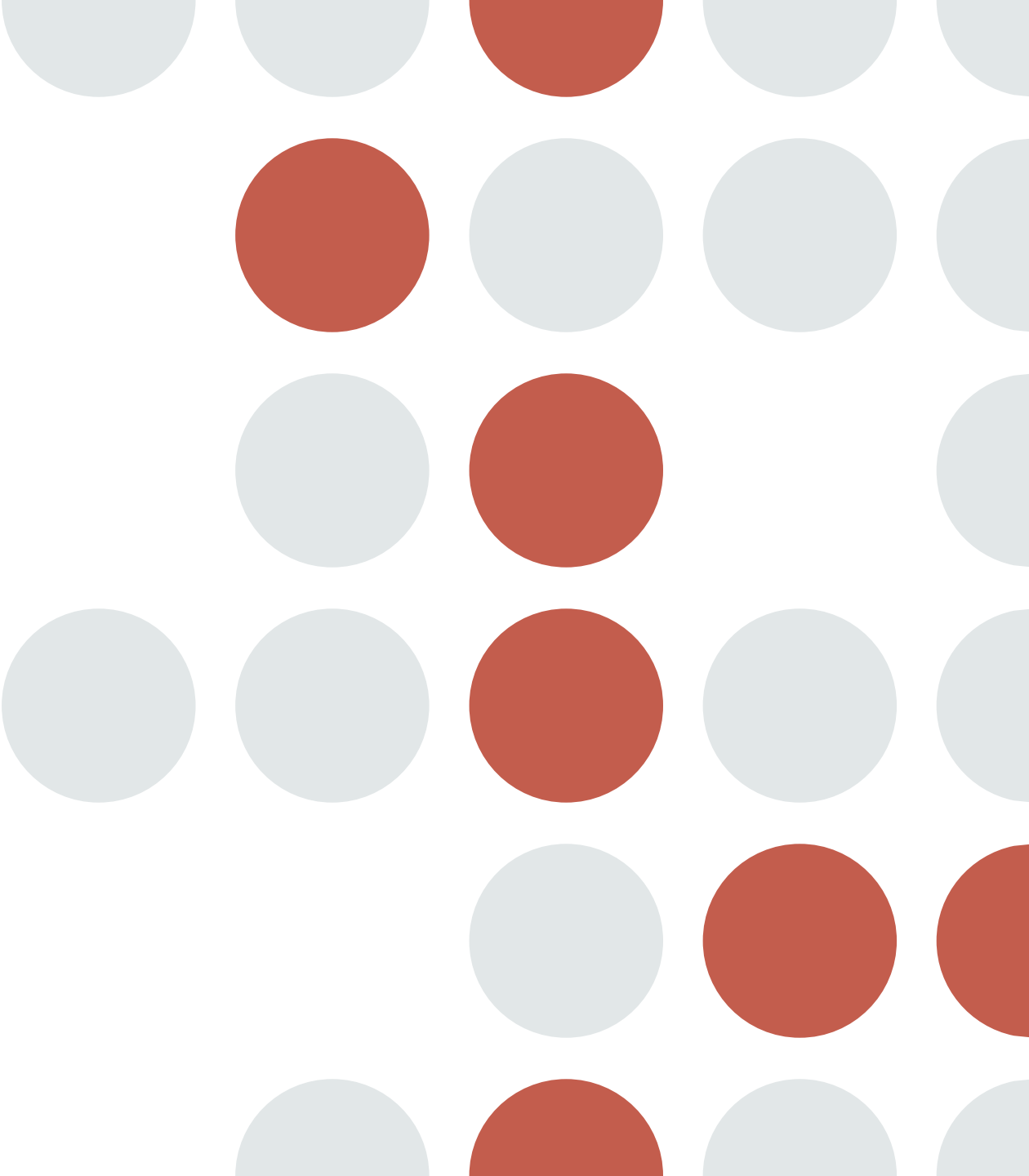


# Upcoming BAC & WG Meetings

- Upcoming agenda requests from BAC members?
  - Field trip requests from BAC or WG members?
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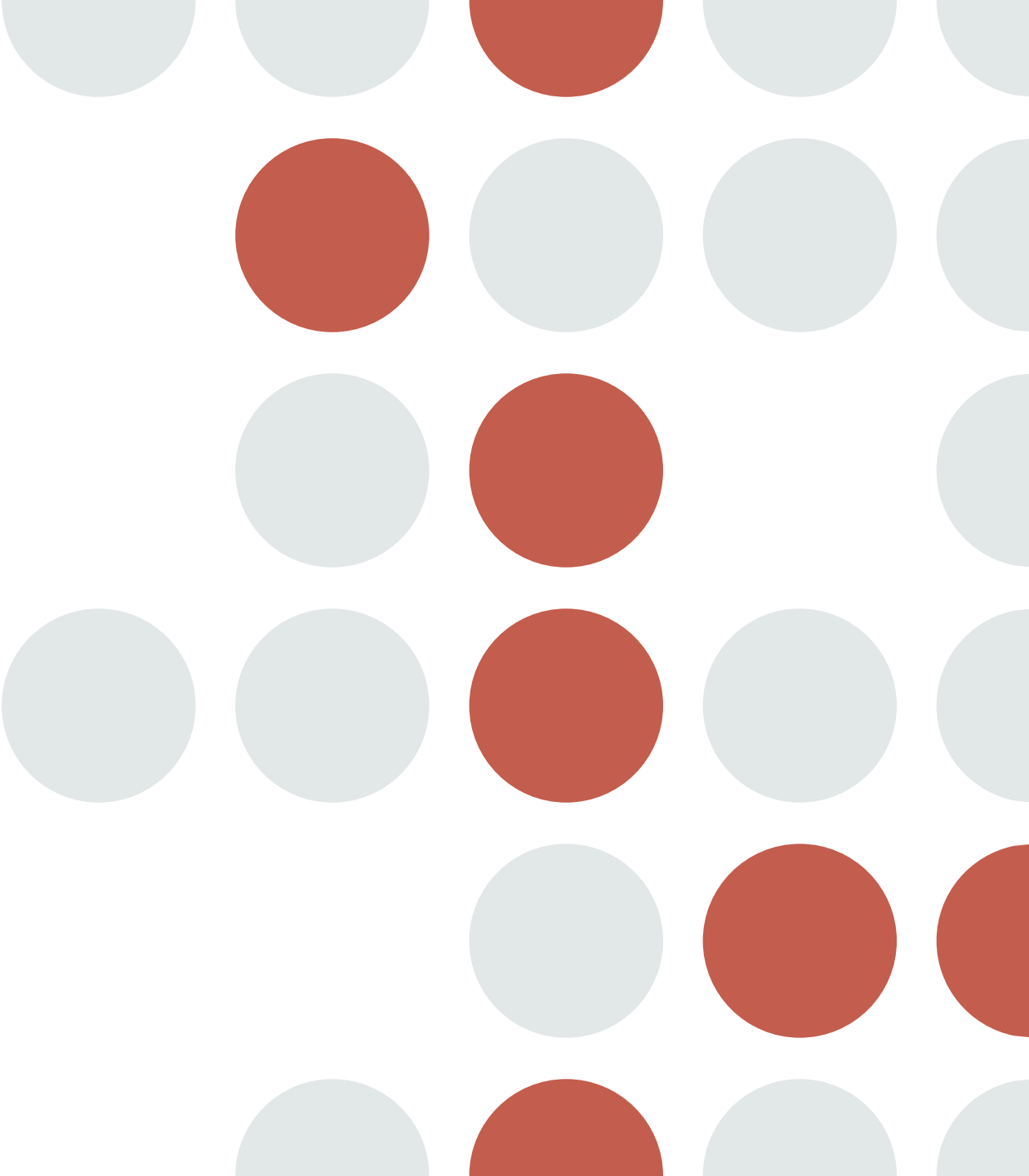
# Public Comment



# Reflections from BAC Members

What is your greatest hope  
for this effort?

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# Wrap Up

- Action Items & Next Steps
- Closing Comments

