



PHOTO CREDIT: PATRICK HENDRY ON UNSPLASH

# WATER GRAND CHALLENGES

Water is integral to providing a thriving future for Texas, but Texans will face challenges ensuring water is clean and available for all who need it. What are those challenges? In 2012, a group of water experts started convening Water Grand Challenges, creating what is now a ready-made think tank for identifying water priorities. In 2020, Water Grand Challenges was reconvened to assess Texas’ top water challenges and define how to fix them. Through a series of workshops and surveys, they identified **6 Water Grand Challenges\*** and **242 Actions**.



## SUPPLY

Providing **adequate** and **sustainable** water supplies for all Texans, allowing a thriving future for the state



## FLOWS

Ensuring scientifically sound **environmental flows** are equally prioritized within an enforceable regulatory framework



## SW/GW

Sustainably managing our **surface water** and **groundwater** resources to meet current and future needs while avoiding unacceptable impacts



## FUNDING

**Investing** in water **resources** to efficiently meet human and environmental needs



## AWARENESS

**Cultivating** awareness and **stewardship** of our vulnerable water resources



## QUALITY

Ensuring all Texas waters are **clean, healthy, and life-sustaining**

## PARTICIPANTS

# 42 EXPERTS

Participants represent a diverse group of experts from different fields including non-profits, consulting firms, river authorities, water providers, law firms, advocacy organizations, former regulators and legislators, and academia.

## METHOD

Facilitated by The Meadows Center for Water & the Environment.

# 7 WORKSHOPS

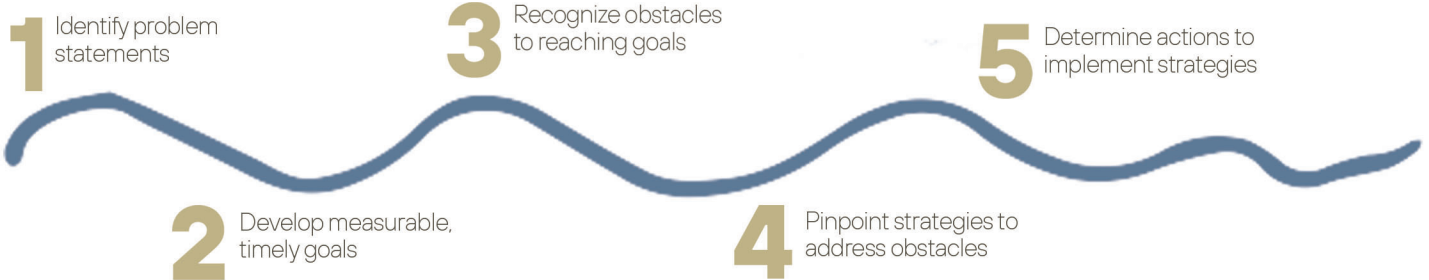
# 7 SURVEYS

\* In reviewing the Water Grand Challenges report, participants identified two additional challenges that needed to be addressed and added to the 6 Water Grand Challenges: 1. Climate Change: Considering climate change impacts in water decisions and 2. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Improving Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Texas water.



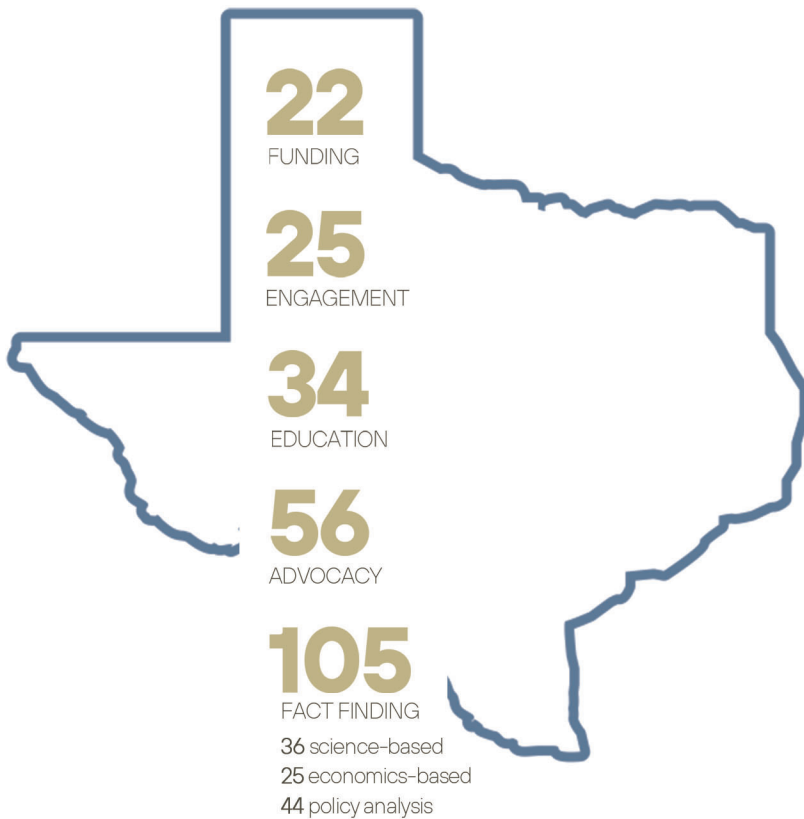
## THEORY OF CHANGE

Having identified the 6 Water Grand Challenges, participants used a process called Theory of Change to proactively identify pathways for action. Through in-depth surveys and workshops, water experts were asked to:



## ACTIONS

Participants identified **242 unique actions** to advance progress toward Water Grand Challenges.



## FUTURE STEPS

Moving forward, participants in Water Grand Challenges committed to the following:

-  **FACTS**  
Working on fact-finding actions identified in report
-  **ACTIONS**  
Surveying & coordinating with participants on ongoing and planned actions
-  **STRATEGY**  
Developing strategy to continue Water Grand Challenges work
-  **MONITORING**  
Monitoring progress on actions and Water Grand Challenges
-  **CLIMATE & EQUITY**  
Considering climate change and equity impacts

The 2020 Water Grand Challenges process was funded by the Cynthia & George Mitchell Foundation, The Meadows Foundation, and Nestlé North America. This issue brief is published by Texas Water Foundation, a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit, equipping decision makers with the tools to lead Texas into a sustainable water future.