



CENTRAL INDIANA CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Water Governance Models

A Study by CICP and INTERA

August 2025



About CICIP



Who We Are

CICP is a 26-year-old non-profit organization focused on driving economic growth and prosperity in Indiana, primarily through its advanced industry clusters. Our board consists of 68 CEO-only members of the state's most prominent organizations.

Our Mission

Transform the economy of Indiana in order to create a sustainable prosperity and quality of life for our citizens and future generations.

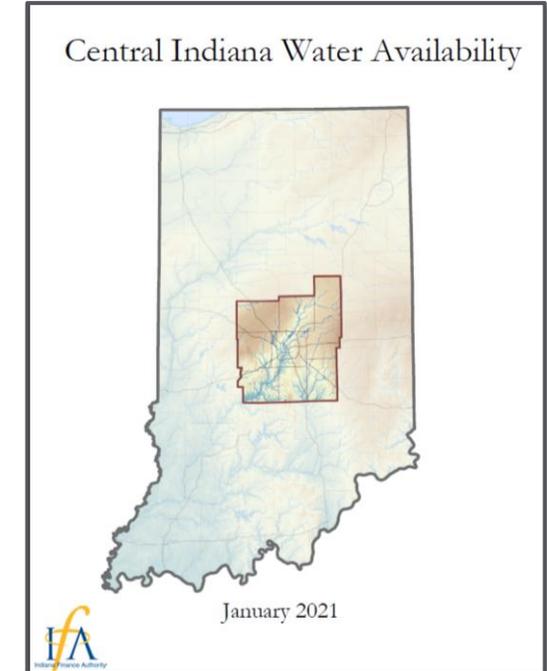
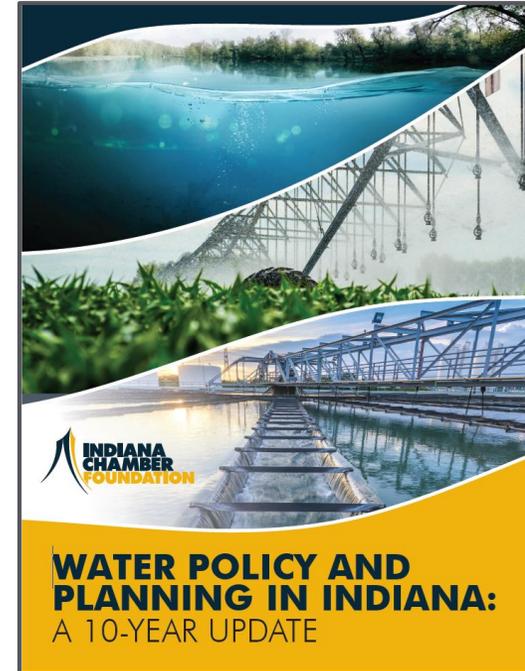


Project Background



Context

- Water resource governance has been a perennial issue with numerous studies by various parties in past years
- Recent issues related to large scale developments have highlighted concerns related to communities having reliable access to water and using water as an enabler of economic development
- Past years have highlighted related issues around drought preparedness and overall risk management
- **These past and emerging issues have all exposed a lack of strategy for water resource governance mechanisms in Indiana**

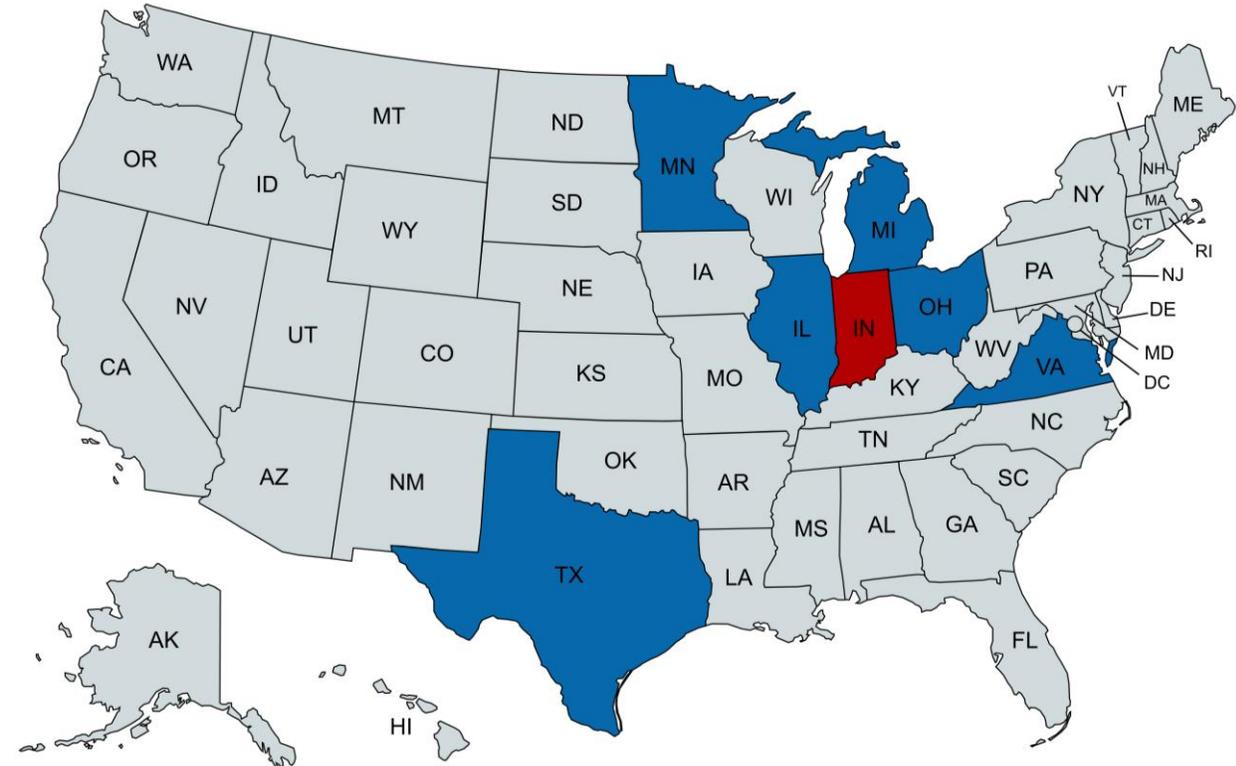


What did we do?



The Project

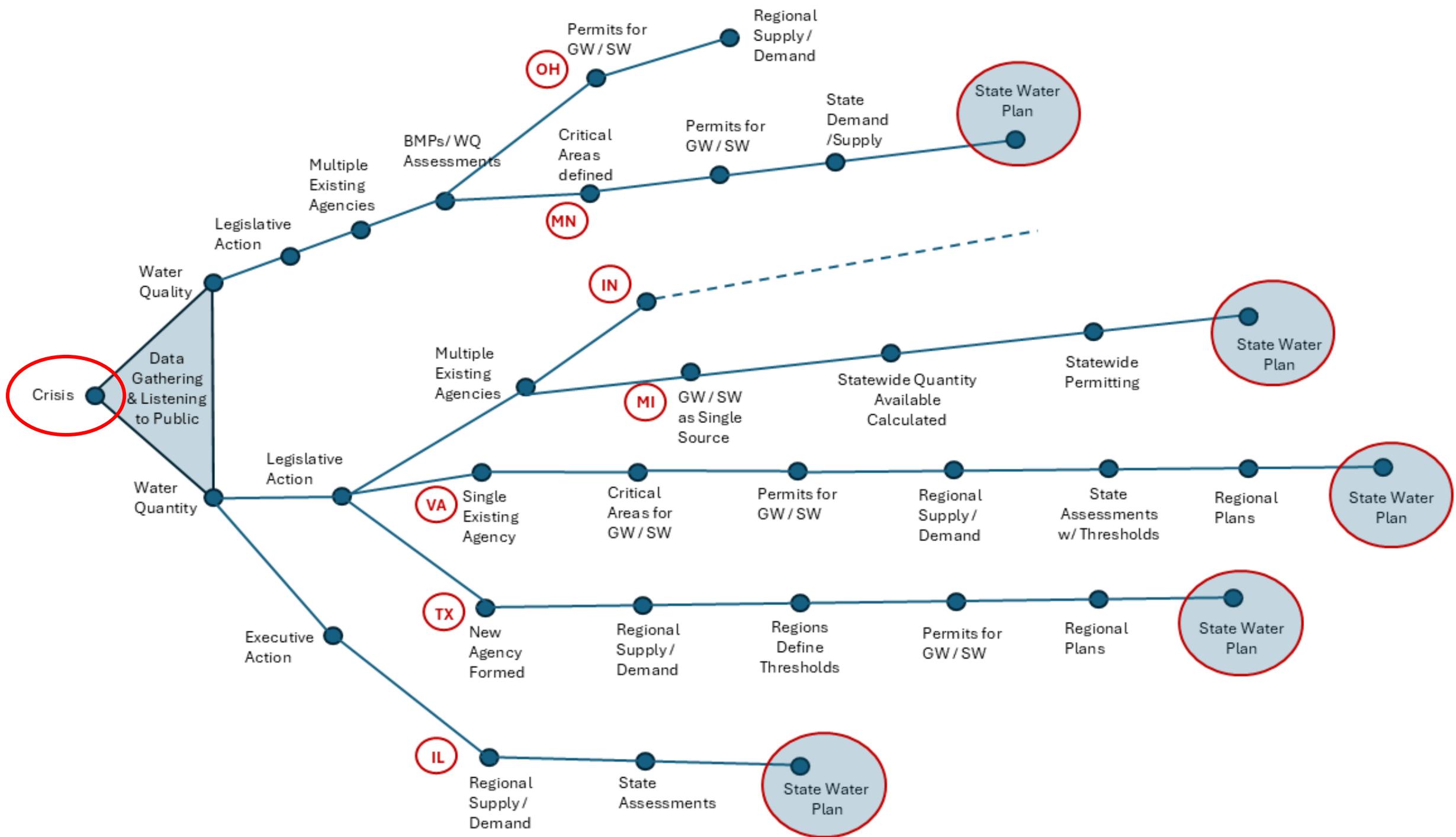
- Scope is to identify potential governance models that can be applied to Indiana
- Begins with an overall framework for thinking about different governance models
- Examines different states governance models (and their context and genesis) to generate lessons learned for accomplishing different objectives
- **The study can be used as a communication tool to inform stakeholders about the different water resource governance options available to Indiana**

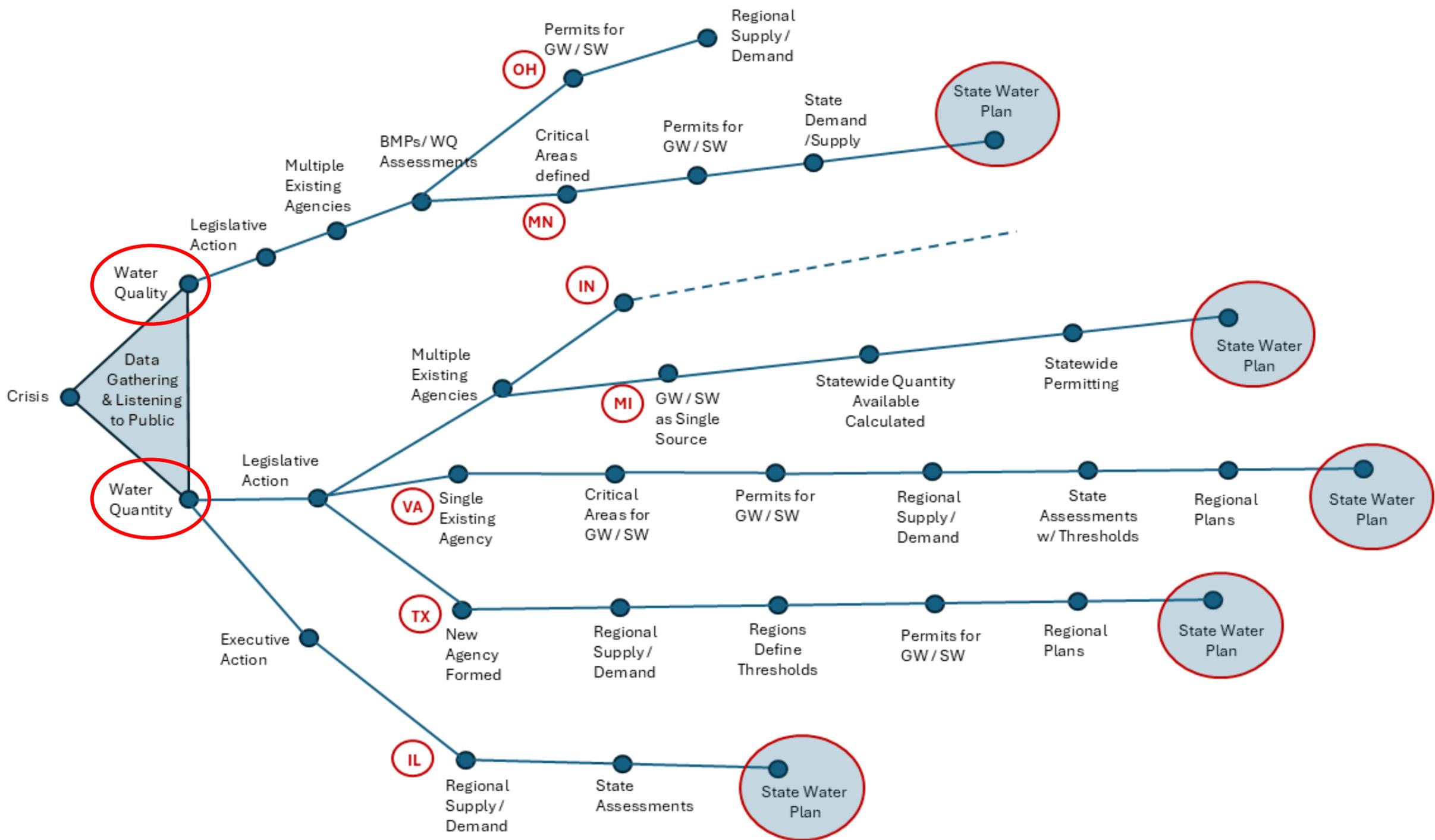


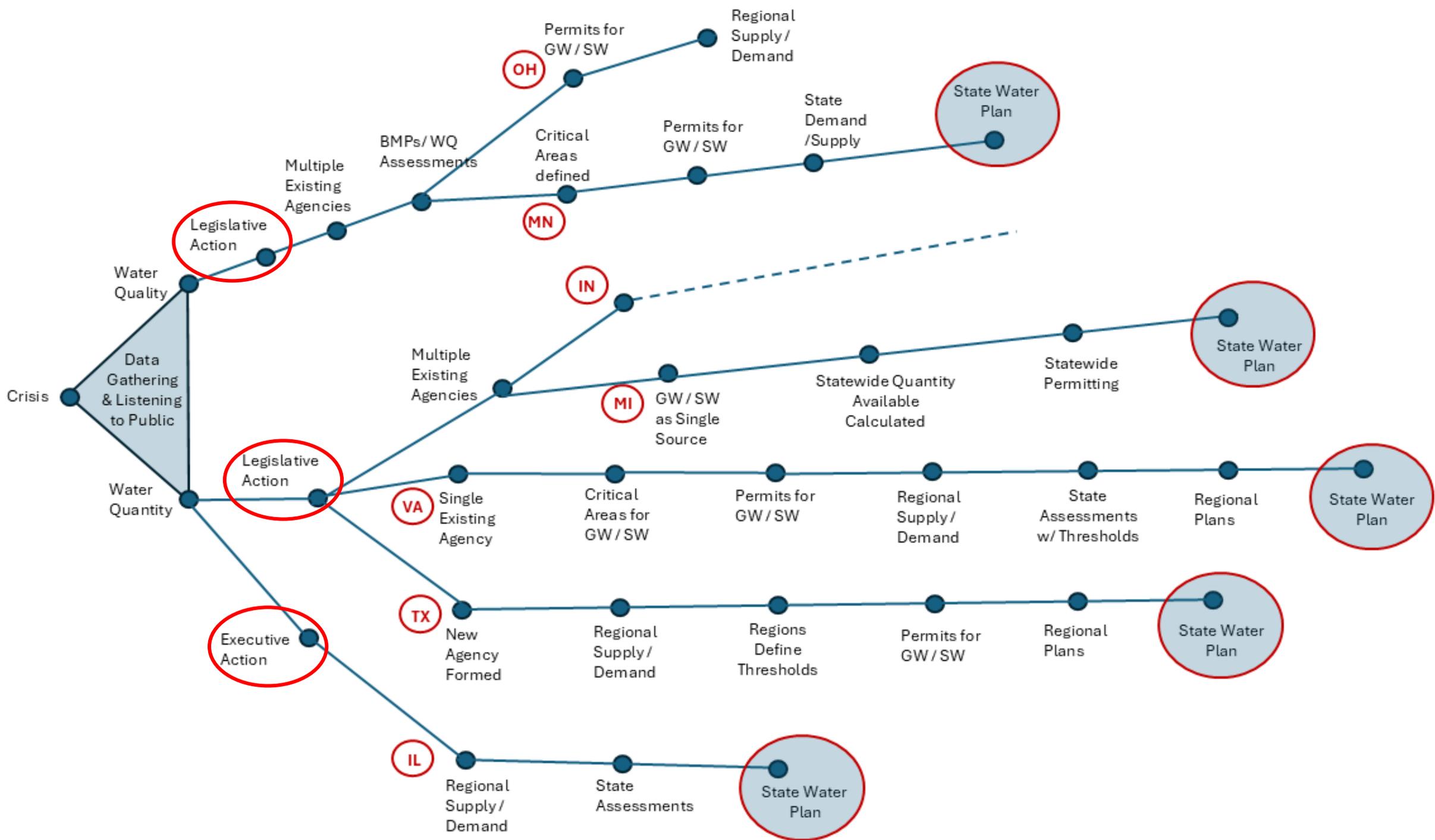
Case study: Virginia

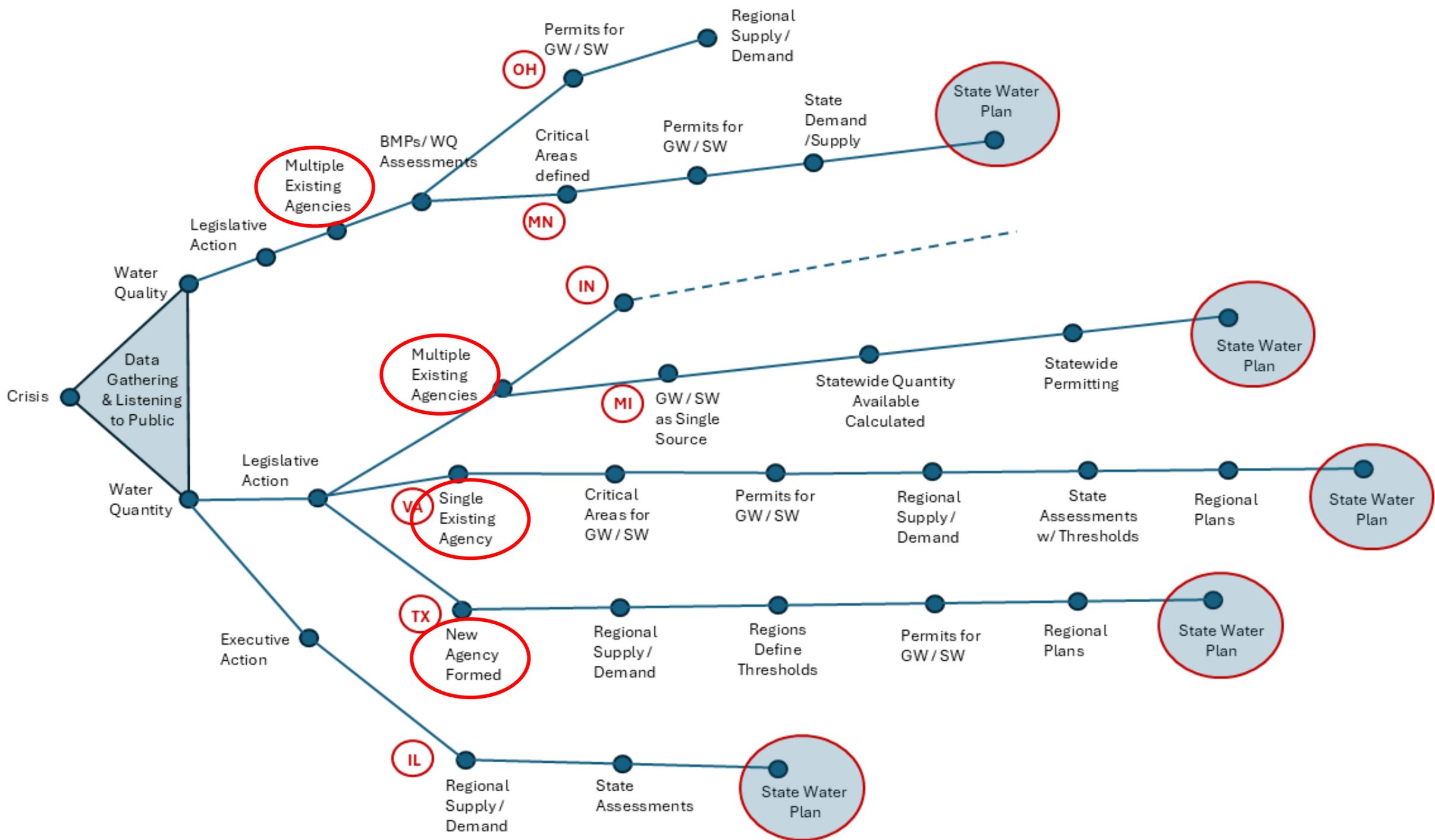


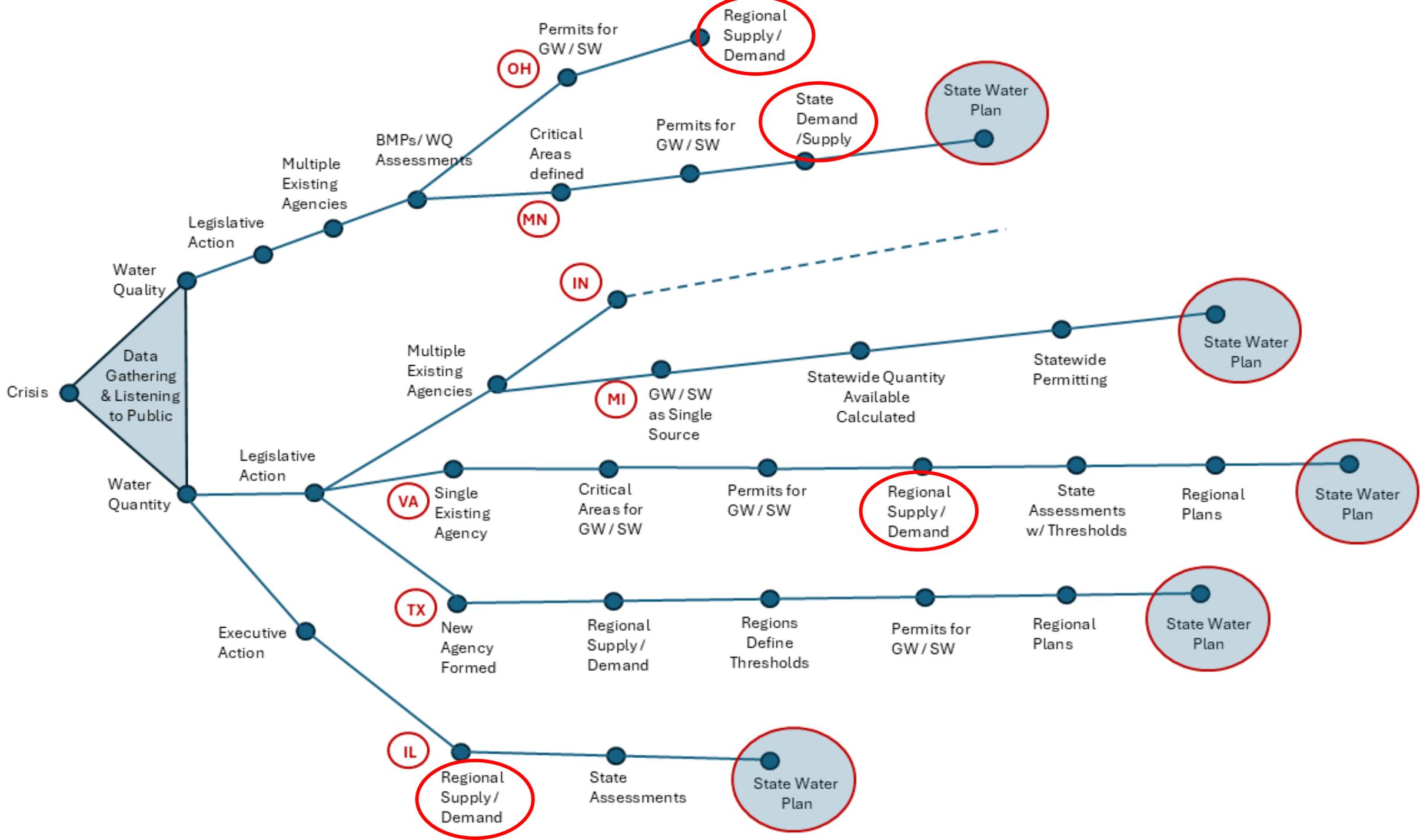
Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional water shortages in the 1970s and 1980s followed by a state-wide drought in the early 2000s
Policy and tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groundwater Act of 1973 (updated in 1992) required permits for groundwater extraction in certain at-risk areas• Surface Water Management Act of 1989 required permits for large surface water withdrawals in certain at-risk areas and encouraged local water users to develop resource management plans for drought conditions• Water Supply Planning program created in 2005 requires the development of a state water plan with prescribed inputs from defined regions• Water Reuse Act of 2008 encourages reclamation of wastewater and water reuse
Responsible agencies	Most resources work in the existing Department of Environmental Quality with additional responsibilities falling to the newly-created State Water Commission and State Water Control Board
Funding	Annual appropriations that fund DEQ with some non-recurring, <i>ad hoc</i> funding for special projects and investigations

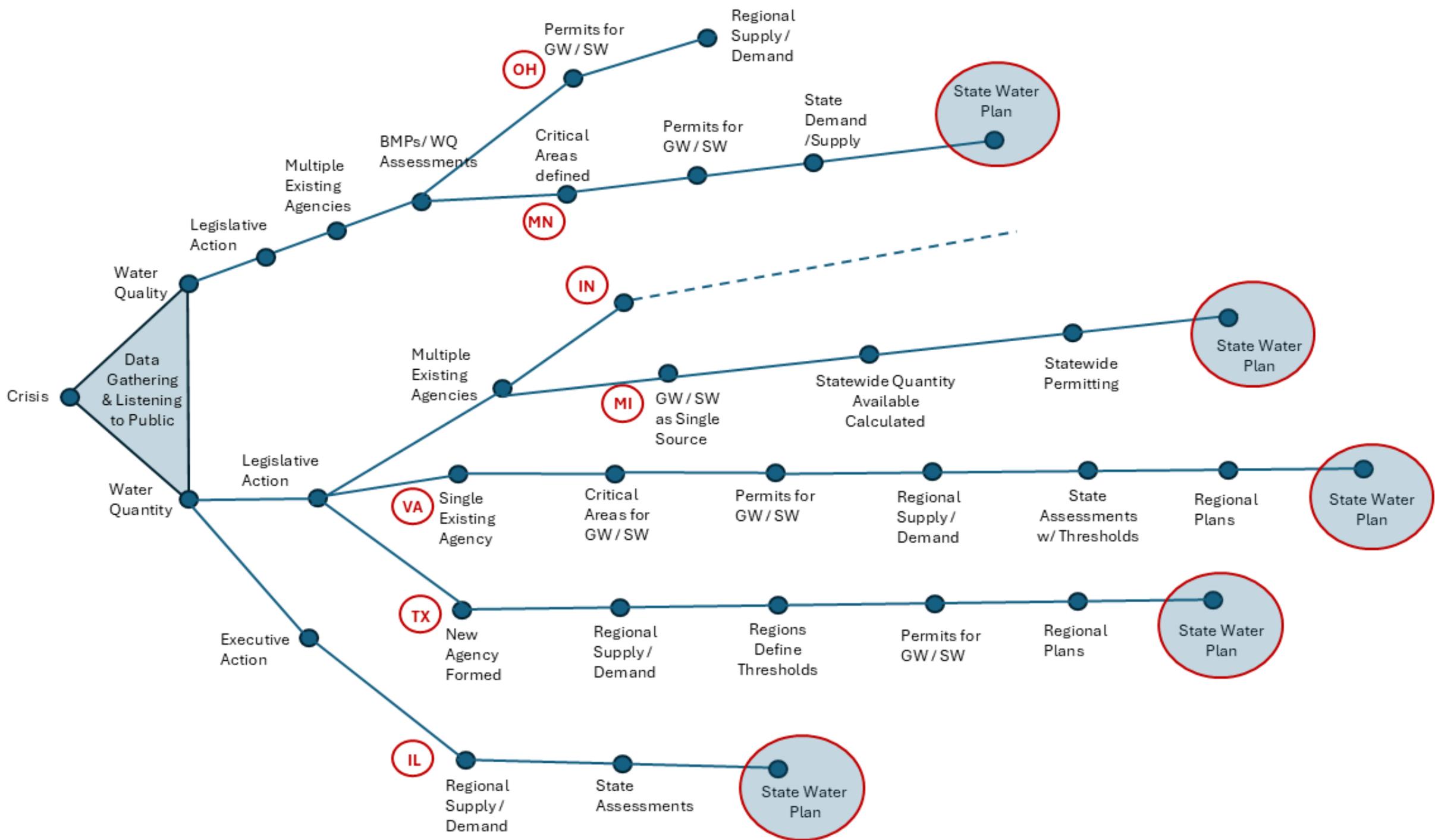






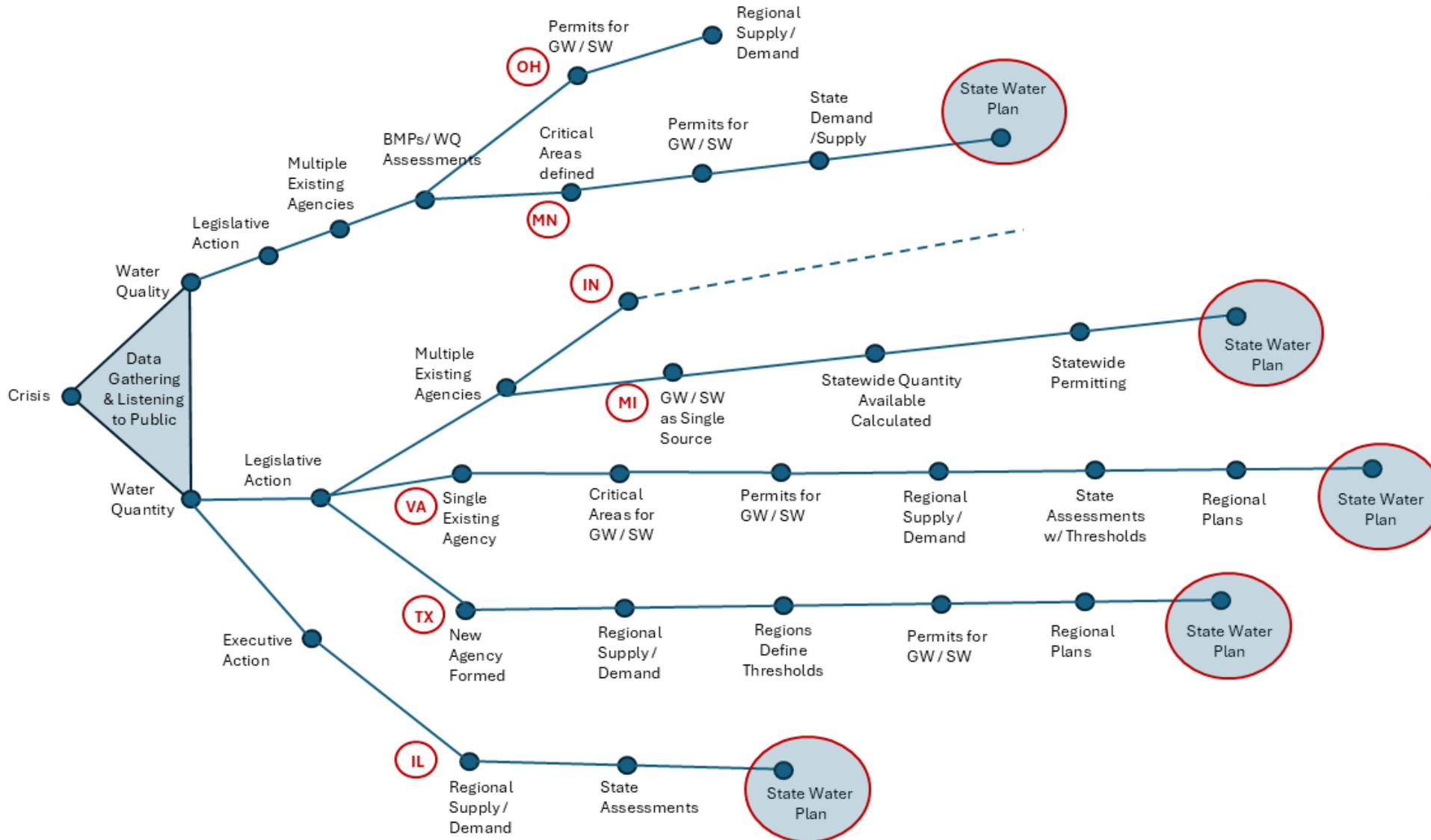








State comparison and key findings



Key Findings

- Most states' tools include a state water plan
- Most of these state water plans are driven locally per state level standards
- Many states started with more focused tools, e.g., permits, before evolving to include state water plans

Governance models framework



FUNDING SOURCES

GOVERNING BODY

- Multiple existing agencies
- One existing agency
- New, dedicated agency

SCOPE OF GOVERNANCE

Quantity Infrastructure Quality

- Significant withdrawals
- Regional transfers
- Risk management / drought preparedness

GOVERNANCE TOOLS

- Permits / approvals
- Regional plans
- Regional collaborations
- Conservation
- Use restriction

DATA COLLECTION

- Water withdrawals
- Reservoir stage
- Aquifer properties
- Surface water discharge
- Groundwater levels
- Surface water stage
- Reservoir capacity

ANALYSIS / INVESTIGATIONS

- Water demand
- Minimum aquifer levels
- Water availability
- Withdrawal impacts
- Minimum flows

Indiana has a diverse set of governance tools available



Water Plans

- Standards – Common state-wide standards vs locally set
- Demand planning – Local with state-level aggregation vs central
- Various ways of defining regions
- Various monitoring, data collection, and analytics to support

Permits

- Specifically identified regions vs state-wide
- Defined threshold flows and levels
- Surface water vs ground water vs both
- Other specific cases, e.g., inter-basin or pipeline transport

Other

- Water withdrawals reported by significant water withdrawal facilities (annual/monthly)
- Triggered use restrictions
- Incentivized or mandated conservation actions
- Formal adjudication processes for specific conflict cases
- Regional collaborations across utilities and other stakeholders

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Indiana does this consistently
Indiana does this in priority areas
Indiana does not do this

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