



# One Watershed, One Plan: Partnership Development

November 2016

**TO: Members of Planning Groups for One Watershed, One Plan**

## **Background:**

Participating in One Watershed, One Plan brings together local governments with local water planning authority across a watershed with the common purpose of partnering to create a watershed plan. Staff from these local governments form the Planning Work Group. This group steers the development of the watershed plan and, also, convenes and engages with the Advisory Committee whom provides input and the Policy Committee who provide input and makes decisions.

Often everyone in a Planning Work Group has not worked with everyone else in the group. Represented are varying viewpoints, perspective and knowledge concerning the watershed. New work groups go through stages of development. Navigating these stages requires intentionality and skills to create an inclusive and respectful environment while supporting engagement of all group members.

## **Purpose:**

The primary audience for partnership development are members of the Planning Work Group. The objective is twofold: 1) Assist in the integration of key partnering/work group elements and components to *provide a foundation for effective partnering* which will carry into the implementation phase and 2) *Enhance skills in members of the Planning Work Group* to partner effectively as a Planning Work Group and as they convene and work with the Advisory Committee and Policy Committee.

## **How:**

Through an RFP process, BWSR contracted with UMN Extension's Center for Community Vitality/Leadership and Civic Engagement program area to provide partnership development. The role of the Partnership Development consultants, known as coaches, is to assist watersheds in the integration of key elements for partnering/collaborating and to provide members of the Planning Work Group an opportunity to enhance their skill sets. Their role is one of training and coaching. This will occur both in person and remotely. While they are there to facilitate learning and skill building they are not there to facilitate meetings. One Watershed, One Plan is to be locally lead.

## **What will this "look" like:**

Each watershed is different in watershed context, readiness to partner and skill sets. BWSR created a curriculum outline which identifies key elements and components for effective partnering/collaborating. This was to ensure that there was consistent "messaging" with content topics. Which content is selected and how each coach approaches integration and training will vary across watersheds because of the uniqueness of each watershed, it partners' existing skills, and the training approach of the coach to integrate and enhance skills. Planning Work Groups are encouraged to work with their coach in determining sequence and depth of content.