



Accounting for Local Funds

Supporting information for Section G.3.a of the 1W1P Plan Content Requirements (version 2.0)

Money for implementing your comprehensive watershed management plan will come from a variety of local, state, and federal sources. Your plan will need to estimate the amount of money each of these sources will contribute to implementation. This document focuses on defining “local” funding so you can think about a range of funding mechanisms available to local governments*. Your planning partnership may want to estimate current water management expenditures for the watershed in order to set a baseline. This can inform future implementation levels based on what’s happening now and help determine whether the current local funding (along with anticipated state and federal funds) will be adequate to reach plan goals. This document is not intended to be a definitive list of local funding sources.

The plan should contain an estimate of locally generated money (funds derived from the ad valorem levies, fees, services, or donations from citizens, local organizations, or local chapters of national organizations). Local funds could include:

Remember to include locally generated money used to match state grants in your calculation of current and future water management expenditures.

- Locally generated money for water management activities identified in the plan
- County or watershed district (WD) support of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
- Funds generated through the sale of services and products such as SWCD tree sales
- Local costs to administer ordinances including state rules and programs (e.g. shoreland, feedlots, subsurface sewage treatment systems , Wetland Conservation Act)
- Landowner/land occupier contributions toward conservation implementation, including cash and in-kind services used as matching funds for state and federal cost-share programs
- Money, including matching contributions from locally-based partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporations, local businesses, etc. that contribute to plan activities (e.g. lake association participation in volunteer monitoring efforts, habitat work by local conservation groups, other locally-led water initiatives that implement work identified in the plan)
- Local funds for capital improvement projects that are initiated by local governments and that benefit water resources (e.g., including municipal stormwater improvements, highway improvements that include stormwater treatment, hydraulic and hydrologic corrections within the watershed flow network) or that benefit other activities within the plan*
- Donated easements that have a primary or secondary purpose of water quality improvements
- Money spent by cities on stormwater management, drinking water supply, etc., if they are plan activities and/or if cities are officially part of the partnership*

*See the BWSR document “Local Funding Authorities” for an overview of Minnesota statutes and laws that provide authorities to local government to fund water management activities.

Watershed management activities and potential locally-generated funding sources

	County	SWCD	WD & WMO	Land Owners/ Occupiers	Volunteer Orgs & NGOs	Cities and smaller municipalities
Financial assistance and incentive programs	O	O	X			X
Funds used to match state and federal program funds	X	X	X	X	O	O
Capital Improvements, including stormwater, multi-purpose drainage management, hydraulic and hydrologic restorations including wetlands, and operations and maintenance work	X	O	X			X
Regulation & Enforcement	X		X			X
Data collection and monitoring (including volunteer monitoring)		O	X		X	O
Information, Outreach & Education	X	X	X		O	X
Landscape management (e.g., forestry) and acquisition (easements)	X	O	X	O	X	O

X Groups are most likely to contribute funding

O Groups may contribute funding, depending on project/organization resources available

[blank] Groups generally do not contribute funding (but may under some circumstances)

Calculating local funds on a watershed boundary

Contribution estimates from individual local government units fully within planning area boundaries can be aggregated for an overall local contribution amount. Special projects, capital improvement projects, and landowner or NGO contributions that will occur within the planning area boundaries may be included in their entirety.

In the case where funds collected on an ad valorem basis across a legal jurisdiction do not align with the planning area boundaries, these funds should be pro-rated. Planning partners can decide on a method for estimating the portion of those funds that will be included in the total local contribution to plan implementation such as:

- The percentage of the organization's land area that falls within the watershed boundary
- The percentage of the local government's population that lives within the watershed area
- A combination of the above or other locally-decided formula

The planning partners may choose any method, as long as it is described in the plan and is repeatable and consistent throughout the entire watershed.