



Minnesota's Water Planning Efforts Evolve

January 2014 Snapshots



The One Watershed, One Plan approach takes water planning to the next level

Minnesota has a long history of water management by local governments. One Watershed, One Plan is the next logical step in the evolution of water planning in Minnesota. One Watershed, One Plan is rooted work initiated by the Local Government Water Roundtable, comprised of representatives from the Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, and the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In 2011, roundtable members recommended local governments charged with water management responsibility to organize and develop focused implementation plans on a watershed scale, rather than County boundaries.

The recommendation was followed by legislation permitting the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to adopt methods to allow comprehensive plans, local water management plans, or

watershed management plans to serve as substitutes for one another; or to be replaced with one comprehensive watershed management plan. The legislation also required BWSR to establish a suggested watershed boundary framework for these plans. This legislation is referred to as **One Watershed, One Plan**.

The One Watershed, One Plan vision is to align local planning and implementation with state strategies over a ten year transition period into plans built largely around the state's major watersheds.

What's next?

Over the next year, BWSR will develop the program framework, policies, criteria, and guidance. Completion will yield:

- A shared understanding on the definitions of prioritized, targeted, and measured;
- Agreement on the expectations, benefits, and outcome measures for implementing One Watershed, One Plan in specific watersheds;
- A selection of initial pilot areas for implementation;
- An understanding of next steps for funding and implementation; and
- A suggested watershed plan boundary framework (map).

A One Watershed, One Plan page will be included on the BWSR website as materials are developed. Questions and comments can be directed to Doug Thomas, BWSR Senior Policy and Program Advisor at 651-215-6338 or doug.thomas@state.mn.us.

