



Metro Watershed Based Funding Local Governmental Unit Engagement



Process Overview



The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) partnered with the Metropolitan Council to facilitate a multi-phased stakeholder engagement process to gather recommendations for the Watershed Based Funding (WBF) Program for the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Computer Survey



July-August 2018: The first phase consisted of a high-level stakeholder survey on the pilots of the metro area WBF. An electronic survey was sent out to stakeholders. The results were tallied and shaped the focus group breakout questions.

Focus Groups



September 2018: The second phase consisted of a series of focus groups. Each stakeholder group was invited to provide deeper input into how the future WBF Program would function in the metro area and nominated two representatives and one alternative to attend a multi-stakeholder forum.

Multi-Stakeholder Forums



November 2018- January 2019: The third phase was a multi-stakeholder forum. A group of ten representatives was tasked with developing recommendations from the metro-area stakeholders to guide BWSR staff and committee members as they craft the guidelines of the Metro WBF. The three recommendation topics were Geographic/Planning Areas, Allocation of Funds, and LGU/ Plan Eligibility.

BWSR Integrates Recommendations



January-July 2019: In the fourth phase, BWSR will combine the recommendations from the Metro WBF multi-stakeholder forum with recommendations from other statewide stakeholder groups to develop final guidelines and language for the WBF Program.

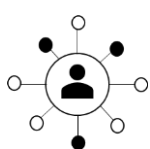
Approved Policy



August 2019: In the fifth and final phase, the BWSR Board will approve and authorize the policy and funding for the WBF Program.

By the Numbers...

5 Stakeholder Groups



Cities & Townships
Watershed Districts
Watershed Management Orgs.
Counties
Soil Water Conservation Districts



86 Participants



28 Hours of Conversation



9 Facilitated Meetings



3 Recommendations

Recommendations

Planning Areas

The Planning Areas should mostly follow the 1W1P boundaries, however, the Mississippi Twin Cities and Lower Minnesota should be split by their rivers (Figure 1).

There should be a separate Planning Area for groundwater.

Allocation

The Allocation from BWSR to the Planning Areas should be distribution by a formula. The primary driver should be Land Area, and the secondary driver should be a tax-based parameter. There should be a minimum allocation amount, so that if a geographic area's formulaic result does not reach the threshold it should have a guaranteed minimum amount.

Groundwater should be allocated separately from the other proposed Planning Areas.

Eligibility

Cities/Townships, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, counties, soil water conservation districts, or joint powers boards/joint powers organizations are eligible for direct distribution of WBF funds.

Eligible plans for WBF funds are WD/WMO management plans, County groundwater management plans, One Watershed One Plan plans, and SWCD management plans (assuming at a minimum they will have a stronger review process including public engagement & BWSR Board approval).

Additional Guidance

Each area will have a group of organizations evaluate fund distribution at their local level. This **Planning Area Evaluation Team** will include 1-2 city/township representative(s), a representative from each of the WD/WMOs, county, and SWCDs in the planning area.

They **must**:

- Use Prioritized, Targeted, Measurable (PTM) in their decision-making. There must be some measurability incorporated into this process. This criterion will allow the areas to identify and track what they are trying to achieve.
- Use Local Water Quality Priorities – The group acknowledges the variation within and across the metro and wants to ensure that the priorities of each planning area are set by the participants, not external influences.
- Meet at least once to decide how the funds will be distributed to the implementing entities.

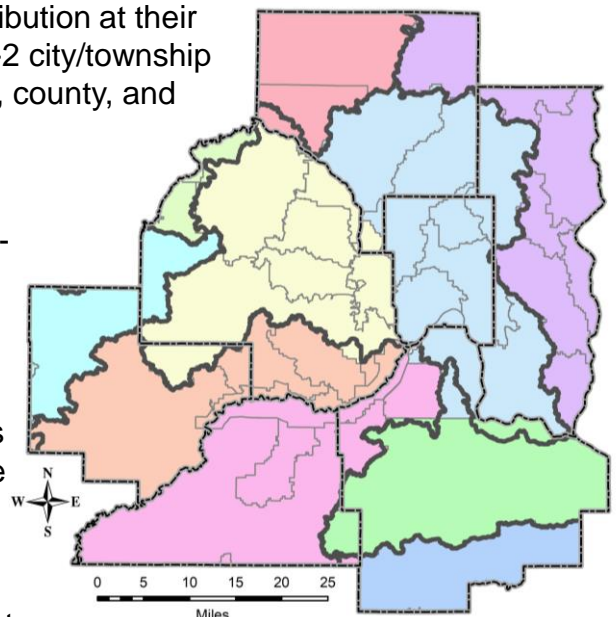


Figure 1: Recommended Planning Areas