



What is One Watershed, One Plan?

One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) is a program through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) that supports partnerships of local governments in developing prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans. Key principles are planning at the major watershed scale and aligning local plans with state strategies. Plans created through the 1W1P program are called *comprehensive watershed management plans* and are described in [§103B.801](#).

- The program is designed to foster collaboration between upstream and downstream neighbors to work where it's most important in the watershed, not limited to county or other jurisdictional boundaries.
- Plans identify and prioritize resources and issues and set measurable goals. A targeted implementation schedule describes planned actions. Plans also describe programs and the future partnership that will implement the plan.
- Plans are comprehensive: they address water quality and quantity, groundwater, drinking water, habitat, recreation, and other issues.
- Collaboration between local partners and state agencies creates opportunities for dialogue about water management goals and activities, and fosters the use of state data and strategies in local planning.

Minnesota has a long history of water management by local government. One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) is the next step in the evolution of water planning. The program is built on three components:

1. State legislation: [§103B.101](#) and [§103B.801](#)
2. Recommendations from the Local Government Roundtable (Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts)
3. BWSR policy: [Guiding Principles, Plan Content Requirements, and Operating Procedures](#)

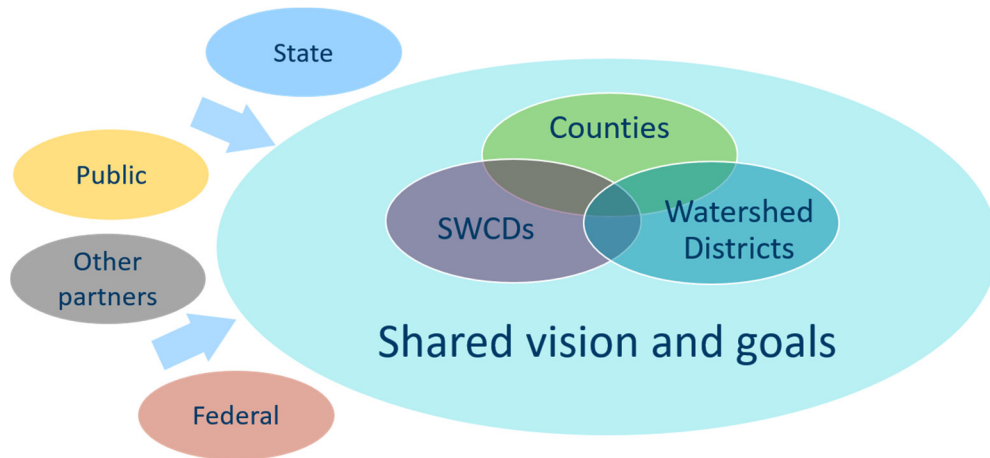
Who is involved?

Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), counties, and watershed districts are required participants. Participation is optional for local governments in the seven-county metropolitan area.

Developing a plan involves an advisory committee (which includes state agencies and other interested or affected parties, who make recommendations to the policy committee) and a policy committee (which makes the final decisions on the plan). A steering team may facilitate the process, and groups may wish to hire consultants to help with technical analyses and plan writing. Local governments work together to leverage each other's strengths to develop watershed-based plans. Planning partnerships establish:

- Agreement on the expectations, benefits, and outcomes for implementing the plan

- Implementation activities that address the largest threats to water resources and that provide the greatest environmental benefit
- An understanding of the procedures for substituting or replacing all or portions of existing water plans
- An understanding of next steps for coordinated funding and implementation



What goes into the plans?

Comprehensive watershed management plans contain:

- A narrative describing the watershed’s land and water resources
- A summary of the priority issues and resource concerns
- Measurable goals for addressing each priority issue
- A targeted implementation schedule outlining actions
- A description of the program(s) that will be used to implement the actions in the schedule
- A description of the ongoing partnership that will work together to implement the plan

Ultimately, the One Watershed, One Plan program encourages planners to look beyond individual water management projects – plans include programs that address education, recreation, soil health, monitoring, and more. The program also encourages local governments to move beyond jurisdictional boundaries to build regional partnerships and to seek out diverse funding sources.

Where can I find more information?

Program information is available at <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/planning/1W1P/index.html>. Key documents:

- *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures* (process, structure, roles)
- *One Watershed, One Plan Plan Content Requirements* (required plan elements)
- *One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook* (additional information, advice, and examples)