

One Watershed, One Plan policies updated as participation grows

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) recently updated One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program policies as participation in the program continues to increase. So far, 27 watershed planning partnerships have either completed or are in the process of developing Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans.

One Watershed, One Plan is a BWSR program that supports partnerships of local governments in developing implementation plans to set priorities based on data and local values, target practices to address priorities, and predict measurable results. The program is designed to foster collaboration between upstream and downstream neighbors without being limited by county or other local government boundaries. Plans address a range of water management issues that affect water quality, flooding, groundwater, drinking water, habitat, recreation, and more.

BWSR's Board of Directors recently approved changes to the program's two key policy documents. These documents were based on policies for the pilot program developed in 2014. They were updated in 2016 when the program was formally established and again in March 2018. The most recent updates are intended to streamline and clarify the requirements as well as emphasize important sections of the planning process.

The Operating Procedures policy was updated to add a requirement for sharing public comments during the plan review and approval process, and remove an automatic exemption for local government



units with less than five percent of their area in the planning boundary. The Plan Content Requirements policy was also updated to add a requirement for discussion of watershed context, along with minor policy tweaks such as moving certain items from the appendix into the overall plan. The updated policies are available on BWSR's website [here](#) (look for "version 2.0" dated March 28, 2018). Each policy includes a detailed list of what was updated from the previous version.

In addition to updating policy documents, BWSR staff have created a One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook. The guidebook includes definitions, examples, and considerations to provide direction to planning groups as they move through each phase of

the planning process. The guide is intended to serve as a resource for groups developing comprehensive watershed management plans and is not considered a formal BWSR policy. BWSR will continue to add content to the guidebook as it is developed. The Guidebook can be found here on the BWSR One Watershed, One Plan website under 'Developing your Plan – Contents'.

The BWSR Board of Directors recently approved planning grants for nine new planning partnerships. Those approved for funding will adhere to the new versions of the 1W1P Policy documents.

