

One Watershed One Plan



One Watershed, One Plan Timeline

2008: Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment passed

2011: Local Government Water Roundtable recommendation for watershed-scale planning

2012: *One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P)* legislative authorization

2013: 1W1P Framework and Principles adopted

Early 2014: BWSR 1W1P pilot request for interest

Jun 2014: 1W1P Pilot watersheds initiated

2014-2015: 1W1P pilot plan drafting period

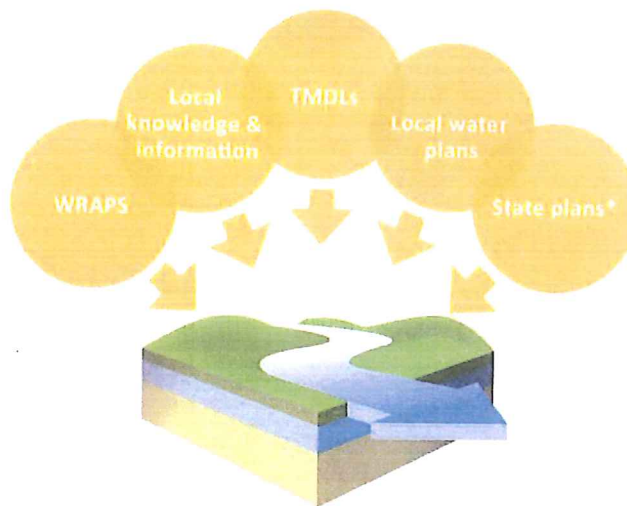
January 2016: Permanent 1W1P program in place

Purpose

Align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans – the next logical step in the evolution of water planning in Minnesota.

The Plan

Plans developed through *One Watershed, One Plan* will build off existing local water management plans and priorities, existing and new studies and data, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS), and other related plans from state agencies. Some examples of these plans include: MN Department of Agriculture State Nitrogen Management Plan, MN Pollution Control Agency State Nutrient Reduction Strategy, MN Department of Natural Resources Prairie Conservation Plan, MN Department of Health Wellhead Protection Plans, and the Metropolitan Council 2030 Water Resources Management Policy Plan. Development of *One Watershed, One Plans* will be locally-led; and will be watershed-based with prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation actions.



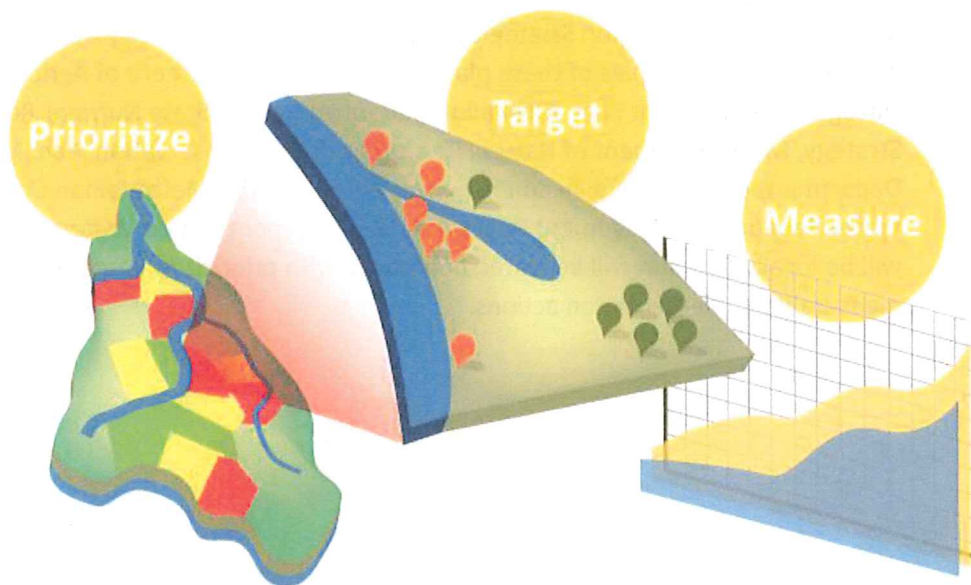
Today

BWSR recognizes that reorganization of the state's watershed planning efforts will take time. A transition period of 10 years is anticipated for: completion of a comprehensive assessment of Minnesota watersheds and development of WRAPS by major watershed by the PCA. These reports will be followed by BWSR-supported, locally led collaborative development of watershed-based plans.

Goals for *One Watershed, One Plan*:

- Acknowledges and builds off of existing local government structure, water plan services, and capacity;
- Incorporates and makes use of data and information including newly developed Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies;
- Clearly identifies the responsibilities and actions necessary to achieve the goals of the plan;
- Solicits input from and engages experts from agencies, citizens, and stakeholder groups;
- Consolidates the number of water plans from over 200 to less than 100; and
- Focuses on implementation actions that are *prioritized, targeted, and measurable*.

Key Concepts: Prioritized, Targeted, and Measurable



Measurable results that can show pace of progress toward the identified goals.

Prioritized areas to focus where implementation matters most.

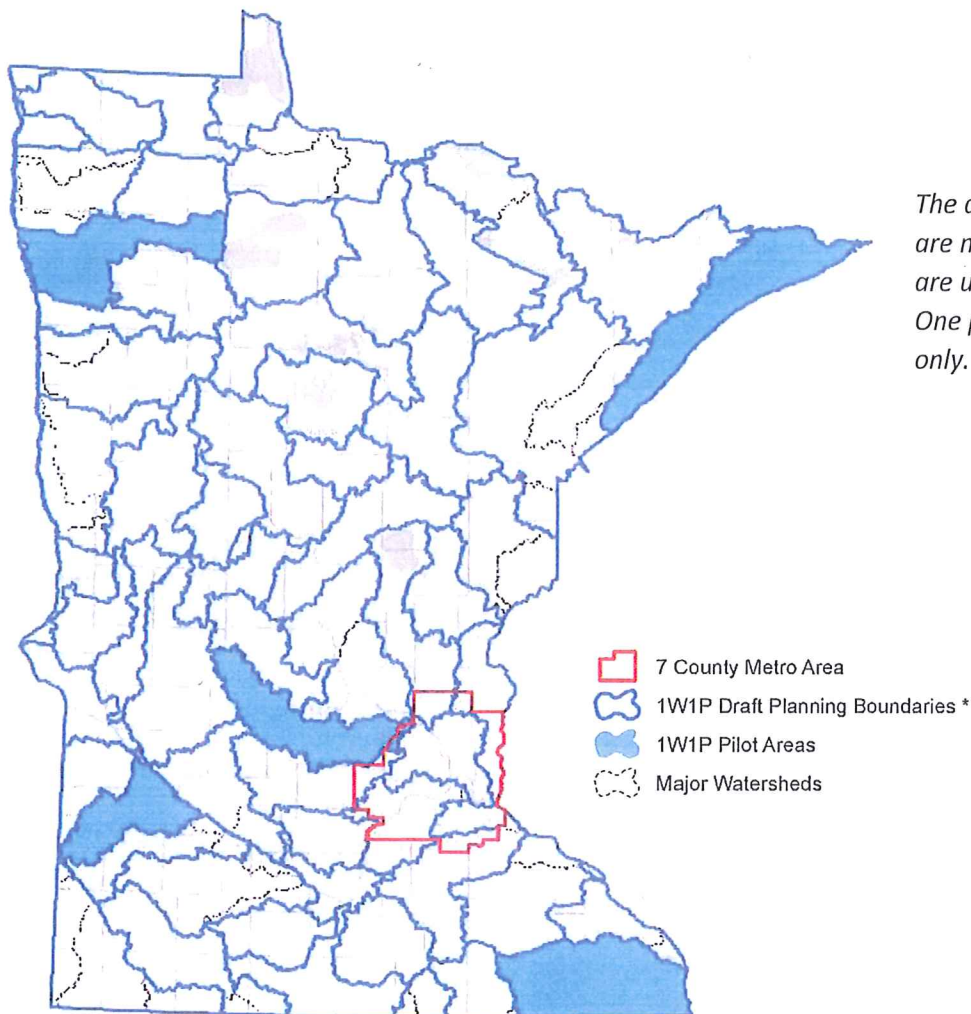
Targeted practices with the priority areas provide direction for on-the-ground action based on sound science.

Pilot Watershed Program

In early 2014, BWSR sought nominations for five watersheds across the state to pilot the *One Watershed, One Plan*. The intent of the piloting the *One Watershed, One Plan* is to provide feedback and experience to adjust and streamline the framework prior to the statewide rollout of the program. Thirteen nominations were received; by June of 2014, five different watershed areas were selected. They were:

- Yellow Medicine River Watershed in the Minnesota River Basin
- Root River Watershed in the Lower Mississippi River Basin
- Red Lake River Watershed in the Red River Basin
- Lake Superior North Watershed in the Lake Superior River Basin
- North Fork Crow Watershed in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

These watershed areas were chosen based on their ability to represent a spread of geographic and geologic areas in the state of Minnesota, varying needs for restoration and/or protection efforts, and differing socio-political structures.



The draft planning boundaries are not legal boundaries and are used for One Watershed, One plan planning purposes only.

Endorsements

The vision of the *One Watershed, One Plan* follows the next logical step in the evolution of water planning in Minnesota. Several state strategies and organizations have already supported the initial framework of the *One Watershed, One Plan* program:

- Clean Water Council endorsed the *One Watershed, One Plan* framework for water resources planning
- BWSR's Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan is built on the watershed approach, reflected in the *One Watershed, One Plan*
- 2013 Water Governance Evaluation identified the strategies built on 2012 *One Watershed, One Plan* legislation as recommended organizational strategies for improving policies, processes, and requirements to improve water quality and sustainable water supplies

Next Steps for *One Watershed, One Plan*

The final *One Watershed, One Plan* program is to be adopted by the BWSR Board in December 2015. Lessons, feedback, and experience gained from the pilot watershed plans will adjust and streamline the framework for the statewide rollout of the program. Final plans developed within the *One Watershed, One Plan* framework will:

- Serve as a substitute or replace all or portions of existing water plans as outlined within the legislation;
- Be informed by existing science, studies and projects;
- Establish water quality goals and targets by parameter of concern and sub-watersheds;
- Include short-term (10 year) and long term (20 year) quantifiable milestones;
- Identify the implementing authority and establish timelines and cost estimates based on these milestones;
- Coordinate the collection, ranking, and submission of requests for funding to the State and other sources;
- Be voluntary; will not create new watershed authorities.

How Do I Stay Informed?

For up-to-date information on the statewide rollout of the *One Watershed, One Plan*, please visit the BWSR program website, available at: www.bwsr.state.mn.us/planning/1W1P/index.html. Questions may also be directed to:



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