



## Fillmore Soil & Water Conservation District

900 Washington St. NW, Box A, Preston, Minnesota 55965  
Phone: 507-765-3878, Ext. 3; Fax: 507-765-4415

**Date:** January 9, 2014

**To:** Local Governmental Units in the Root River One Watershed, One Plan Planning Area  
(see map below)

**From:** Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) acting on behalf of the Root River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee

**Re:** Invitation to Submit Priority Concerns for Root River One Watershed, One Plan

The Root River Watershed has been selected by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) as a pilot area for the One Watershed, One Plan program. This program allows counties to transition from county-based water management planning to watershed-based planning. The planning area for the Root River One Watershed, One Plan includes the Upper Iowa and Mississippi–Reno watersheds for a total drainage area of over 1.3 million acres (see map below). The County Boards and SWCD Boards in each of the six counties in the watershed, along with the Crooked Creek Watershed District in Houston County, have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the sole purpose of developing a watershed plan to restore and protect water resources in the Root River Watershed planning area.

There are two purposes for this notice:

- 1) Invite all recipients of this notice to submit within 60 days any water management issues they feel the process and resulting plan should address (e.g. land use plans or special ordinances, special projects/plans like wastewater facilities, well head protection plans, etc. that could use or need a plan connection).
- 2) Invite anyone interested to serve on an Advisory Committee. This committee advises the Policy Committee (comprised of county commissioners, SWCD supervisors and a watershed district manager) and will meet approximately 4-6 times throughout the planning process (January 2015 to April 2016). The Advisory Committee will have representation from as many stakeholders as possible in the watershed, such as local government, ag and producer groups, conservation and environmental organizations, and urban and rural interests to ensure that all who depend upon our water resources are represented.

**Please submit the requested information by March 9, 2015, or direct inquiries, to:**

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A public information kick-off meeting sponsored by the Root River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee will be held in mid-March. Additional information will be distributed when plans are finalized.

**Root River Watershed  
One Watershed One Plan Planning Area  
(1,318,600 acres)**

**Root River = 1,062,000 acres  
(Fillmore 46.4%, Houston 18.7%, Mower 13.2%, Winona 12%, Olmsted 9.3%, Dodge 0.4%)**

**Upper Iowa River = 139,200 acres**

**Mississippi River-Reno = 117,400 acres**

