

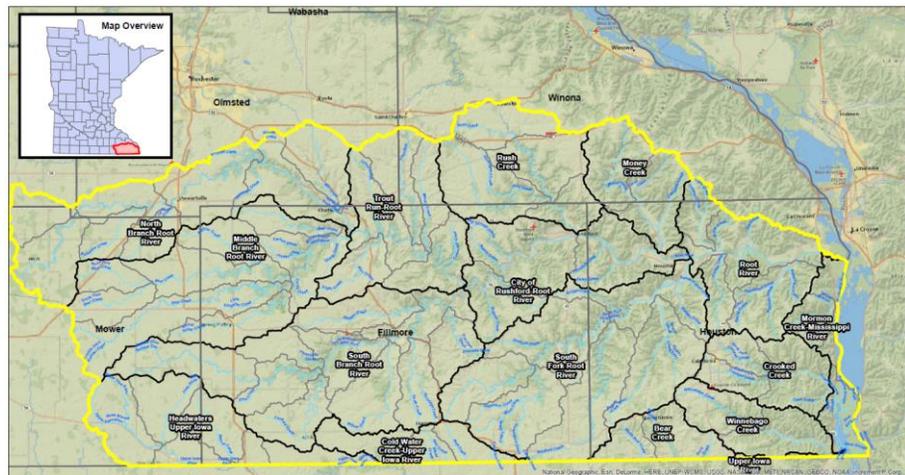


Stakeholder Involvement Plan

Root River Watershed 1 Watershed 1 Plan

Background

The Counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Olmsted, Houston, and Winona (Counties), by and through their respective County Board of Commissioners, and the Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Olmsted, Root River, and Winona Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), by and through their respective Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, and the Crooked Creek Watershed District, by and through the Board of Managers, were selected by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) as a One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) pilot. Collectively, the parties are called the “Root River One Plan One Watershed Pilot Project” (hereafter referred to as the “Partnership”). The Partnership recognized the importance of collaborating to plan and implement protection and restoration efforts for the Root River Watershed (an area of 1,659.4square miles), the Upper Iowa River (217.5 square miles) and the Mississippi River – Reno watersheds (183.4 square miles).



The Partnership is responsible for preparing a priority concerns implementation plan (i.e., a Plan) under the 1W1P effort. The members of the Partnership share an interest in and the statutory authority to prepare, adopt, and assure implementation of a Plan for the Root River Watershed. The purpose of the Plan to conserve soil and water resources through the implementation of practices, programs, and regulatory controls that effectively control or prevent erosion, sedimentation, siltation and related pollution in order to preserve natural resources, ensure continued soil productivity, protect water quality, reduce damages caused by floods, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, and protect public lands and waters.

April 28, 2015

The Partnership has the specific goal of developing the Plan for the Root River Watershed. This document describes the Stakeholder Participation Process for developing the Plan.

Audience & Roles

One of the Guiding Principles of One Watershed, One Plan is the process “must involve a broad range of Stakeholders to ensure an integrated approach to watershed management.” A Stakeholder is defined as a party (person or group) who holds a vested interest in the outcome of the planning process. The primary outcome resulting from the Plan will be a targeted implementation plan, focused on the implementation of specific conservation practices, projects, programs, and regulatory controls. A variety of Stakeholders may be directly or indirectly affected.

Participants in the planning process are comprised of several potential target audiences or groups and collectively comprise the Stakeholders. These groups include:

Policy Committee – The primary role of the Policy Committee is for the purposes of making final decisions about the content of the plan and its submittal to and approval by BWSR. Expectations are that the Policy Committee will review and approve a draft of the plan outline, review and approve information about the priority resources, priority concerns and issues affecting the priority concerns, review and approve the targeted implementation plan, and review and approve the Plan. An additional expectation is that members of the Policy Committee will engage in constructive discussion and debate about issues addressed by the Plan and provide consensus direction on plan development matters, to the Planning Work Group. The Policy Committee will review and approve membership on the Advisory Committee. The Policy Committee has additional obligations as described by The Memorandum of Agreement executed by the Partnership members.

Advisory Committee – Membership on the Advisory Committee may consist of members from the Planning Workgroup, other local government staff, the state's main water agencies and/or plan review agencies, the general public, trade organization, nonprofit organizations, and special interest groups. Leaders within the local community are valued members of the Advisory Committee. Membership to the Advisory Committee is reviewed and approved by the Policy Committee.

The purpose of an Advisory Committee is to make recommendations on the Plan and the Targeted Implementation Plan to the Policy Committee, including identification of priority resources, priority concerns and issues affecting the priority concern. Expectations are that members of the Advisory Committee will communicate Plan related activities to their

April 28, 2015

respective organizations. Advisory Committee members are expected to communicate practical concerns during the plan development process and to assist the Policy Committee in ensuring a credible Plan development process.

Each state or federal agency or organization participating on the Advisory Committee shall designate one lead representative and one designated alternate. An agency's or organization's guidance, input, and decisions shall be communicated through the lead representative or designated alternative. The lead agency or organization representative is expect to coordinate information flow and communication within their agency or organization.

Planning Workgroup – The Planning Workgroup is comprised of local staff, local water planners, local watershed staff, and local SWCD staff for the purposes of logistical and day-to-day decision-making in the planning process. The Planning Work Group includes the consultant and other advisors responsible for assembling the draft and final Plans. Members of the Planning Work Group are responsible for providing information needed for the planning process, reviewing and approving draft plan related information, and assisting in Plan development. Identifying Priority Resources, Priority Concerns and Issues Affecting the Priority Concerns for their specific county is also the responsibility of the Planning Work Group.

General Public – Various public meetings and hearings will be completed as part of the Plan development process. The general public is expected to be an important Stakeholder group. Input from the public meetings will be used to ensure a complete list of priority resources and priority concerns is developed. The role of the general public is expected to include identifying issues affecting the priority concerns. The public will be engaged to rank concerns establishing a “public priority concern” rank. An additional role for the general public is expected to include review of and discussion about the targeted implementation plan and ability to achieve the measurable goals.

Intent for Stakeholder Involvement

The principal intent of involving stakeholders during the planning process is to build acceptance of the Plan and the recommended solutions described by the Targeted Implementation Plan. Acceptance is critical because the Partnership is focused on actively utilizing their Plan to implement projects and programs within the Root River Watershed. Successful implementation will depend highly on the degree to which the Stakeholders believe their concerns, issues or expectations are addressed within the Plan.

The Partnership intends for the Stakeholder involvement process to be active, genuine and credible. To that end, the Stakeholder groups will be involved early in the planning process and will remain engaged through plan completion. Input provided by Stakeholders is intended to

April 28, 2015

help ensure the comprehensiveness of the Plan and validate the implementation priorities of the Partnership and Stakeholders.

Tools for Stakeholder Involvement

The Partnership expects to use several tools to involve Stakeholders. These tools include:

- Inform the stakeholders of status and progress by posting information on each county website, including document drafts as they become available.
- Convening meetings and workshops with Stakeholders at key milestones (refer to Attachments A and B) to discuss relevant content and obtain input.
- Use of existing “standing” committees within each county, including local water plan advisory committees. These committees tend to include broad representation.

There are many methods for conveying information and communicating messages. This Stakeholder Involvement Plan will utilize a variety of tools as appropriate and beneficial for sharing progress and soliciting input. Information about the planning process can be obtained from the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District website (<http://www.fillmoreswcd.org/rootRiverWatershed.html>).

Conduct

The conduct of members of the various Stakeholder Groups —how the Committees function and affect the process—will be based on the overall intent of building acceptance of the Plan through a credible yet timely process. Where appropriate, the Partnership will strive to achieve consensus on Plan related matters. However, because of the diversity of issues and range of resources, full agreement between or among all Stakeholders is not realistic or expected. The ultimate responsibility for the content of the Plan rests with the Policy Committee. Participants are expected to act in a professional, constructive and contributory manner. Members failing to act in good faith during the planning process can be removed from the Advisory Committee by consensus of the Policy Committee.

April 28, 2015

**Attachment A
Stakeholder List
Root River Watershed Plan**

Policy Committee Members

County	Name	Organization
Dodge		
	Rodney Peterson	County Commissioner
	Glen Hahn	SWCD Supervisor
Olmsted		
	Matt Flynn	County Commissioner
	Steve Connelly	SWCD Supervisor
Winona		
	Marcia Ward	County Commissioner
	Jerry Mueller	SWCD Supervisor
Houston		
	Dana Kjome	County Commissioner
	Loren Lapham	SWCD Supervisor
Fillmore		
	Duane Bakke	County Commissioner
	Leonard Leutink	SWCD Supervisor
Mower		
	Tim Gabrielson	County Commissioner
	Jim Kellogg	SWCD Supervisor
Crooked Creek WD		
	Bob Mierau	Watershed District Manager

April 28, 2015

Advisory Committee Members

April 28, 2015

Planning Work Group

Attachment B – Schedule

Root River Watershed Timeline Flowchart

