



January Topic of the Month

Watershed Comprehensive Water Planning

Rum River One Watershed One Plan Update

Partners from across the Rum River Watershed have come together to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan. The plan is being developed with a planning grant under the One Watershed, One Plan program. This is a program funded by the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the vision is to create a local water plan on a watershed boundary scale instead of within the traditional county boundaries. Many partners have already met to identify shared goals.



What has been done so far:

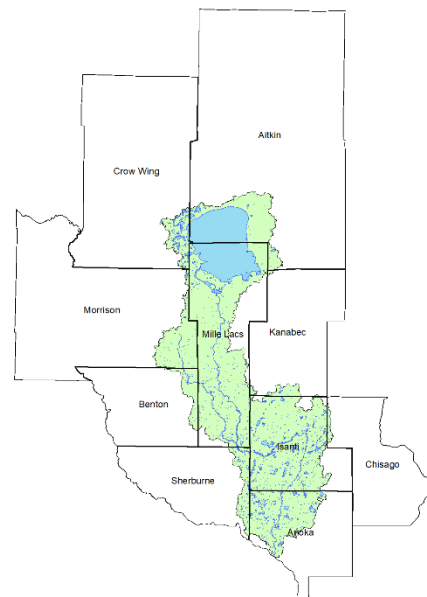
This process started with a meeting of elected officials in March of 2019. Followed by the formation of the Policy Committee that includes representation from the counties in the Rum River Watershed.

The Policy Committee is made up of:

- County Elected Officials
- Soil and Water Elected Officials
- Watershed Management Organization Representatives

Two Advisory committees have been formed and will work together to guide in the planning process.

- A *Technical Advisory Committee* that is made up of natural resource professionals.
- An *Implementation Advisory Committee* that consists of group representatives that will be instrumental in accomplishing the plan's goals.



There were three public kickoff meetings held late July and early August of this year. These kickoffs provided the space for people throughout the watershed to bring their thoughts to the table in a “community conversation” style workshop.



“These comments, along with those collected through the online survey or submitted by State Agencies, as well as information from existing plans, reports, and other technical documents have all been analyzed together to develop draft issue statements for use by the Technical Advisory Committee in the early stages of developing the plan. By incorporating these comments early in the process, they are now informing the narrative, issue identification, and goals of the plan.”

- Freshwater



The Policy and Technical Committee have been meeting regularly throughout the year to do just that.

The plan will prioritize, target and develop measurable clean water protection goals on a watershed scale. Though the plan is on a watershed scale it will be implemented locally so the goal is to have a plan that works for all of those needed to accomplish water quality goals.

Upcoming:

This month the Implementation Advisory Group will meet to engage in this ongoing process. The result will be a plan to help support their actions toward water quality. Partners will continue to meet throughout the year 2020. They will plan together to leverage unique capacity, and work together to achieve results.

You can also keep up-to-date by viewing the “News and Updates” section of the Rum River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) website!

www.millelacsswcd.org/rum-river-one-watershed-one-plan