



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Agenda Item

Item 5. B - Lower Minnesota River One Watershed One Plan

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) is a program of the MN Board of Soil and Water Resources adopted in 2016. The goal of this program is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies for prioritized, targeted and measurable implementation plans. In 2017, the LMRWD lobbied the State legislature to develop and implement Comprehensive Watershed Plans under this program in each of the 12 major watersheds of the Minnesota River Basin by the year 2022.

As part of the 1W1P planning process, all organizations with responsibility for regulating water resources within a given planning area are invited to be a part process. Once a plan is developed and adopted, organizations that participated in the planning process can then choose to adopt the 1W1P in place of their own plan. Participating in the process does not mean that you automatically give up your own plan.

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed (HUC-8), which is different than the LMRWD, has been divided into two planning areas; 55 and 56. Planning Area 55 has applied for and been approved to receive a grant from BWSR to begin the process in 2019. The boundaries of this planning area do not include the LMRWD, however I have indicated that the LMRWD would be interested in being a part of this planning process as High Island Creek and Bevens Creek watershed are part of this planning area and both contribute significant amounts of sediment to the MN River.

On March 28, LeSueur County Soil & Water Conservation District convened a meeting of all Counties, Watershed Districts and Water Management Organizations within Planning Area 56 (map attached). Planning Area 56 includes portions of the seven County Metropolitan Area; including the LMRWD. LeSueur and Rice County are planning to adopt the 1W1P as its official County Water Plan once it has been developed. There is a question as to how much of the planning area should be included to participate in the plan development process, since portions that are in the Metro area are required to have Plans and those plans have all been recently updated.

BWSR has asked that the LMRWD Board decide whether or not it wants to be a part of the planning process for either of these or both planning areas. If the Board chooses to participate, BWSR has asked that the Board designate an official representative for the LMRWD. If the Board chooses to participate a motion should be approved and an official representative appointed.

Attachments

Map of Major Watersheds

Map of One Watershed One Plan with Plan status

Map of planning area 56

Recommended Action

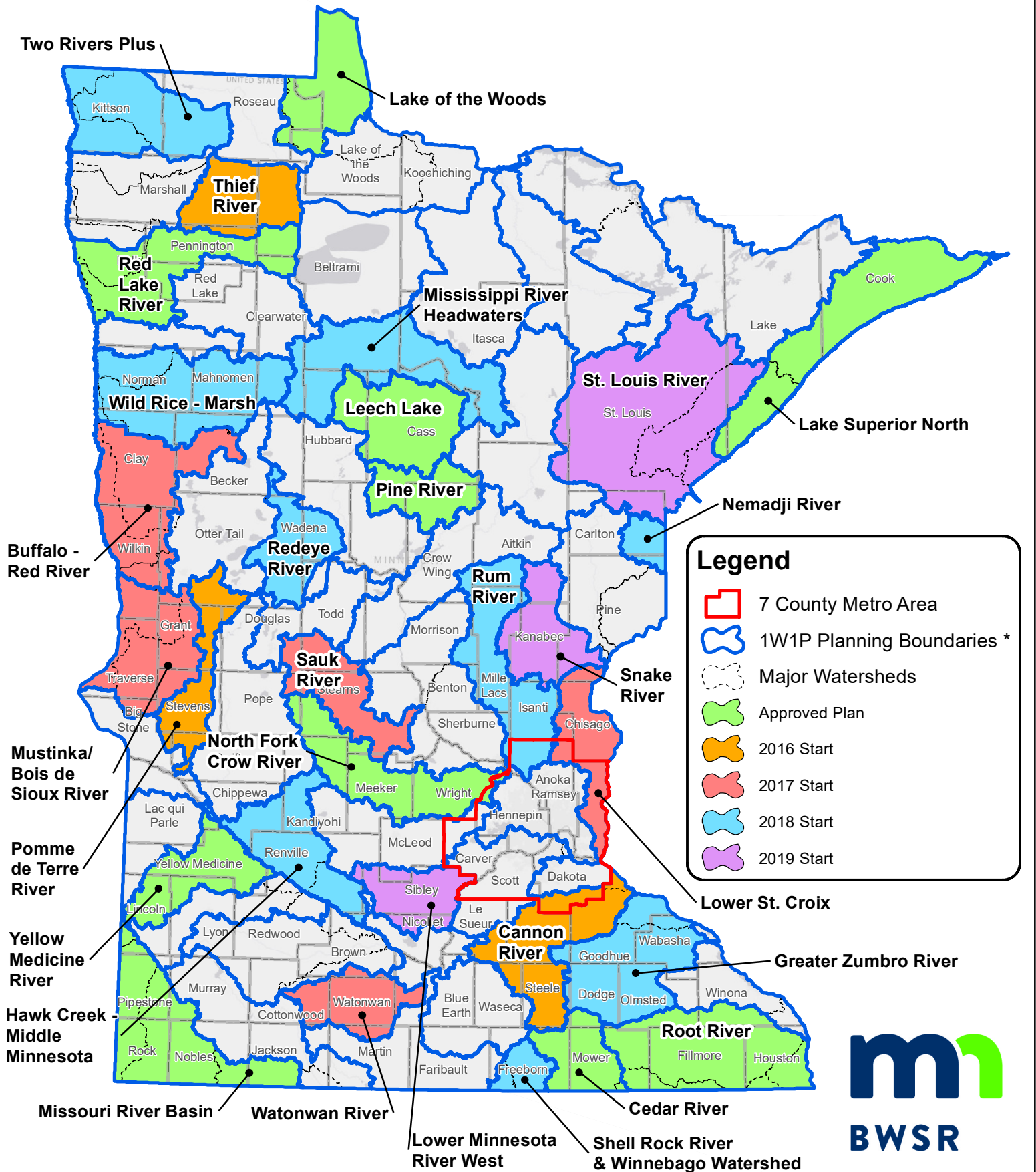
Motion to participate and appoint official representative

Basins and Major Watersheds in Minnesota



One Watershed, One Plan

Participating Watersheds



*Not legal boundaries; intended for planning purposes through One Watershed, One Plan only.

