Where are we in the Plan development process?

Development of a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan consists of three phases:

I. Identification & Prioritization of Resources & Issues

- important resources
- + problems & local values
- = ranking of important resources and issues

II. Establishment of Measurable Goals

- vision for the future
- + local support
- = achievable goals for our water resources

III. Targeted Implementation Activities

- buffer enhancements
- + wetland restoration
- + gully stabilization
- + rain gardens
- = improved water quality

The Identification and Prioritization of Resource Issues and Concerns involves identifying and compiling all of the water resources and natural resources related issues and concerns that exist in the Planning Area. The process of how this information is prioritized can be represented by a funnel: lots of information is generated at the beginning of the process but as this information is organized, evaluated and discussed, the main issues and concerns are identified. These prioritized issues and concerns are those that can be addressed within the 10-year timeframe of this 1W1P.

This first phase of the planning process has involved compiling all of the issues and concerns identified in existing plans, studies and reports as well as those identified by state agencies and member communities at the beginning stages of the project. Since May of 2017 there have been a number of opportunities for the public to engage in the Identification and Prioritization of Resource Issues and Concerns. Starting with the Public Open House, there have been a series of Water Conversations to consult with stakeholders. The goal of the Water Conversations is to share knowledge about the Cannon River Planning Area, share perspectives about its resources, and help identify concerns or vulnerabilities. Once the issues and concerns have been prioritized, the Policy Committee, Planning Work Group, Advisory Work Group, Technical Advisory Group and the public will begin the next phase of the project, the Establishment of Measurable Goals.
What is the Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan?

Development of the Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) began in May of 2017 with an Open House in Faribault, MN. The vision of 1W1P is to “align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted and measurable implementation plans”. In order to accomplish this task for the Cannon River Planning Area, six Counties, six Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), one Watershed District (WD) and one Watershed Management Organization (WMO) have come together to facilitate the writing of a plan. The process is being led by a Policy Committee comprised of a representative from each local unit of governments governing boards. Input is also being provided by the following:

**Planning Work Group** - Comprised of staff representing each county, SWCD, WD and WMO

**Advisory Work Group** - Comprised of an assortment of state, regional and local government entities, environmental advocacy groups, agricultural associations, lake associations, non-profit organizations, wildlife groups, and interested businesses and citizens.

**Technical Advisory Group** - A subset of the Advisory Work Group to include the Planning Work Group, each of the five state agencies, Metropolitan Council, large cities, and the Cannon River Watershed Partnership

**Residents of the Planning Area** - Comprised of any interested citizens who reside, recreate, conduct business in the watershed or care about the watershed.

At the end of the planning process, a completed and approved plan will provide long-term predictable State funds to a collaborative approach for protecting and restoring water quality and natural resources within the Cannon River Watershed Planning Area over the next 10 years.

Your Input is Critical: how can you help?

The complete process involves your input - from data compilation to plan review & public comment to the implementation of projects that will help improve the quality of the watershed and its resources.

Stay informed about the Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan by visiting the project's website at: [www.dakotaswcd.org/1w1p.html](http://www.dakotaswcd.org/1w1p.html)