Watershed Based Funding (WBF)
Update on Local Government Engagement Process

BWSRs transition from the pilot program

Local Government Water Roundtable (LGWR)

• Minnesota Association of Counties
• Minnesota Association of SWCDs
• Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
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History of the LGWR
2013 – Comprehensive Water Planning and Management Paper
2016 – Funding Workgroup Policy Paper

Statements:
• Watershed planning should occur at the 81 major watershed scale
• Exception is 7-County Metro; area not addressed (optional)
• Long term predictable state funding should be provided
• Incentives should be provided to share services and achieve efficiencies
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BWSRs transition from the pilot program

BWSRs WBF Policy Development Process:

- Metro Forums (complete)
- Feedback from pilot watersheds now implementing (complete)
- Workgroup meetings with LGWR staff and BWSR staff (complete)
- Meetings with LGWR Board (Jun/Jul)
- State agency and external stakeholders coordination (Jun/Jul)
- Open comment period (Jun/Jul)
- BWSR Committee review and Board adoption (Aug/Sep)
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Items considered in work group meetings:

– Assurance Measures
– Watershed Based Funding Program Policy
– Allocation Options
– Watersheds that Span both Metro and Non-Metro
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Allocation Options:

Two funding pools established under Pilot Program

– Non-Metro Area
  • ~ $3.1M in FY18-19
  • Anticipated to increase significantly in FY20-21

– Metro Area
  • ~ $5.6M in FY18-19
  • Not anticipated to increase in FY20-21
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Allocation Options Discussed for FY20-21:

1. $250K plus % of private land (pilot)

2. $250K plus 50% private land 50% total area

3. $250K plus 50% private land 50% resource density

4. $250K base plus 75% private land plus 25% water resource density
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Watersheds that Span both Metro and Non-Metro:

Again, two allocation pools established under the Pilot Program - One for Metro area and one for non-metro area.

How do you fund watersheds that span both Metro and Non-Metro?
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Watersheds that Span Metro/Non-Metro:

Discussions to continue – no single recommendation developed!

- Maintain flexibility but no “double dipping” from allocation each pool.
- Watershed plan equivalents should be considered.
- Metro/non-metro should not compete for same pool of funds.
- Funding decision should provide incentive for collaboration with local governments outside of metro area.
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Watersheds that Span both Metro/Non-Metro:

Options:

• 1 allocation to entire watershed

• 1 allocation; to entire watershed based on metro area and entire watershed

• 2 allocations; 1 to metro area and 1 to non-metro area

• 2 allocations; 1 to metro area and 1 to entire watershed
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Transitioning from a pilot program

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