

LEECH LAKE RIVER WATERSHED COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Woods, water, wildlife, and people: A healthy watershed and a vibrant economy

This is a 100% voluntary watershed based, implementation plan that addresses local priorities. It uses existing science, identifies measurable goals and outlines how progress will be monitored. The plan outlines opportunities to implement 4 types of strategies in protecting this pristine watershed from degradation:



On the ground **CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**, such as conservation easements and forest management incentive programs.



LAND USE PLANNING AND ZONING STRATEGIES to prevent harmful land use management practices.

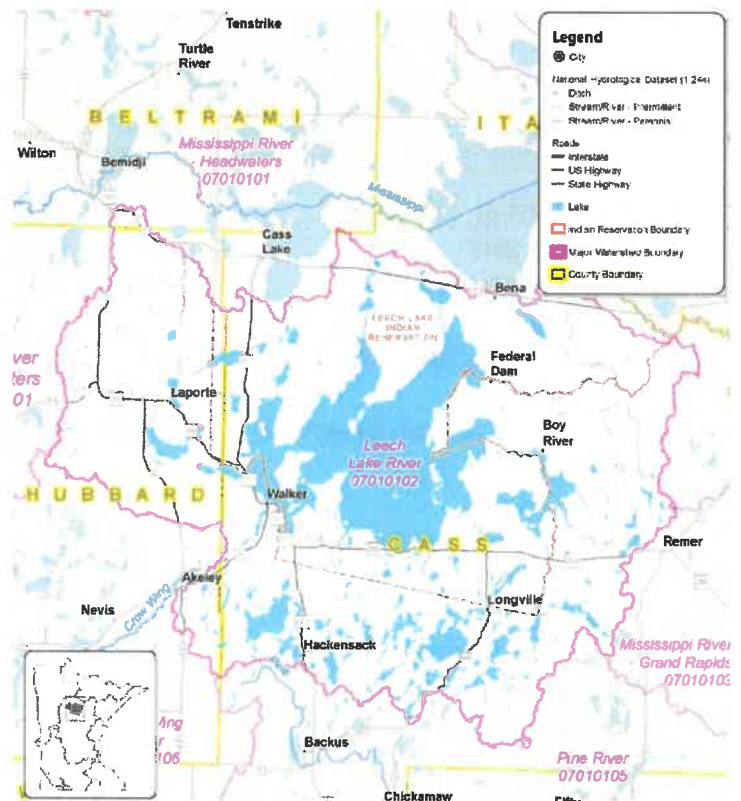


PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES to strengthen landowner and partner interest in engaging in watershed protection actions.



Strategies to acquire **DATA AND SUPPORT SMART DECISION MAKING** for improved resource management.

The plan administration section reflects the desire among partners to increase collaboration. By leveraging partner strengths, implementation efforts are streamlined, and goals can be more easily achieved.



KEY POINTS

- THE PLAN WILL BE IMPLEMENTED TO THE DEGREE THAT FUNDING IS ACQUIRED, AND AT A LOCALLY DETERMINED PACE OF PROGRESS.
- THE PLAN REPLACES EXISTING COUNTY WATER PLANS THAT COVER THE LEECH LAKE RIVER WATERSHED GEOGRAPHICAL AREA.
- AFTER THE PLAN IS LOCALLY ADOPTED, BWSR IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS WILL BE OBTAINED THROUGH A NON-COMPETITIVE PROCESS RATHER THAN A COMPETITIVE PROCESS.
- THE PLAN USES EXISTING AUTHORITIES AND FUNDING MECHANISMS; NO NEW AUTHORITIES OR SOURCES OF FUNDING ARE CALLED FOR IN THE PLAN.

BY THE NUMBERS ~ TWO TYPES OF PRIORITIES

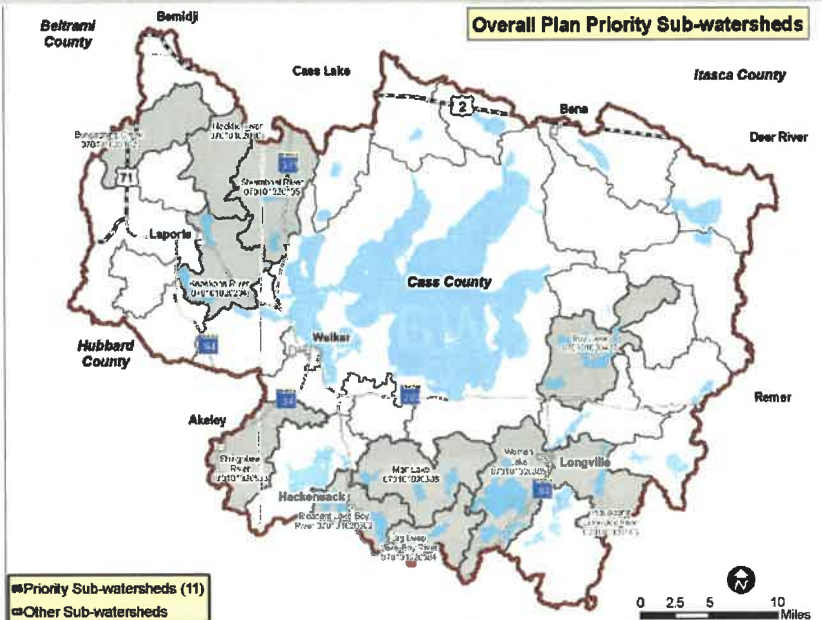
12 PRIORITY NATURAL RESOURCES

Implementation efforts will be targeted to identified areas that result in the greatest achievement of specific measures of the natural resource goals (below) as outlined in the plan.

NATURAL RESOURCE	PLAN GOAL
High-Quality Lakes	Improve
Recreational Lakes	Improve
Impoundments	Improve
Impaired Lakes	Maintain
High-Value Rivers	Improve
Impaired and Declining Rivers	Enhance
Wetlands	Improve
Groundwater	Improve
Forests	Improve
Working Lands	Improve
Habitat	Improve
Cities and Towns	Improve

11 PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS

11 of the 33 subwatersheds in the Leech Lake River (LLR) Watershed were determined to be the focus for obtaining multiple benefits and return on investment.



NEXT STEPS

PLAN APPROVAL TIMELINE*

- » January 28, 2019
End of 60-day comment period
- » January 29, 2019
Public hearing is officially noticed
- » February 15, 2019
Public Hearing, 9AM, Cass County Board Room
- » February 20, 2019
Latest date to submit plan to BWSR Northern Region Committee
- » March 6, 2019
BWSR Northern Committee Meeting
- » March 27, 2019
BWSR Board meeting
- » September 27, 2019
Latest date that the local boards must adopt the plan (within 120 days of BWSR approval)

**In accordance with BWSR One Watershed, One Plan, Operating Procedures (V1.0), March 23, 2016. The BWSR Committee and Board also can deny approval and request revisions.*

LLR PARTNERSHIP: MOVING FORWARD

- Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) must be finalized and signed to benefit from the plan.
 - / A JPA was the arrangement selected to allow for partnership and leveraging staff and board talents to coordinate grant applications, program implementation, and meet reporting requirements (1 entity, rather than 2).
 - / A Memorandum of Understanding was considered. However, this reduces collaborative opportunity and places more burden on each partner.
- Once fully executed, BWSR 1W1P Grant funds become available.
 - / Shift from competitive to non-competitive funding frees up staff proposal writing time and eliminates lengthy competitive processes with uncertain outcomes.
- Additional funds can be pursued.
 - / Having a targeted and measurable plan that emphasizes habitat increases the likelihood for acquiring Outdoor Heritage Funds.

For more information contact:

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