

## THIEF RIVER WATERSHED: ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN

### Providing Input on Priority Resource Concerns and Issues

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has created a One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) [Operating Procedures document](#) outlining the processes for initiating a planning effort through the 1W1P. The Operating Procedures highlight a Guiding Principle of the 1W1P, that the process “must involve a broad range of stakeholders to ensure an integrated approach to watershed management.” One of the first steps in achieving this principle is to notify plan review authorities<sup>1</sup> and stakeholders of 1W1P plan initiation.

The purpose of this document is to provide your agency or organization with guidance on how to describe your priority resource concerns and issues, to maximize their value in the planning process. The 1W1P plan initiation is an opportunity for plan review authorities and stakeholders to submit priority resource concerns and issues for consideration into the planning process. The plan notification also serves as an opportunity to share plan expectations, so all participants may arrive at a shared vision of the outcome of a 1W1P.

Describing priority resource concerns and issues can be a challenge in the absence of a common language for communication. To establish a common language and maximize the ability to incorporate review authority and stakeholder responses into the Thief River Watershed 1W1P planning process, Thief River 1W1P planning partners have provided definitions for resources, resource concerns, and issues below:

**Resource:** *A natural, economic, educational, biotic, aesthetic or similar asset. Resources are generally considered something that can be “managed” and are generally broad, such as surface water, groundwater, or education and outreach.*

**Resource Concern:** *A physical, biological, chemical, or geological subset or component of a resource. Resource concerns are typically a refinement of a resource. For example, the resource “surface water” can be further refined into several resource concerns, including streams and rivers, lakes, and wetlands.*

**Issue Affecting a Resource Concern:** *A factor, stressor or difficulty resulting in an adverse consequence for a resource concern. A resource concern can have one or many issues. For instance, elevated levels of total phosphorus could be a priority issue affecting a resource concern (i.e. lakes). The targeted implementation schedule is preferentially focused on issues impacting priority resource concerns.*

Your response will be used to create a comprehensive inventory of resources, concerns and issues within the Thief River Watershed 1W1P area. The physical locations of these resources concerns and issues will then be mapped, so planning partners can put the right types of projects in the right location during implementation.

Please provide information about planning priority resource concerns and issues using these definitions. This will maximize the ability to both understand the intent of the responses and seamlessly incorporate responses into the planning process for consideration.

If you have questions about these definitions or the plan notification response process, please contact Peter Nelson at [peter.nelson@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:peter.nelson@mn.nacdnet.net).

---

<sup>1</sup> Plan review authorities is a BWSR term meaning the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health, the Department of Natural Resources, the Pollution Control Agency, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, counties, cities, towns, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, and watershed management organizations partially or wholly within the watershed; and the Metropolitan Council if substituting for or replacing a plan under MN Statutes §103B.231.