

# 60 DAY FORMAL REVIEW COMMENTS AND RESPONSES



Dates of Comment Period: January 24 – March 24, 2023

Commenter	Section	Page #	Comment	Change Made in the plan (Y/N)	Response
LOW SWCD	Section 1	8	MOA - JPC Language in text - reword to the following: The Rainy-Rapid Partnership is a collaboration of LOW County and LOW SWCD. These entities previously entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for planning the One Watershed, One Plan to form a Policy Committee for R-RW (Appendix E). The entities will enter into a new memorandum of agreement for purposes of implementing this plan (Figure 1.6). Koochiching and Beltrami counties and SWCDs declined to participate because the majority of their land in this watershed is state-owned. The same committees that were established for planning will also continue throughout implementation.	Y	
LOW SWCD	Section 1	8	Change "Joint Powers Collaboration" in the smart art to "Memorandum of Agreement"	Y	
LOW SWCD	Section 4	30-32	A summary of the Measurable Goals seems necessary maybe simply listing that there are 5 identified MGs and they are 1,2,3,4,5 or bullet point. Or could insert page 5 of the plan in this section too.	Y	Inserted the goal summary one-page from the Executive Summary into the beginning of the goals section.
LOW SWCD	Section 5	54-69	Organization of this section is not clear. Thinking we could explain the section and outline how it is put together: Most of it is organized by "Fix It, Manage It, Keep It, and Know It". However there are some items that I am not sure how they fit in and where they should go: "Operation and Maintenance", "Comp Plans", "Achieving Goals", and "Water Equity and Resiliency"	Y	Put O&M under Fix It. Comp Plans under Regulatory but fixed header. Moved Achieving Plan Goals page to the last page of goals section. Mention Water Equity and Resiliency at the beginning of Section 5.



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LOW SWCD	Section 6	70	MOA Language: The Rainy-Rapid Partnership is a collaboration of LOW County and LOW SWCD (Figure 6.1). These entities previously entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for planning the One Watershed, One Plan to form a Policy Committee for R-RW (Appendix E). The entities will enter into a new memorandum of agreement for purposes of implementing this plan. The Policy Committee is advisory to the individual county and SWCD boards under the umbrella of the MOA.	Y	
LOW SWCD	Section 6	70	Change "Joint Powers Collaboration" in the smart art to "Memorandum of Agreement"	Y	
LOW SWCD	Section 6	80	Process: Local Work Plan and Funding Requests are a bit redundant and I would reference the new MOA and Bylaws to spell out this process. Consider revising to: <u>Local Work Plan</u> The Rainy-Rapid Partnership will be responsible for completing a biennial work plan based on the targeted implementation schedule. The process for approval of work plans will be explained in the MOA between the partners and adopted bylaws. The purpose of these biennial work plans is to obtain BWSR watershed-based implementation funding, maintain collaborative progress towards completing the targeted implementation schedule, and reach the outcomes prescribed in the plan. <u>Funding Request</u> The Rainy-Rapid Partnership will collaboratively develop, review, and submit a watershed-based funding request from this biennial work plan. The partnership will approve of this request as per their MOA and bylaws prior to submittal to BWSR. The watershed-based funding request will be developed based on the 2023-2024 priority projects outlined in the targeted implementation schedule and any adjustments made through self-assessments.	Y	



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LOW SWCD	Section 6	82	MPCA's Cycle 2 - last paragraph consider revising to: During the time this plan is in effect, it is likely that new data giving a better understanding of watershed issues and solutions will be generated, especially with MPCA's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Cycle 2. Administrative authorities, state policies, and resource concerns may also change. New information from sources such as the updated WRAPS; significant changes to the projects, programs, or funding in the plan; or the potential impact of emerging concerns and issues may require activities to be added to the plan. If revisions are required or requested, the Policy Committee will initiate a plan amendment process consistent with Minnesota Statute 103B.314, Subd. 6.	Y	
MDA			Unfortunately we do not have staff capacity to support all planning efforts and have not been able to participate. Thanks for including us and congrats on getting to this point in the planning process	N	
MPCA			The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) appreciates the opportunity to work together with local partners and other state agents on behalf of clean water. The MPCA has no further comments. Hats off to you and your colleagues for operating such a smooth, fun, and effective process in developing your One watershed One plan for the Rainy-Rapid planning area.	N	
MDH			MDH has no substantive comments to offer regarding this draft plan. We find it meets our Rule requirements and offers a high level of protection to groundwater drinking water supplies.	N	
BWSR			The partnership has addressed the BWSR comments that were submitted during the previous review and there are no further comments at this time.	N	



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DNR	4	43	In the metrics section, "acres of restored peatland" is listed below 'acre-feet of increased water storage within the watershed'. Please change the order that these metrics are listed. Water storage would occur throughout wetland/peatland restoration as stated in the goals section, so listed the wetland/peatland restoration component first is fitting.	Y	
DNR	4	44	The description above Table 4.2 indicates that the table shows storage benefits and peak flow reduction for restoring 5% of the area. Please expand this description to indicate the type of restoration that is yielding the listed benefit.	Y	Added this text: The benefits are for disconnecting 5% of the area of each subwatershed that would disable the ditch and return the hydrology to more natural conditions.

