Overall Project Description

The State of Minnesota has a long history of water management by local governments. One Watershed One Plan is rooted in this history and in work initiated in 2011 by the Local Government Water Roundtable consisting of: Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Roundtable members determined that it is in the public interest to manage groundwater and surface water resources from the perspective of watersheds to achieve protection, preservation, enhancement, and restoration of the state's valuable water resources. Supporting this determination, the Roundtable recommended that the local governments charged with water management should organize and develop focused implementation plans on a watershed scale.

The recommendation was followed by the One Watershed One Plan legislation that permits the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to adopt methods to allow comprehensive plans, local water management plans, or watershed management plans to serve as substitutes for one another, or to be replaced with one comprehensive watershed management plan. The legislation also required BWSR to establish a suggested watershed boundary framework for these plans. One Watershed One Plan is the next logical step in the evolution of water planning in Minnesota.

The One Watershed One Plan vision is to align local planning and implementation with state strategies over a 10-year transition period into plans built largely around the state’s major watersheds. Operating procedures to achieve this vision will be tested by selected LGUs developing the first plans through One Watershed One Plan. The Yellow Medicine River watershed was selected as one of the five pilot projects for this new water planning effort.

The Project Partners have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for this planning effort with Grant Administration provided by Area II. No local match to the grant funds are required. $113,280.06 of local match has been incurred to date from the MOA partners.