

LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

This factsheet summarizes the process for updating the Local Water Management Plans (LWMP) – often referred to as Local *Surface* Water Management Plans within the seven-county metropolitan area. There has been a change in the process since the last round of comprehensive plan updates in 2008.

Previously, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) guidance required LWMP updates only in response to completion of Watershed Management Plan updates by any Watershed in which a community is located.

During this (2018) comprehensive plan update (Update) cycle, each local government unit (LGU) within the seven-county metropolitan area is required to complete an Update by the end of December 2018. Each LGU must include an updated LWMP as a component of their Update, as indicated by [MN Rule 8410.0160, Subp. 2](#). BWSR amended MN Rule Chapter 8410.0105, Subp. 9 and 8410.0160, Subp. 6 in 2015 in part to require all cities and townships within the seven-county metropolitan area to complete and adopt an updated LWMP between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2018. [This amendment](#) is intended to better align surface water management and comprehensive land use planning at the local level.

Following the preparation of an updated LWMP, the draft document is to be **simultaneously** submitted to each Watershed Management Organization having surface water management oversight within the LGU's boundaries, and the Metropolitan Council for review and comment (as detailed in [MN Statutes 103B.235, Subd. 3 and 3a](#)). Metropolitan Council Water Resources staff is provided 45 days by Statute to review and provide comments to the Watershed(s) and the Watershed(s) are provided 60 days for their summary review, so that Council comments can be accommodated in each applicable Watershed's review.

Council understands that some confusion has arisen during 6-month adjacent community reviews of Updates, where watershed organizations have received Updates containing draft LWMPs, and began their formal 60-day review upon receipt of the document. Metropolitan Council wants to caution LGUs to be clear when distributing their draft Updates to watersheds to make sure that they coordinate their formal draft LWMP review to begin concurrently with the Council's 45-day review of the document.

The Council's LWMP review is a separate review process from the preliminary or formal (comprehensive plan) Update review. Council staff have 45 days to review and send their comments to the watershed management organization(s) for their use in review and approval of the LWMP. Council staff also need to review the Update to make sure the LWMP was included as part of that process. So, the LGU can send their LWMP ahead of the Update or as part of the Update. But in all cases, when the LWMP is sent to the Watershed Management Organization(s) for review and approval, it must also be sent to the Metropolitan Council for review and comment.

To help expedite the review of your Update, Council recommends that whenever the draft LWMP preparation process is complete, the document be forwarded simultaneously to each applicable watershed and the Council for their concurrent review and comment. The formal (comprehensive plan) Update submission will still need to incorporate the complete and potentially finalized LWMP as a chapter or appendix. It may also be helpful to include the Executive Summary from the LSWMP as a separate surface water management chapter in the Update.

Finally, Council requests that LWMP update (watershed) approval and (local) adoption dates be provided at the time the formal (comprehensive plan) Update is submitted, if they are known. If they are not known, Council staff will ask for those dates as a component of the LGU Update review or formal local adoption process.

If you have additional questions, please contact [Judy Sventek](#), the Metropolitan Council's Water Resources Staff Manager at 651-602-1156 for assistance.

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