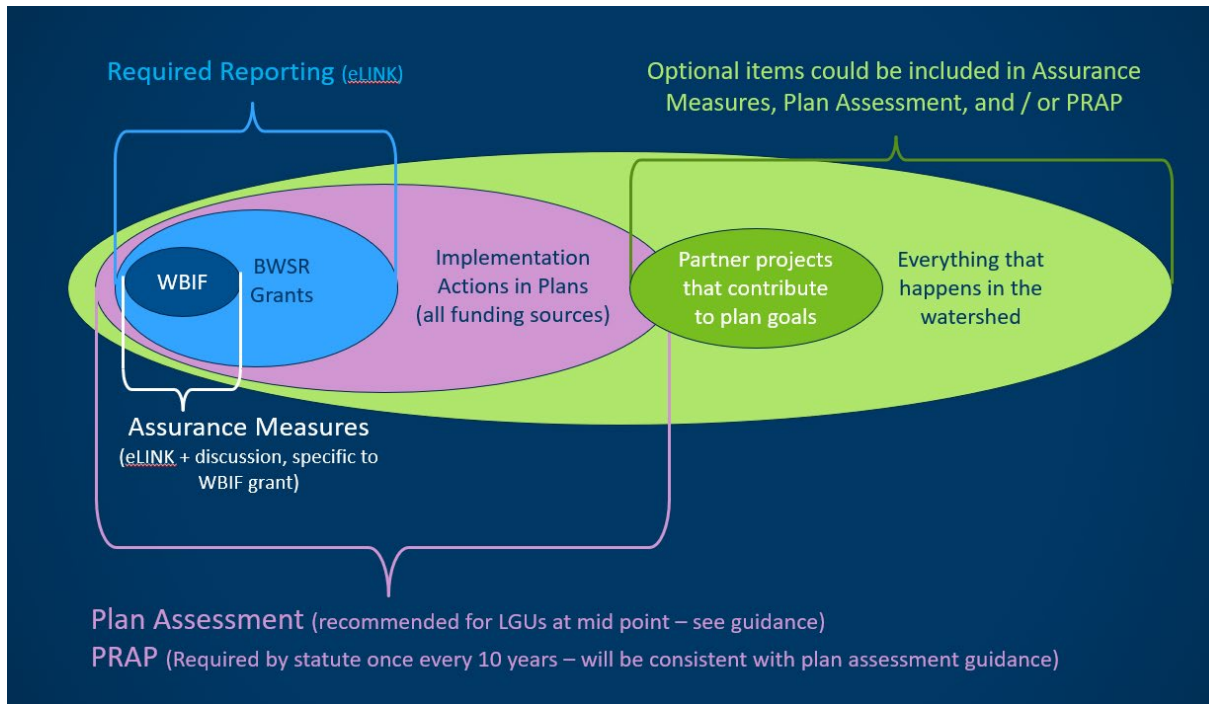


Purpose: This document describes the connection between accountability components of three BWSR programs associated with the transition to watershed-based planning and implementation. Each of the three components fulfills a specific purpose in addition to generating feedback for continuous improvement. It is BWSR’s goal to avoid duplication and minimize workload for local governments.



This graphic represents the scope of various reporting efforts relative to actions/happenings in the watershed. (“Happenings” could include climate, land change, or other aspects outside of local control that contribute to or work against plan goals.)

BWSR acknowledges that the transition to watershed based planning and implementation is a dynamic and evolutionary process. We are committed to working with partners to empower effective local implementation and to maintain support for this important work by demonstrating measurable results. Specifically, we aim to strike an appropriate balance of accountability-related work for implementers and expectations from funders and the public (which can change over time).

Requirement: BWSR’s accountability mechanisms are achieved through the [Grant Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy](#), which includes risk assessments, regular grant reporting and monitoring, and reconciliations as well as [Watershed-Based Implementation Funding \(WBIF\) assurance measures](#), BWSR’s [Performance Review and Assistance Program \(PRAP\)](#), and other program-specific requirements.

There is no explicit BWSR or statutory requirement to carry out the plan implementation assessment as described in the new guidance. The plan implementation guidance exists to help partnerships think about how to show their own accountability for a multi-jurisdictional, prioritized,

targeted, and measurable comprehensive watershed management plan, and is being used to inform how PRAP will work in light of this new type of planning.

Plan Implementation Assessment (BWSR Guidance, Fall 2021)

Assessing plan implementation is a best practice in any adaptive management (plan-do-check) effort. Keeping track of actions, reflecting on progress made on individual work plans, evaluating whether a 10-year plan should be amended, documenting overall progress toward plan goals, and sharing with others about your work are all important for successful watershed management. The guidance is intended to communicate roles and best practices for this adaptive management process, specific to comprehensive watershed management plans.

Status and scope: in 2021, BWSR created *Guidance for Assessing the Implementation of Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans* - with input from local governments - to clarify roles and expectations. This guidance is intended for groups implementing comprehensive watershed management plans developed under the One Watershed, One Plan program.

Relationship to other programs: PRAP will use *Guidance for Assessing the Implementation of Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans* for reviewing progress on plan implementation. If local governments use the guidance on an ongoing basis (and prior to PRAP), they will be well-positioned to easily move through a PRAP review.

Data gathered for WBIF assurance measures (which are specific to one funding source from BWSR) will be used in plan implementation assessment to avoid duplication of previously completed WBIF reporting.

Watershed-Based Implementation Funding Assurance Measures

WBIF assurance measures provide BWSR a way of assuring that: funds are spent on the “best” projects; are achieving outcomes; and are leveraging funds (this information is also gathered in the BWSR’s Clean Water Fund competitive grant process). As with all BWSR grants, progress reporting for WBIF program grants takes place via eLINK. Assurance measures are structured to use existing eLINK data along with the opportunity for local governments to add context to their implementation progress through conversations with BWSR.

Status and scope: Assurance measures only apply to BWSR WBIF program funding. BWSR is currently testing the assurance measures by looking at the first round of WBIF grants.

Relationship to other programs: Since WBIF assurance measure data already exists, they can be used to document progress made toward plan goals with WBIF program funds during **plan implementation assessments**. Similarly, when **PRAP** looks at progress on implementation activities and plan goals, WBIF-funded reporting (already being done in eLINK) will be included in the review.

Performance Review and Assistance Program

PRAP (Performance Review and Assistance Program) reviews and provides recommendations/support for a variety of performance metrics for individual local governments. Because one metric - plan implementation - is becoming a multi-jurisdictional proposition, PRAP is “re-tooling” the review process so plan implementation assessments can more effectively analyze comprehensive watershed management plans and planning groups. The program will still maintain traditional organizational assessments, which may or may not include planning components. PRAP is a legislatively mandated program that does in-depth assessments of organizations and plan implementation at least once every ten years.

Status and scope: BWSR is updating and piloting new checklists and procedures to accommodate multi-jurisdictional plans (fall 2021). BWSR will make new PRAP materials available as soon as they are ready. PRAP looks at the broad range of local government activities and overall plan implementation – including, but not limited to, work funded by any BWSR grant.

Relationship to other programs: PRAP watershed plan assessments will be based on the new BWSR guidance for local governments (*Guidance for Assessing the Implementation of Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans*). PRAP procedures will be consistent with the new guidance, and PRAP will work with whatever forms of implementation data are used locally and for state reporting (eLINK, locally developed tracking systems). If local governments complete a **plan implementation assessment** using the new guidance, they will be very well positioned to easily move through a PRAP watershed plan assessment. If they have not done so, BWSR will work with them to assess their plan implementation, and that assessment will be based on the new guidance. PRAP watershed plan assessments will incorporate information from existing **WBIF assurance measures** and may make recommendations based on assurance measures results.

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This matrix provides a comparison of selected accountability components of three BWSR programs.

BWSR Program	Accountability Component	Purpose	Why It is Needed	Applies to	Information will be used to...
One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P)	Plan implementation assessment (guidance)	Articulate BWSR recommendations for how LGUs can self-evaluate demonstrated progress toward plan goals.	Each CWMP developed through 1W1P includes a commitment to complete a mid-point assessment of plan implementation; some partnerships sought guidance for conducting assessments.	Local governments implementing CWMPs developed through the 1W1P program (all activities in plans).	Demonstrate why plans are worth investing in (i.e., that the watershed-based planning and implementation approach is yielding results).
Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)	Assurance measures <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritized, targeted, and measurable work is making progress toward achieving clean water goals. 2. Programs, projects, and practices are being implemented in priority areas. 3. Grant work is on-schedule and on-budget. 4. Document leverage of non-state funds. 	Provide assurance that state allocated CWF\$ are used prudently and proficiently.	This funding is not distributed via a competitive RFP process, which is the mechanism otherwise relied on to provide assurance that CWF grant funds follows the constitutional, statutory and appropriation criteria.	Recipients of WBIF grants for activities funded by WBIF.	Demonstrate accountability for CWF\$ to policymakers, stakeholders, and auditors; Determine future funding allocations.
Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP)	Plan implementation evaluation (only a portion of PRAP)	Fulfill statutory requirement to review plan implementation.	Minnesota Statute 103B.102 instructs BWSR to evaluate water management entities progress in accomplishing their adopted plans at least once every 10 years. The PRAP program is designed to be preemptive, systematic, constructive and transparent.	All local water management entities with state approved, locally adopted plans.	Acknowledge progress, identify problems, and create recommendations for improved progress in water plan implementation.

