

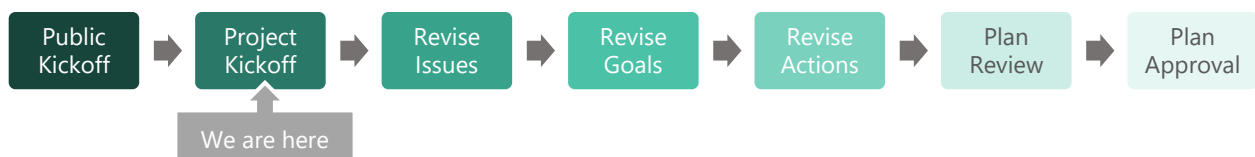
Lake of the Woods Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Update Meeting

Date: October 29, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location:
 Warroad Public Safety Building
 802 Cherne Drive NW
 Warroad, MN 56763

Participants: Bill Thompson (WWD) Glenda Philipe (Roseau Co), Jan Miller (Roseau SWCD), Mike Hirst (LOW SWCD), Corryn Trask (LOW SWCD), Janine Lovold (Roseau SWCD), Joe Olafson (WWD), Josh Stromlund (LOW Co/SWCD), Arne Wick (DNR Eco-Waters), Cary Hernandez (MPCA), Chad Severts (BWSR), Matt Skoog (DNR Fisheries), Dan Disrud (MDH), Dan Trosen (City of Warroad), Moriya Rufer (HEI)

Plan Update Progress



Meeting Summary

First the meeting participants introduced themselves and said if they were part of the original planning process or not. About half of the meeting participants were part of the original planning process. Next, Chad Severts introduced the plan update process and Board of Soil and Water Resource (BWSR) requirements. The Lake of the Woods (LOW) Joint Powers Board decided to do a plan renewal amendment, which resets the plan for the next 10 years.

Mike Hirst summarized the accomplishments in the first five years of plan implementation. Planning Partners made good progress towards measurable goals.

Moriya Rufer reported on the feedback from the public survey. The results are summarized in a separate report.

Workshop

The main focus of this meeting was a workshop to discuss the current plan and where to make changes. Answers to the discussion questions are summarized below.

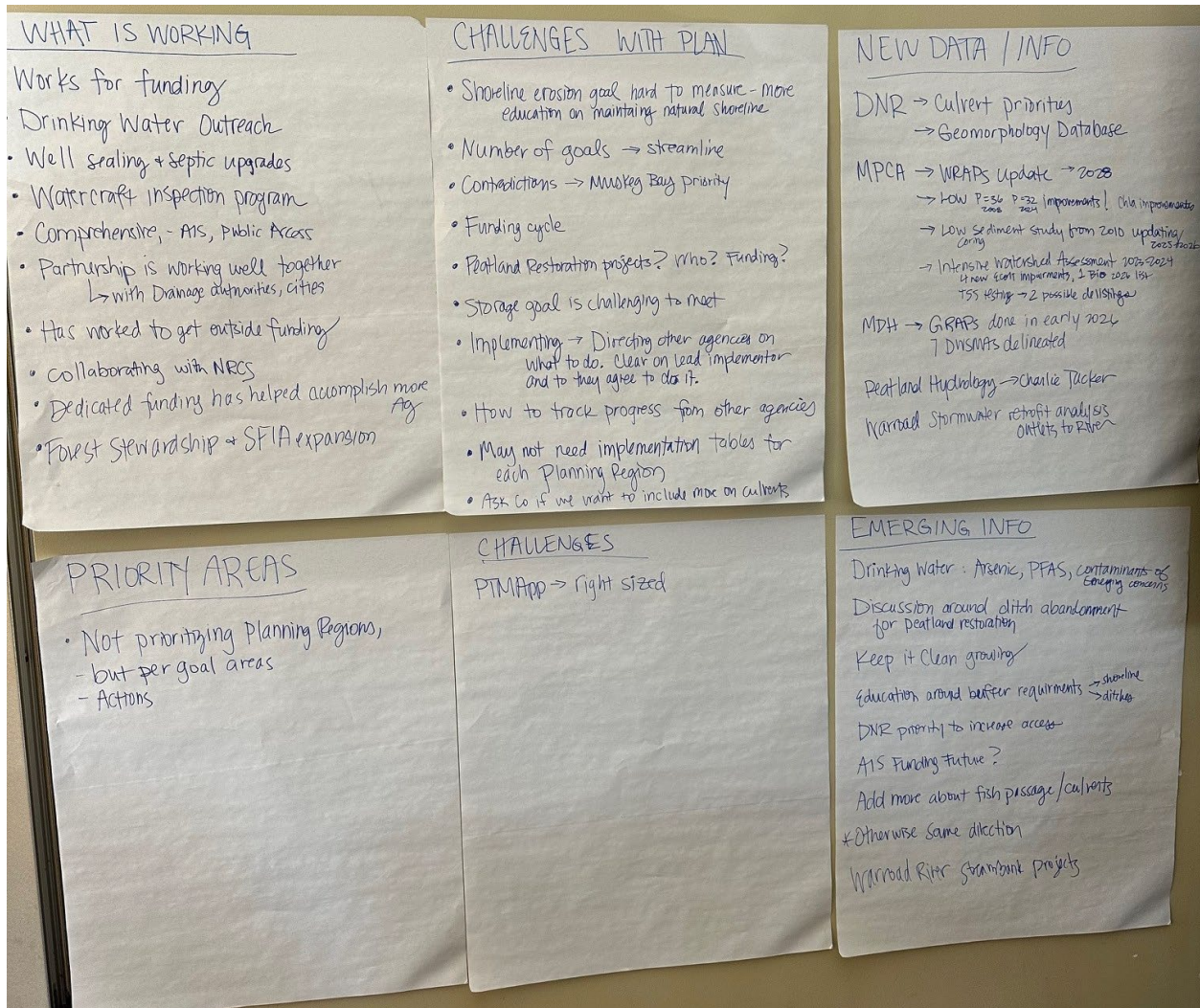


Figure 1. Flip charts from the meeting workshop.

What is working well with the current plan?

- Works for funding
- Drinking water outreach
- Well sealing and septic upgrades
- Watercraft inspection program
- Comprehensive – includes AIS and public access
- Partnership is working well together (with drainage authorities, cities, etc)
- Has worked to get outside funding
- Collaboration with NRCS
- Dedicated funding has helped accomplish more agricultural BMPs
- Forest Stewardship and SFIA expansion

What are the challenges with the current plan?

- Shoreline erosion goal is hard to measure – need more education and training on keeping shoreline natural
- Number of goals is overwhelming – needs simplification
- There are contradictions, for example whether Muskeg Bay is a priority or not
- Funding cycle
- Peatland restoration projects – who? funding?
- Storage goal is challenging to meet
- Implementing – directing other agencies on what to do is difficult. Be clear on leads for actions and make sure agencies are comfortable with it
- How to track progress from other agencies?
- May not need implementation tables for each Planning Region – too repetitive
- Ask the county if we want to include more on culverts
- PTMAApp has to be right-sized in the plan. There is not much ag in the watershed

Are there any new data or information that should be included in the updated plan?

- DNR
 - culvert priorities
 - geomorphology database
 - peatland hydrology – Charlie Tucker
- MPCA
 - WRAPS update ~ 2028
 - Lake of the Woods improvements: P=36 in 2008 and P=32 in 2024. Chlorophyll a improvements too.
 - Lake of the Woods sediment study from 2010 is getting updated in 20205-2026.
 - Intensive Watershed Assessment in 2023-2024. Likely four new *E. coli* impairments, one new biology impairment, two possible TSS delistings.
- MDH
 - GRAPS done in early 2026. Seven DWSMAs delineated.
- Warroad
 - Stormwater retrofit analysis of outlets to the river completed

Is there any other emerging information that needs to be included in the plan update?

- Drinking water: Arsenic, PFAS, Contaminants of Emerging Concern
- Discussion around ditch abandonment for peatland restoration
- Keep it Clean is growing
- Education around buffer requirements for shorelines and ditches
- DNR priority to increase access
- State AIS funding future uncertain
- Add more about fish passage/culverts
- Warroad River Streambank Projects
- Otherwise, same direction as current plan

Are there any changes to priority areas?

- Not prioritizing planning regions but per goal.

Next Steps

The plan schedule is below. All meetings will be held at the Warroad Public Safety Building.

Dates of meetings	Time	Subject
September 24, 2025	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Public Kickoff
October 29, 2025	10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Kickoff, overall feedback
November 18, 2025	9:30 a.m. – noon	Discuss Issue Revisions
December 10, 2025	9:30 a.m. – noon	Finalize Issue Revisions
January 14, 2026	9:30 a.m. – noon	Revise Goals, Actions
February 17, 2026	9:30 a.m. – noon	Goals, Actions
March 17, 2026	9:30 a.m. – noon	Goals, Actions
April 27, 2026	10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Final Revisions
Summer		Review Periods
End of 2026		Plan Approval & Adoption