

**MEETING NATURAL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES  
THROUGH WATERSHED-BASED WETLAND PLANNING: TWO LOCAL  
EXAMPLES.**

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Current wetland policies, including the Federal Mitigation Rule and the state Wetland Conservation Act, stress the importance of a watershed-based approach for a broader water resource benefit. Recently, two watershed-based initiatives in Minnesota have led to the development of the state's first Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) and a Corps of Engineers-led Watershed-Based Mitigation Pilot Study. Using up-to-date resource information such as land cover classifications and TMDL studies, a SAMP was completed for the City of Lino Lakes which integrated local, state and federal wetland permitting programs. Similarly, using extensive available information including a Corps Feasibility Study and TMDL development, the Sunrise River watershed mitigation pilot study coordinated with local stakeholders to site wetland mitigation projects within the watershed to provide the greatest water quality and natural resource benefit. Both projects incorporate current data and policy with local stakeholder input resulting in watershed-based resource and water quality management.