

## Assurance Measures Procedures for Watershed-based Implementation Funding

While it is widely recognized that local governments closest to the ground can best understand watershed management needs and implement the most effective strategies, funders want assurance state investments are being spent on the most effective activities to address the most pressing resource needs. To address this concern, BWSR has developed a set of key indicators, known as assurance measures.

The purpose of the assurance measures is to provide a framework for summarizing and systematically evaluating how non-competitive watershed-based implementation funding is being used to achieve clean water goals as articulated in watershed plans. The assurance measures will not replace or duplicate regular grant monitoring efforts. Rather, the measures will supplement existing efforts and data collected will be used to provide additional context about local watershed implementation.

Data for the assurance measures will be collected in multiple ways. When feasible, BWSR staff will gather reported data from eLINK or other existing sources. Additional information to ensure context will be collected through a series of evaluation questions developed to help focus and provide structure for face-to-face conversations. When possible, BWSR staff will use existing groups or preexisting local meetings (i.e. Implementation or advisory), to collect data from local staff. Information collected will be assessed by BWSR staff and each grant recipient will receive feedback. Evaluations may be conducted with individual grantees or watershed partnerships as a whole, depending on the structure of the partnerships and/or distribution of grant funds.

Data Collection	Frequency
<p>Existing eLINK data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work plan budget categories including match</li> <li>▪ Activity types and numbers</li> <li>▪ Activity outcomes</li> <li>▪ Activity locations (structural projects only)</li> <li>▪ Work plan scope</li> <li>▪ Pace of progress toward work plan</li> </ul>	<p>A preliminary/interim assessment of eLINK data will occur after approximately half the grant funds are spent or 12 to 18 months after the grant is awarded as a means to gauge early progress. A more formal assessment of eLINK data will occur once per biennium in conjunction with the collection of local data below. Schedules will be adjusted based on timing of grant awards.</p>
<p>Local data provided by grantee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Estimated leveraged dollars</li> <li>▪ Opportunity to highlight non-watershed based funding related activities</li> <li>▪ In-person conversations to provide context</li> </ul>	<p>Local data will be collected once per biennium during the watershed-based funding grant cycle. The schedule for collecting these data will be adjusted based on timing of grant awards. Local groups or meetings will be used when possible for in-person conversations, which will occur near or at the end of the grant period.</p>