

A Comparison of a Watershed District to a Joint Powers Watershed Management Organization

Governance Issues

Watershed District

3 to 9 Managers

Managers appointed by County Board. (The first WD board of managers is appointed by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. All later replacements are appointed by the County Board.)

Managers cannot be public officers of the county, state, or federal government.

General Fund
(\$250,000 or 0.048% ad valorem)

Organizational Expense Fund
(\$60,000 or 0.01596% ad valorem)

Project Establishment:

- * Capital improvement projects defined in the Plan
- * Basic water management project (0.00798%)
- * By Petition

A local unit of government within a WD may establish a Special Tax District by subwatershed. (103B.245, Subd 1(b)) WD cannot tax by subwatershed.

Programs and Policies are defined in Plan.

County must levy what the WD requests. (Statutes place limits on the amount a WD may levy.)

Joint Powers WMO

Any number, but usually one per member.

Board members are appointed by members.

After December 31, 1999, staff of local units of government that are members of the watershed management organization are not eligible to be appointed to the board (and other limitations as defined in the JPA).

No limit except as defined in the JPA.

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Project Establishment:

- * Capital improvement projects defined in the Plan
- * Basic water management project
- * By Petition

A local unit of government within a JPA WMO may establish a Special Tax District by subwatershed. (103B.245, Subd 1(b)) JPA WMOs can not tax by subwatershed.

Programs and Policies are defined in Plan.

County may veto capital improvements when county funding is proposed.

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Duties and Responsibilities	Watershed District	Metro Area Watershed District	Joint Powers WMO
Adopt a Watershed Management Plan	M	M	M
Prepare an annual report	M	M	M
Appoint an advisory committee	M	M	M [1]
Manage transferred drainage system	M	M	D
Receive drainage system improvement and establishment petitions	M	M	D
Adopt water management rules	M	M	D
Receive petitions for projects	M	M	D
Conduct hearing on annual budget	M	M	D
Hire employees	D	D	D
Enter into contracts and agreements	D	D	D
Regulate development	D	D	D
Initiate projects	D	D	D
Approve local water plans	D	M	M
Financing authority	D	D	D
Ad valorem tax	D	D	D
Special assessments [2]	D	D	D
Stormwater utilities [2]	D	D	D
Fees [2]	D	D	D

[1] A JPA WMO must identify a procedure for establishing citizen and technical advisory committees. (8410.0030, Subp. 1G)

[2] May be assessed on a subwatershed basis by a local unit of government within a WD/WMO

M=Mandatory
D=Discretionary