

Lake Erie Balanced Growth Program Watershed Planning Partnerships

What is it?

A *Watershed Planning Partnerships* is the organization within a watershed that will assemble for the purpose of preparing a *Watershed Balanced Growth Plan*. Partnerships should be a regional effort that, depending on the watershed, can be organized in flexible ways to respond to local conditions. Their work should be open, inclusive, and focused on consensus building.

Composition?

- While Watershed Planning Partnerships participation is voluntary, they need to be inclusive of all interests, including representatives from local governments, planning agencies, councils of governments, special purpose authorities, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholder groups.
- To assist with coordination and provide input, state agency representatives should be involved as non-voting, ex-officio members.
- The partnerships can contract with existing planning agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, or private consultants for staff support.

How will Watershed Planning Partnerships guarantee participation?

- Watershed Planning Partnerships must demonstrate the support of local governments with land use planning and implementation authority; and should seek to meet the following threshold targets:
- Representation from at least 75% of the geographic land area of the watershed.
- Representation from at least 75% of the population of the watershed.
- Representation from at least 75% of the local governments that have land use control authority in the watershed.

What are the benefits of participating in WPPs?

- Watershed Planning Partnerships will gain access to extra state incentives made available to PCAs and PDAs
- They will control the designation of PCAs and PDAs.
- They will gain greater ability to manage development because their local plans will be supported by technical studies, information, data, as well as be coordinated with a larger regional planning effort.
- They will have greater access to planning information and knowledge about the community's future.
- They will help make themselves and communities throughout the watershed more competitive by creating a higher quality of life and by making development decisions more predictable.
- They will have access to tools and technical assistance to improve planning and reduce infrastructure costs.

