

# Organizational Options for Local Government Water Partnerships

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# Some wheels have already been invented...

## Institutional Models for Sharing Water Resource Protection Costs Among Multiple Parties:

### An Examination of Existing Programs in the Upper Neuse River Basin of North Carolina

by Jeff Hughes



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Table 1. Coexisting initiatives for watershed protection in the Triangle area.

Model Name	Model Type	Enabling Authority, Key Documents	Description (Excerpted/Summarized from Website)	Website
Southern Granville Water and Sewer Authority	Water and Sewer Authority*	G.S. 162 Article 1, Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, Inter-local agreements	A unit of local government operating a water and sewer system in southern Granville County. SGWSA is statutorily obligated to ensure that water and sewer resources are available and used in the most efficient and effective manner, and is authorized to charge a user ration fee for water and sewer allocation, consistent with the applicable local water sewer rate schedule.	<a href="http://www.gswater.org/">http://www.gswater.org/</a>

Institutional Models for Sharing Costs among Multiple Partners

Model Name	Model Type	Enabling Authority, Key Documents	Description (Excerpted/Summarized from Website)	Website
Jordan Lake Partnership	Inter-Agency			
Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Stormwater Projects	State/Federal/Local Government Partnership/Soil and Water District	GS 139 Governmental subdivision of the state; a public body organized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 139 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and is subject to the powers and restrictions as set forth in G.S. 132.	A sub-unit of government under Durham County responsible for assessing soil, water, and related natural resources within the district boundary.	<a href="http://durham.gov/soil_water/page.aspx?page=571&amp;re_desc=1">http://durham.gov/soil_water/page.aspx?page=571&amp;re_desc=1</a>

Institutional Models for Sharing Costs among Multiple Partners

Model Name	Model Type	Enabling Authority, Key Documents	Description (Excerpted/Summarized from Website)	Website
Upper Neuse River Basin Association	Water Non-profit Govern Assn			
Multijurisdictional Stormwater Utility Partnership Shared Services	Public Enterprise Inter-local Agreement	GS 153A-278	An inter-local agreement between multiple independent local government stormwater programs to share centralized stormwater management services including a shared stormwater utility director.	NA
Clean Water Education Partnership	Engine of Gov Manag Progra		A long term agreement between several local governments and the Federal government aimed at systematically evaluating the quality of several water supply sources in North Carolina. The project provides long term water quality data for six area water supply reservoirs and their tributaries.	TACOG <a href="http://www.tacog.org/triangle/">http://www.tacog.org/triangle/</a>
Neuse River Compliance Association	Non-profit	Board of delegates and an executive committee	A non-profit organization provides a cost-sharing framework to allow local governments and stakeholders to work together on local and regional water resource planning, management and protection issues of mutual concern.	<a href="http://www.ncrpa.org/index.html#partnership">http://www.ncrpa.org/index.html#partnership</a>
Urban Water Consortium	Inter-local Agreement and contract with non-profit attorney	Operating procedures	An inter-local agreement partnership between local utilities to provide a program of research and development and technology transfer on water resource issues shared by urban areas across the state.	<a href="http://www.ncsu.edu/wri/index/partnership.html">http://www.ncsu.edu/wri/index/partnership.html</a>
Elberle Creek Watershed Association Durham County's Sustainable Stormwater Projects	Delegated service to Non-profit	Service Provider Model 301(j)(2) non-profit	A non-profit group involving stakeholders, Durham County, and private sponsors. The organization raises awareness of Elberle Creek and works to protect and restore the creek's ecology.	<a href="http://www.elberle.org">http://www.elberle.org</a>

- <https://efc.sog.unc.edu/reslib/item/institutional-models-sharing-water-resource-protection-costs-among-multiple-partners>



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# Conclusions.

- No shortage of models
- Link model to objectives
- Trusted agents with strong leadership
- Multi-variable cost sharing formulas
- Appropriate to scale of effort

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# Step 1: Establish objectives


## “What do you want to do?”

- Spend money for specific activities
- Obtain public financing and funding
- Borrow tax exempt money
- Hire staff
- Set rates and fees
- Levy taxes
- Exert regulatory authority



# Some Options

1. Interlocal agreement(s)
2. Joint Management Agency
3. Existing non-profit
4. Statutory defined entity/non profit
5. New water and sewer authority
6. Something new
  - New watershed district
  - Watershed utility



**MAWD**

**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS, INC**  
*Land and Water Shall be Preserved*

Home

What's Happening?

What is a Watershed District?

### Why Establish a Watershed District?

Watershed districts are formed for reasons ranging from flood control to water quality protection.

- They are established when water management problems become greater than one community or city can handle.
- They are formed at the request of local citizens, county boards or cities by petitioning the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) under the procedures set forth in the Watershed Act.
- Water management on a watershed basis is important for uniform and effective controls, not only to correct problems but to prevent them.
- [How to establish a watershed district](#)

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QUESTIONS?



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