Water Quality Implementation Program Updates
Kansas Water Office Webinar Series, KDHE Update
May, 8, 2020

- Watershed Restoration and Protection Program
- Drinking Water Protection Program
- Scaling Up
Annual Budget: $2.9M EPA; $730,000 SWP

- Vision of WRAPS is to achieve improved water quality for the State of Kansas through collaborative watershed management.

- WRAPS Projects work collectively with many partners including state and federal agencies, local producers, industry, municipalities, and other stakeholders to develop, plan, and implement strategies to address water quality concerns.
Watershed Protection and Restoration Strategy (WRAPS)

• Plan – Effectively and efficiently increase the number of water bodies meeting surface water quality standards through targeted implementation of water quality practices

• Content –
  • Water Quality Goal and Sources of Pollution
  • Watershed Needs (what’s the problem)
  • Efficiency and Cost Effective BMPs
  • Targeted Subwatersheds
  • Short, Mid and Long Term Milestones
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Drinking Water Protection Program

Annual Budget: $350,000 SWP

- Protect small community water supplies source water from non-point source pollution
- Create more sustainable water supply systems
- Prevent financial burden of small communities from increased treatment costs
Drinking Water Protection Program

Generalized DWPP Process

1. Targeting and formal request to City/PWS
2. Assessment & Investigation
3. Creation of Local Leadership Team
4. Plan Development
5. Plan Implementation
6. Monitoring
Drinking Water Protection Program

Program Progress

City of Ford

- Became out of Compliance with drinking water standard for nitrates in spring 2019.
- Signed agreement with KDHE to participate in DWPP in early fall of 2019.
- Formed Local Leadership Team, meeting late 2019 and early 2020.
- KDHE completed early assessment work and developed a workplan for assessing nitrate contamination sources in March 2020.
- Awarded a bid for services in April 2020.
- Well testing will begin in early summer 2020.
Lessons Learned

• Communities less interested than expected in participating.

• The process as presented is overwhelming.

• Changed strategies for recruitment and program execution.
Lessons Learned

• February/March 2020 decided to offer free assessments to communities with increasing nitrate levels.

• Have since secured 7 additional communities to complete assessments for. Kanopolis, Dighton, Copeland, Andale, Belle Plain, Hoxie, Highland

• KDHE has drafted 4 workplans and will put them out for bid in May 2020.
Scaling Up Conservation

WRAPS Program Strategic Planning

Strategic Plan to accompany WRAPS 9 Element Plan

- Define strategy for each WQ Impairment & BMP type
- Identify budget needed to utilize strategies
- Define timeline for each strategy
- Identify funding opportunities outside WRAPS grant for each strategy
- Put more tools in the toolbox!
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Water Quality
Protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans.

- Water Quality
- Rural Development
- Carbon Sequestration
- Water Quantity
- Food Nutrient Density
- Wildlife Habitat
- Water Quantity
- Profitability per Acre
- Drought Mitigation
- Flood Mitigation
- Producer Quality of Life
- Ecosystem Restoration
New Conservation Approach

Conservation Pyramid:
Conceptual basis for this effort emphasizes managing to improve soil health, and effective use of multiple practices to meet water quality goals.

- **Riparian Management**
- **Control Water Below Fields:** Impoundments (e.g., wetlands), Manage “variable source” areas
- **Control Water Within Fields:** Controlled Drainage, grassed waterways, filter strips
- **Build Soil Health:** Zero or restricted tillage, nutrient/manure management, diversified/intensified crop rotations

Scaling Up Conservation

- Cost-share
- Information & Education
- Outreach & Advocacy
- Partner with Agencies
- Relationships with Agricultural Service Providers
- Partner with Implement Manufacturers
- Global Food & Ag Companies
- Ecosystem Services

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Scaling Up Conservation

Ormiston Farms
Scaling Up Conservation

SRF – Kansas Cover Crop Interseeding for Clean Water in Northeast Kansas
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Figure 4: Anticipated Water Quality Benefits

The seven interseeders are contractually required to plant at least 10,000 acres of cover crop each year.

Annual load reductions for 70,000 acres of cover crop are:

136,639 pounds of Nitrogen
68,319 pounds of Nitrogen
23,383 tons of Sediment

Planted acres will be evenly split between Tuttle Creek Watershed and Delaware River Watershed. Each watershed will reduce:

34,201 pounds of Phosphorus
Scaling Up Conservation

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MISSION: To advance ecosystem service markets that incentivize farmers and ranchers to improve soil health systems that benefit society.
Drinking Water Protection Program

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