



Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Priority Goal #1 & #2 Action Plan

Priority Goal #1: Reduce cumulative sediment loads entering public water supply impoundments by 10 percent in the Marais des Cygnes River Basin every 10 years to extend the life of existing infrastructure.

Priority Goal #2: Increase sources of supply, at a minimum of one multipurpose structure, to meet increased demand in specific growth areas by 2035. In addition, ensure water supply available from storage exceeds projected demand by at least 10% through the year 2050.

Action Steps

- ❖ A RAC representative will work with each WRAPS group within the Marais des Cygnes Region to assess their 9 Element Plan and their willingness to work with the RAC to meet the Marais des Cygnes Regional goal of sedimentation reduction. A RAC representative will also work with each conservation district within the Marais des Cygnes Region to assess their goals and their willingness to work with the RAC to meet the Marais des Cygnes Regional goal of sedimentation. If the goals of the conservation district and the 9 Element Plan of the WRAPS groups align with the RAC sedimentation goal then funding will be sought to leverage funds to meet Regional Goals. These two groups have a system in place to distribute cost share funds and to identify projects that need to be implemented to decrease sedimentation. They also provide educational opportunities for landowners.
- ❖ In order to fund these efforts, the first plan of action is to not create a new funding source, but instead to ensure current funding sources are funded; we cannot continue to see funds being diverted away from water quality, water quantity and water conservation efforts within the state budget if we truly want to work to reach the goals of the RAC and the Vision. This would also include working to see that the State Water Plan Fund is funded to maximum levels and funds from the State Water Plan are allocated as they were originally intended; this should include pesticide and fertilizer fees being rerouted back into the water plan fund and therefore assisting with funding goal implementation. If these funds are not adequate, then new sources will need to be sought. These sources could include, but are not limited to applying a 1 cent/1000 fee on water used by all beneficial uses not already paying a usage fee and or a 1 to 3 cent per bottle water tax applied to bottled water sold in Kansas.
- ❖ RAC members will also encourage local support of goal implementation through conservation districts, WRAPS groups, producers, municipalities, etc. This will be done through education and awareness of the RAC.
- ❖ The Kansas Water Office, along with the Marais des Cygnes RAC, will evaluate cost estimates of calling-in the unallocated storage in Melvern Reservoir, as well as the evaluation of a pool rises at Pomona and Hillsdale Reservoirs with the estimated cost of constructing a new reservoir for water supply. The entire Marais des Cygnes Region's population projections will be evaluated for their supply needs to ensure that the demand can be met and exceeded by 10% through the year 2050. Both mainstem and off-stream storage supply will be evaluated to ensure all counties within the Marais des Cygnes region have their water supply needs met. The reduction of sediment loads created by the work with the WRAPS groups and the Conservation Districts to implement BMPs such as, but not limited to, cover crops, No-Till, terraces, etc. will be evaluated for these practices' potential to meet projected water needs through 2050, and, as an alternative to constructing a new storage structure. The RAC is, in effect, going to consider whether Goal 2 can essentially be met by achieving Goal 1 in conjunction with purchasing the reserve supply in Melvern Reservoir and the already purchased, but largely underutilized, supply in Hillsdale Reservoir.