

Priority Goal #3: Implement and maintain watershed protection activities to maintain regional reservoir storage capacity for an additional 100 years beyond the design life.

Priority Goal #4: Maintain or reduce the rate of sedimentation and nutrient loading through the encouragement of best management practices (BMPs) on 50% of the high priority acres in the watershed above water supply reservoirs. Ensure practices are sustained and maintained for the long-term and priorities are reassessed every five years.

Action Steps

- ❖ Identify market based funding sources.
- ❖ Increase Information & Education activities which keep in mind human nature.
- ❖ Reestablish a Kansas buffer initiative program.
- ❖ Property owners should be compensated for use of their property for implementation of BMPs through existing or enhanced conservation programs. Discourage shot gun approach to BMP implementation.
- ❖ Maintenance payments for upkeep of conservation practices beyond their contract life.
- ❖ Conservation Farms demonstrating practices which reduce sediment runoff.
- ❖ Let Corps of Engineers (COE) Water Storage Contract Holders use Operations & Maintenance (O&M) money for watershed practices to help reduce sedimentation.
- ❖ Add additional fees to water bills to be used for BMP implementation in watersheds.
- ❖ Increase partnership between Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Kansas Department of Agriculture - Division of Conservation & K-State Research & Extension (KSRE) to improve efficiency of BMP implementation.
- ❖ Determine/define high priority areas.
 - ◇ Establish a “Streambank Stabilization Initiative” for priority areas.
- ❖ Continue to focus on BMPs as highlighted within Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) 9 Element Watershed Plans as well as streambank stabilization and erosion control dams.
- ❖ Ensure revisions to WRAPS 9-Element Watershed Plans covering areas above regional water supply reservoirs to implement best management practices which lead to regional reservoir storage capacity for an additional 100 years beyond the design life.
- ❖ Conduct sediment source analysis within watersheds above regional water supply reservoirs. Results of this analysis can lead to modifications of BMP implementation types (i.e. streambank stabilization or cropland/upland areas of focus).

Responsible and Assisting Agencies/Organizations:

- ❖ Kansas Water Office (KWO), Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), KDHE/WRAPS, NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), county Conservation Districts, Kansas Rural Center, Kansas Alliance of Wetlands and Streams (KAWS), KSRE, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association, State Association of Kansas Watersheds, local stakeholders.

Resources Needed:

- ❖ NRCS, local Conservation Districts, and WRAPS for technical assistance with staffing based on specific priorities (i.e. Buffer specialist).
- ❖ BMP funding through Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), State Water Plan, WRAPS/EPA 319.
 - ◇ Establish baseline funding from previous 15 years for available dollars for water quality practices and estimates costs for determined priority areas.
- ❖ Additional funding should not come at the expense of reducing funding for non-priority areas.



Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Priority Goal #3 & 4 Action Plan

Timeframe of Completion:

- ❖ One year of education and training to get staffing in place.
- ❖ Years 2 through 5 BMPs are implemented on the ground.

Geographic Scope:

- ❖ Watersheds above any public water supply reservoir within the Equus-Walnut Region.

Regulation/Policy Changes:

- ❖ Relax haying restriction on CRP-contracted land with payment adjustments.
- ❖ Provide more flexibility at the county level to determine specs for cost-shared practices.
- ❖ Discussions with COE regarding use of O&M funds for watershed protection and restoration activities.
- ❖ Provide up to 100% cost share for BMP implementation:
 - ◇ Lifetime contracts with maintenance payments to landowners.
 - ◇ Potentially set cropping boundaries/set-backs along streams.