

Priority Goal #2: To ensure a reliable surface water supply in the future, best management practices will be implemented so surface water quality in identified drainages is maintained or improved using goals and milestones as identified in the Missouri Watershed Restoration and Protection Area 9 Element Plan.

Guiding Principle:

Over the next 50 years, there needs to be an adequate, sustainable and affordable quality water supply in the Missouri Region, while protecting Tribal water rights and sacred and cultural sites. All government agencies, local through state, shall vigorously uphold and enforce all water conservation and management rules and regulations throughout the state.

Action Steps

❖ Collection of Additional Data

- ◇ Collect data on a voluntary basis to evaluate the benefits of tile outlet terrace systems within the Missouri Region. Prior to proposing any design changes to outlets of tile terraces in the Missouri Region, conduct research on cropland field input amounts (rates, dates applied, how it was applied, etc.) and collect water samples to evaluate the water runoff into the streams in the region. Collect data working with interested local landowners with assistance of area conservation districts, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other existing agencies. Collection sites will be: tile terrace runoff, waterway runoff, land with no conservation work or no conservation tillage, and land with no conservation work but using no-till.
- ◇ Collect data on the benefits of capturing and reusing water on a producer's property.
- ◇ Gather existing information on the impact of extreme events (droughts and floods) on water quality and availability of water resources into the future in the Missouri Region.
- ◇ Assess what other interest groups, agencies and individuals locally and from states with similar topography and precipitation (Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Missouri,) can provide on alternative projects that could contribute to water quality in the Missouri Region.

❖ Implementation

- ◇ Support and encourage implementation of the best management practices (BMPs) in the adopted 9-Element Plan. Those BMPs are: No-till, cover crops, grassed and forested buffers, convert steep slopes, sediment basins, pasture management, nutrient management, livestock waste management, alternative watering supplies, streambank stabilization, onsite wastewater system repair, urban lawn management, pet waste management. The Plan should be updated every 5-years.
- ◇ Focus on finding local volunteers that are willing to adopt and promote new practices, including streambank stabilization.
- ◇ Ensure the value of maintenance of BMPs is understood to allow BMPs to have the desired long term effects, through education and outreach.
- ◇ Recognize the value of protection of water quality through education and outreach.
- ◇ Prevent sedimentation by using existing cost - share programs through the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (DOC); KDHE; and NRCS, to fund conservation practices in the Missouri Region.
- ◇ Continue to use the NRCS for technical assistance on implementation practices suited to the unique topography of the Missouri Region.
- ◇ Prioritize the existing ranking systems from agencies, to secure funding for protecting water quality and water supply in the Missouri Region.

- ◇ Raise awareness about water quality and the importance of proper urban lawn application.

❖ **Monitoring**

- ◇ Determine if additional monitoring sites are needed to better characterize and prioritize project priorities in the Region.

❖ **Funding Needs**

- ◇ To ensure water quality is maintained and improved, the state should fully fund the Kansas Water Plan for implementation of best management practices through programs of the DOC, KDHE and others as needed.
- ◇ Ensure continued and improved coordination with the NRCS to access and make the best use of funding for priority projects for water quality protection in the Region.
- ◇ Assess possible involvement of other agencies, businesses and interest groups to determine interest and possible funding of water quality projects in the Region.
- ◇ Continue to ensure that funding from the Clean Drinking Water Fee Fund for technical assistance for small public water supply systems is maintained at least at the current level.
- ◇ Include funding for streambank stabilization projects as identified in the WRAPS 9 Element Plan.
- ◇ Fully fund the 9-Element Plan implementation (approximately \$140,000/year).
- ◇ Develop a funding strategy within the next year for additional data collection and implementation as identified above in a phased manner in conjunction with DOC, NRCS, and KDHE and others as appropriate. Funding needs will then be reviewed on an annual basis and brought to the KWA.