

Priority Goal #3: Reduce the cumulative sediment rate of federal reservoirs and other water supply lakes by 10 percent in the Kansas region every 10 years through implementation of watershed best management practices.

Action Steps

- ❖ Utilize the Kansas Basin Watershed Management System (KBWM System) to reduce the overall sediment rate by 10 percent for the entire Kansas basin, not per reservoir, over 10 years.
 - ◇ All new funding allocated to meet RAC sedimentation reduction goals will utilize the KBWM System. See the attached document for a description of the KBWM System as well as a process chart illustrating how it functions.
 - ◇ KBWM System utilizes and provides for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) related to the reduction of sediment loading, which include a large range of measures. Approval and recommendation of BMPs for sediment reduction will be determined by the KBWM Interagency Committee (refer to KBWM System description).
 - ◇ This is accomplished by funding a minimum of \$5 M annually to the System specifically for the reduction of sedimentation in the Kansas basin. At this funding rate, the goal is expected to be achieved within 30 years.
- ❖ Within five years, all state and federal lands surrounding each reservoir in the watershed must have implemented best management practices as identified through the KBWM System.
- ❖ Individual WRAPS' plans and conservation district goals must include the concept of reservoir sustainability with the goal of maintaining storage capacity in Kansas Basin reservoirs.
- ❖ Reservoir sustainability and reduction of sedimentation must be added as primary goals of the Kansas WRAPS Work Group.
- ❖ The KBWM System will allow for the modification or inclusion of additional sedimentation goals as they are developed by Regional Advisory Committees (RACs)
- ❖ Establish programs with local universities to leverage relevant departments for expertise and student resources.
- ❖ Existing funding allocations will continue to be distributed and managed as they have been historically with an enhanced focus on communication and coordination among funding providers. This increase in communication and coordination is an anticipated byproduct of the KBWM System.
- ❖ Additional funding for sedimentation through the KBWM System is critical to meeting the Kansas RAC Sedimentation Goals.
 - ◇ One key element of additional funding will be to secure adequate technical assistance advisors and providers for timely delivery and implementation of recommended best management practices.
 - ◇ Additional technical assistance at the state level must be developed, even with the current level of funding. NRCS currently provides technical assistance, but due to current funding and decreased staffing capacity, NRCS cannot always meet the state's implementation schedule. With additional state technical assistance providers, NRCS can dovetail and assist with projects, but projects will move forward in the event NRCS is not available. This encourages collaboration between the two groups, and reduces reliance on NRCS.
- ❖ Achieving the stated goals requires the broadest participation possible. To affect a science-based solution, it is important that all relevant lands within a specific watershed be analyzed to assess their issues, determine their priority with respect to a defined problem (e.g. sedimentation of reservoirs) and identify and prioritize solutions. This may be a long-term process.
- ❖ The Kansas RAC encourages landowners in the Kansas Basin to develop and implement voluntary Comprehensive Conservation Plans for lands in the areas of resource concern.
- ❖ Education about the KBWM System and its goals and functions should be included in the Governor's Water Vision Education and Outreach Program.
 - ◇ Specific educational and outreach programs, resources and items shall be created, distributed and taught throughout the Kansas Basin focusing on the specific goals of the Kansas Basin.

Priority Goal #5: After 2020, reduce duration and frequency of harmful algal blooms disrupting recreation in lakes such that blooms last under a week and do not occur until after Labor Day.

Action Steps

- ❖ Utilize the Kansas Basin Watershed Management (KBWM) System to reduce the level of nutrients entering the reservoirs and water supply lakes.
 - ◇ All new funding allocated to meet RAC nutrient reduction goals will utilize the KBWM System. See the attached document for a description of the KBWM System as well as a process chart illustrating how it functions.
 - ◇ KBWM System utilizes and provides for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) related to the reduction of nutrient loading, which include a large range of measures. Approval and recommendation of BMPs for nutrient reduction will be determined by the KBWM Interagency Committee (refer to KBWM System description).
 - ◇ This is accomplished by a minimum allocation of \$1.5 million per year to be directed to BMPs in the Milford Watershed, with a total request of \$3 million per year, with the remaining \$1.5 million to be distributed throughout the watershed through the KBWM System.
- ❖ Within five years, all state and federal lands surrounding each reservoir in the watershed must have implemented best management practices to address harmful algal blooms (HABs) as identified through the KBWM System.
- ❖ Individual WRAPS' Plans and local Conservation Districts' goals must include the concept of minimizing nutrient inflow to lakes with the goal of reducing the potential for HABs.
- ❖ The reduction of nutrients must be added as a primary focus of the Kansas WRAPS Work Group.
- ❖ The Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment must coordinate with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on management of releases during HABs, and provide notice to downstream communities of the level of release.
- ❖ Ensure that the Kansas Water Office and KS RAC promote the inclusion of lake communities, downstream public water supply systems, and other water users into HAB meetings and discussions.
- ❖ Underscore that the preferred methodology is to use best management practices (BMPs), which include a large range of measures which will be vetted through the KBWM System. BMPs should be prioritized to address HABs.
- ❖ Recognize that in the near-term, dollars will need to be spent on treatment of the problem in the lakes (e.g. chemical treatment), but the goal is to shift those dollars upstream to prevention of the problem at the source – which is to prevent nutrients from flowing into the lakes.
- ❖ The RAC supports ongoing research for identification and remediation of the causes, prevention and treatment of HABs, including potential in-lake technologies.
- ❖ Establish programs with universities to leverage relevant departments for expertise and student resources.
- ❖ Achieving the stated goals requires the broadest participation possible. To affect a science-based solution, it is important that all relevant lands within a specific watershed be analyzed to assess their issues, determine their priority with respect to a defined problem (e.g. HABs) and identify and prioritize solutions. This may be a long-term process.
- ❖ The RAC encourages landowners in the Kansas Basin to develop and implement voluntary Comprehensive Conservation Plans for lands in the areas of resource concern.
- ❖ Education about the KBWM System and its goals and functions should be included in the Governor's Water Vision Education and Outreach Program.
 - ◇ Specific educational and outreach programs, resources and items shall be created, distributed and taught throughout the Kansas Basin focusing on the specific goals of the Kansas Basin including the reduction of HABs.
 - ◇ Establish a region wide education and communication plan with regard to HABs and include best and worst management practices.

- ❖ The Kansas Basin Watershed Management System (KBWM) is a System proposed by the Kansas RAC to be used for all new funds allocated to meet the relevant Kansas Regional Goals.
- ❖ The KBWM System is based on four key principles, all of which must be met in order for projects to receive (new) funding.
 - ◇ Action is Grassroots – Property owners in a targeted region must be an integral part of the process. Property owners’ input informs the prioritization of projects for the watershed. “Action is Grassroots” means that all projects are voluntary, and that local landowners continue to work through existing systems and programs to coordinate, encourage, and commit to high priority projects. This allows for bottom-up decision-making as local landowners utilize their knowledge of the region to determine what projects are best for the area.
 - ◇ Watershed Based – All projects and associated funding are prioritized based on the needs in the watershed rather than political boundaries.
 - ◇ Science-Based Prioritization – All projects and associated funding are prioritized through a science-based system within the watershed.
 - ◇ Outreach – Critical projects within a watershed are identified, and outreach is conducted to encourage and support participation by key (high priority in the watershed based on science-based analysis) property owners in the watershed.
- ❖ The KBWM System is coordinated by the Kansas Water Office, and consists of an Interagency Watershed Committee and an Interagency Watershed Leadership Team. (See attached chart).
 - ◇ The Kansas Water Office serves as the initial repository of new funds.
 - ◇ The Kansas Interagency Watershed Leadership Team is made up of 1 Representative from Each Member Group
 - ◇ Kansas Water Office (Coordinator)
 - ◇ KDA - Division of Conservation
 - ◇ KDHE – WRAPS
 - ◇ NRCS
 - ◇ Kansas Forest Service
 - ◇ Kansas RAC
 - ◇ The Leadership Team is coordinated by the Kansas Water Office.
 - ◇ The Interagency Watershed Leadership Team is responsible for prioritization on a watershed basis, allocation of funding and accountability.
 - ◇ The Interagency Watershed Leadership Team coordinates all key agencies to ensure that efforts are coordinated, not duplicative, and allows for the greatest leverage of all funding allocated to a region.
 - ◇ The Interagency Watershed Leadership Team would develop recommendations on distribution of funding (local, state, or federal) to the appropriate region and entity.
 - ◇ The Interagency Watershed Leadership Team would be represented at annual Kansas NRCS State Technical Committee Meetings to request assistance in the implementation of the action plans and to advocate for USDA resources to be targeted to best management practices (BMPs) in KS RAC priority areas.
 - ◇ The Kansas Interagency Watershed Committee is a broader group where much of the work of region prioritization and accountability is done.
 - ◇ The Kansas Interagency Watershed Committee is managed by the Kansas Water Office.
- ❖ The KBWM System expands upon the already existing coordination among relevant state and federal agencies.
- ❖ The KBWM System encourages cross-jurisdictional coordination with the State of Nebraska and federally-recognized Tribes.

- ❖ The KBWM System is designed to incorporate additional goals as they are developed by Regional Advisory Committees (RACs).
- ❖ The KBWM System allows for the utilization of all best management practices (BMPs), which include a large range of measures, as established by the Interagency Watershed Committee Leadership Team and informed by the Kansas Interagency Watershed Committee.
- ❖ The methodology of allocation of funding will be determined by the Interagency Watershed Committee Leadership Team.
- ❖ The KS RAC will request an annual report from all entities involved in BMP implementation in the watershed and RAC targeted areas. This annual report will commence in 2016 for all existing and future funding sources.

