

Chapter 7: Making It Happen

Organization

The implementation of this watershed plan will be a collaborative and iterative effort. There are many community partners that are currently involved that need to stay involved, and there are other entities that need to be re-invited to the project. Just as with the plan itself, successful implementation depends on local buy in and participation.

The plan should be presented to all public officials in the watershed area. Accounts of the process of writing the plan and many components of the plan should be presented at public meetings and to interest groups. It will also be available online.

The cooperation and collaboration of these groups are critical to meeting the goals of the plan. Each group should be accountable for its assigned action items for each BMP through the implementation of the plan. Evaluating progress throughout the process is an important element, as well. An adaptive management approach may be taken to make sure implementation stays on track and is meeting goals.

Because of the number of involved parties, studies conducted, and recommendations made within the plan, it is recommended to employ a local watershed coordinator. The Watershed Coordinator would be a link between responsible parties, funding agencies, watershed residents, and technical resources. The watershed coordinator would also monitor the progress of plan related projects or activities and provide updates on progress made.

Fundraising

The Daniel Boone National Forest has secured a Kentucky Division of Water 319 grant to implement the watershed plan. This grant will cover the cost of a part-time local watershed coordinator to help oversee implementation. The grant will also cover a selected number of the recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs). Additional funding is needed to put more BMPs on the ground and ensure the long term success of them.

Monitoring success

Monitoring implementation of the watershed plan would involve two separate but related activities: monitoring the implementation of activities and BMPs listed in the plan, and monitoring whether or not water quality in Swift Camp Creek and ultimately the Red River measurably improves.

The first set of monitoring tasks, tracking activity measures, would consist of documenting the planning, execution, and outcome of the various work items listed in the watershed management plan, e.g., environmental education programs, community clean-up days, installing recreation BMPs, and repairing septic systems. These actions are absolutely critical for building awareness of water quality issues in the Red River Watershed, increasing understanding of the technical aspects of recommended management practices, building support for BMP implementation, and providing overall support for water quality improvement.

The second set of monitoring tasks would involve documenting changes in water quality in the watershed. It will be up to the KDOW, the Watershed Coordinator, and the Daniel Boone National Forest project staff to craft a post-implementation monitoring plan for the sub-watersheds where BMPs are implemented. At a minimum, this will involve monitoring *E. coli* in Swift Camp Creek.

Evaluating and updating your plan

Watershed planning is an iterative process. The first draft of this watershed plan was started in 2012 and completed 2015. It is expected that some of the information in the plan will need updating. Stakeholders and project partners will likely change, data will be added, land uses may change, local priorities may shift, and restoration efforts and BMPs may improve water quality and habitat conditions. The Watershed Coordinator and the Watershed Team may update the plan near the conclusion of the next Kentucky Division of Water 319 grant.

Conclusions

As part of the process of creating this watershed plan, public meetings were held in either Wolfe or Menifee Counties, numerous road-side or creek-side cleanups were held, various other educational events have taken place, and recreation BMPs were installed. It is the sincere hope of the project partners involved that these important efforts will continue as the community works toward a cleaner, safer watershed.

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