

# **NPS Management Update**

**September 27, 2017**

**Arkansas Natural Resources Commission  
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NPS Management Program**

# Updates and Information

## ➤ Funding

- \$3,062,000 was approved by EPA to fund 11 NPS related projects in Arkansas starting on October 1, 2017
  - ❖ Costshare
  - ❖ Streambank Restoration
  - ❖ Monitoring
  - ❖ Green Infrastructure
  - ❖ Education

## ➤ Workplans

- No request for workplans will be announced by ANRC in December 2017
- The FY18 grant will be used for administrative cost over a 3 to 4 year period

# Updates and Information

## ➤ **Funding – unknown in the future**

- We expect allocation amount(s) to be systematically reduced. It also appears allocation amounts will not be determined quickly.
- Also we do not know what the focus will be if EPA downsizes

## ➤ **Annual Report**

- Annual report to EPA was submitted on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and received a favorable review of the accomplishments made, the success accomplished, coordination with other partners and projects being implemented.

## ➤ **Success**

- Since January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017 ANRC has had a total of 3 Watershed Management Plans that have been accepted by EPA and currently 1 is in development

# Historic Funding for the NPS Program in Arkansas

- FY 15            \$2,957M            (-)            31K
- FY 16            \$3,057M            +            100K
- FY 17            \$3,062M            +            5K
- FY 18            \$????            (?)            \*

\* Currently we are anticipating and planning for less \$\$ for FY18.

Depending on the FY18 \$\$ we would fund admin to keep the program going.

# NPS Program focus for the Future?

## Changes

- More focus on BMP implementation
  - Smaller 12 Digit HUCs
  - Delistings
- Costshare projects are declining based on match
  - More Costshare partners
- Slight upswing in LID projects
- Milestones

## Hurdles

- MS4 permits
- City ordinances
- Knowledge based Planners, Developers and Contractors
  - ❑ Education opportunity

# Essential changes needed of the NPS Management Program

## ➤ Money

- The NPS program could use more \$'s but only if there are partners (entities) willing to do the work (projects) or do the work necessary (eligibility) with the restrictions of where \$'s can be used based on EPA guidance (criteria)
- Currently only federal \$'s are put into the NPS program. There is no "line item" or Arkansas legislative funding allocated
- Project area or stream segment monitoring, results and WQx cost versus "on the ground" implementation

## ➤ Field Capacity – there are not entities to carry out projects

- Not financially secure or ever develop a long term revenue stream
- No full time coordinator or dedicated personnel
- No activities to keep partners involved
- Little or no recognition or expressed appreciation

## ➤ Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) –

- ADEQ develops the Integrated Water Quality Report (305b) and the subsequent 303(d) list of impaired waters
  - Roving monitoring network – waters actively assessed on a rotating basis
  - Typically an 8 digit HUC has 2-3 monitoring stations
  - Not enough monitoring to assess effectiveness of "small" projects

# Limitations of the NPS Management Program

## ➤ Documented Success

- Difficult and takes time (long term monitoring and assessment)
- Indicative of waters removed

## ➤ Reactive versus Proactive management

- Historically EPA has mandated a reactive management approach to WQ (i.e. address only waters that are impaired)
- Federal fiscal year 2014 EPA agreed with states that some \$'s be dedicated to maintaining waterbodies

## ➤ Time

- Practices (BMPs) placed along the streambank have the most immediate effect
- BMPs placed within the riparian zone have the next quickest effect
- BMPs placed out of the riparian zone but within  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile typically will not show an effect for years (dependent on the practice, condition, slope, etc.)

## ➤ No real way to assess the effects of controlling, reducing or abating NPS expediently

- Watersheds are not static
- Improvements may be negligible or negated in the geographic scope of the watershed

# Strength of the NPS Management Program

## Partners

- Federal and State agencies, academic institutions, conservation districts, organizations and watershed groups

## How is Partnership strength demonstrated

- Informing stakeholders and citizens who your are and what you do
- Giving credit where credit is due
- Reporting activities through “snap shot reporting”
- Distributing the “annual report” to partners

The NPS Program has initiated a “Snap shot” reporting form to help capture activities occurring in the State that agencies, academic institutions, conservation districts, organizations and watershed groups are doing.

- 2015 ANRC received **21** Snap Shot forms
- 2016 ANRC received **13** Snap Shot forms



# NPS Management Plan Update 2017-2020

- ANRC is currently in the process of updating the plan to submit to EPA
- New plan will not include regulatory or permitted practices
  - ❑ Mining
  - ❑ Septic tanks
  - ❑ CAFO's
  - ❑ Land application
  - ❑ Roads/Construction

# UP Next

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