Great Plains Bioassessment Symposium
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University Of Kansas

Kansas Water Office
Deb Baker
Who we are & What we do

Coordination

Water Supply

Planning
Organizational Structure

Director
Assistant Director
Legal Counsel

High Plains Aquifer
Watershed Coordination
Public Water Supply
Administration

http://www.kwo.org/Contact%20Us.htm
Many Kansas Natural Resource Agencies

- Water Office
- Department Health and Environment
- Dept. Ag – Division Water Resources
- Dept. Ag - Division Conservation
- Dept. Wildlife and and Parks
- KS Biological Survey
- KS Geological Survey
- KS Forest Service
Kansas Water Authority

- 25 members
- 13 Appointed Voting Members & Ex-Officio members representing natural resource agencies
- Recommendations to the Governor and Legislature

http://www.kwo.org/KWA/Kansas%20Water%20Authority.htm
Basin Advisory Committees

- Organized by 12 major river basins
- 9 or 11 member committee of volunteers
- Provide input into local water issues
- Advise the KWA on basin issues

http://www.kwo.org/BACs/Basin%20Advisory%20Committees.htm
Water Management Complexities
Kansas Water Plan

www.kwo.org
Reservoir Sustainability Initiative
Kansas Reservoirs

- 120,000 reservoirs of all sizes, incl. farm ponds
- Drinking water for more than 60% of Kansans
- More than $6 billion estimated construction costs in today’s dollars
- Reservoirs used for drinking water: 93
  - Average age = >50 years old
- Designed life expectancy 50-100 years
Marion Reservoir 2003
What are we currently doing to address the problem?

- Watershed Restoration & Protection (WRAPS)
  - Reduce sediment load coming in
- Data Collection & Analysis
- Raising Pool Levels/Storage Reallocation
- Evaluating Potential for New Reservoirs/New Supply Sources
- Future legislative changes
- Lake Restoration - Dredging
Majority of sediment delivered during high flow events

Traditional land surface BMPs have limited ability to influence sediment delivery

Stream banks are a significant source of sediment

Stream restoration BMPs (e.g. streambank stabilization) require a systems approach to design & implementation

Healthy wetland and forested riparian areas are highly effective for sediment reduction and watershed protection
Habitat Improvement

Streambank Stabilization Projects
Other Water Issues

Legend

- F1: Fuel
- Clinton Lake
- Clinton HUC14
- County

Clinton Lake Watershed HUC 14s

[Map with labeled areas and boundaries]

[Image of an irrigation system and water tower]

[Graph showing an upward trend]
Guiding Principals

- Resiliency for responding to risk and uncertainty
- Sustainability of reservoir function and benefits
Decline of the High Plains Ogallala Aquifer
Wetland Planning

- Policies for wetland protection, restoration and enhancement
- Grants to develop a wetland identification and assessment process for use by WRAPS and other groups
- Demonstration of the role of wetlands in properly functioning watersheds
Bioassessment Needs

- Kansas Water Plan and WRAPS plans include Priority Water Bodies and Watersheds
- Biological data receives less attention in prioritization, WQ major focus
- Biologic data integrative and important
- Dataset consistency important for policy development, prioritization and funding decisions
Thank You

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