MEMO

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DATE: July 10, 2018
TO: Kansas Regional Advisory Committee
FROM: Tracy Streeter
RE: FY 2019 Vision Watershed BMP Implementation

The 2018 Legislature, as part of the $3.25 million restoration of the State Water Plan Fund includes $900,000 for Best Management Practice (BMP) Implementation. The KWA recommended $1.8 million which was to be utilized to enhance BMP implementation actions plans developed by eight of the 14 RACs.

KDHE, KDA-DOC and KWO have developed an implementation plan for these funds. A draft of the plan is attached. Due to the reduced funding level, four watersheds in association with RAC action plans have been identified for the available funding. These four watersheds are Tuttle Creek Lake (Kansas Region), Fall River Lake (Verdigris Region), John Redmond Reservoir (Neosho Region), and Kanopolis Lake (Smoky Hill-Saline Region).

Also due to the reduced funding level, the highest priority areas for sediment reduction which support WRAPS nine element plan implementation have been targeted for the use of these funds. As a result, the agencies have identified 14 HUC 12-level watersheds which cover portions of the Big Blue, Little Blue and Black Vermillion River watersheds above Tuttle Creek Lake to most effectively focus BMP implementation. A map of the proposed targeted areas is also attached.

This implementation plan has been developed with the Kansas Basin Management System in mind. While we are not proposing to allocate specific funding to any of the regions selected, we are planning to batch the applications from all regions and prioritize based on the greatest edge of field sediment load reduction.

Your input is requested on the draft plan and KWO wants to know how the affected RACs wish to participate in the review and selection process going forward. Our thoughts are to have a representative(s) of each of the RACs meet with the agencies throughout the process with updates to the full RAC as appropriate.

We will be on hand at Wednesday's meeting to discuss and answer questions at the discretion of the Chairman.

Attachments (2)

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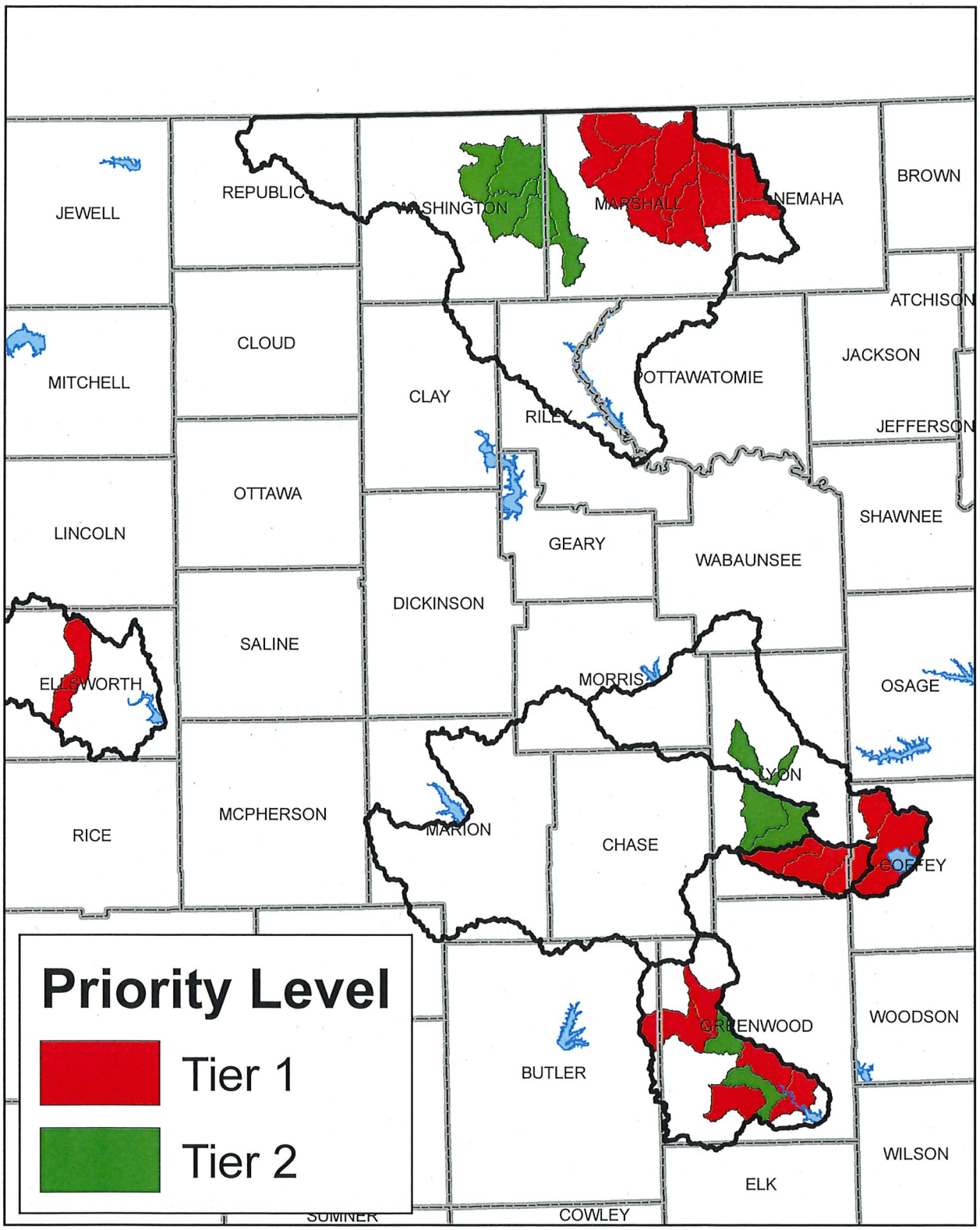
Governor's Water Vision
BMP Implementation Targeted HUC 12s



Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Bureau of Environmental Field Services
Watershed Management Section
May 2018

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Watershed Conservation Practice Implementation

Kansas

Program Objective

To protect water supply storage and improve water quality in reservoirs across Kansas that provide water to municipal and industrial customers through implementation of watershed conservation practices within Vision priority watersheds. Conservation practices are individual or a combination of practices that are determined to be the most effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of controlling point and non-point sources of pollution at levels compatible with resource and economic goals.

Program Budget

- $900,000 for FY 2019

SFY 2019 Program Proposed Concepts and Activities

- Eligible Areas Include Portions of :
  - Fall River Lake Watershed
  - John Redmond Reservoir Watershed
  - Kanopolis Lake Watershed
  - Tuttle Creek Lake Watershed
- Eligible watershed conservation practices include those currently identified for the Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs (SFR) ranking category within the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kansas Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding pool.
- Producers selected for funding will receive an incentive payment based on the amount of sediment savings estimated to be achieved by the implementation of proposed practices.
  - SFY 2019 Payment Rate: $50/ton
  - Payment cap of 100% of actual project cost
- Applications accepted starting August 1
  - Continuous application period with batching periods to evaluate applications for funding until SFY 2019 funding is allocated
- Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Chairs or their designees from Regional Planning Areas which have eligible watersheds for SFY 2019 funding will have the opportunity to participate in application evaluation process with the Kansas Water Office (KWO), Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Conservation (KDA-DOC) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). This includes:
  - Kansas RAC
  - Neosho RAC
  - Smoky Hill-Saline RAC
  - Verdigris RAC
- Application eligibility ranking criteria will be utilized which takes into consideration:
  - Location of proposed practices in relation to identified priority watersheds for SFY 2019 eligible areas.
  - Sediment reduction efficiency of proposed practices.
- KDA-DOC Cost Share and Information Management System (CSIMS) to be utilized for application evaluation and contract administration.
- $50,000 reserve amount for each eligible watershed
  - Funding unallocated from each eligible watershed goes back into overall program pool.
- Projects to be implemented with Vision Watershed Conservation Practice Implementation funding will be designed to meet Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) specifications.

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