



**2016 All Kitchen Cabinet Agenda
Lewis & Clark State Office Building
September 16, 2016
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

As part of the Combined Kitchen Cabinet meeting cabinet members were put into five groups to discuss the following questions:

- What are the top three priorities facing the department in 2017 and how can your organization help?
- What is working well in MoDNR and what do you want to ensure continues?
- What areas need additional focus?

Several groups' top three priorities for the department were similar in nature. Retaining current department leadership through the gubernatorial transition was a common theme. Ensuring that Missouri and MoDNR specifically continues to be "open for business" was another area that participants wanted the department to focus on. Finally, continuing and increasing collaboration with stakeholders was a common theme. For more information see the notes below.

Top 3 priorities for MoDNR for 2017

Group 1 - Ginny

1. Use data strategically: make data actionable at all levels – ensure accuracy; develop/enhance data driven decision-making tools; communication about what data means; manage confidentiality
2. People and resources: Fill commission vacancies and ensure the agency has the right people in the right positions with the right training to meet customer needs (e.g. eliminate permit backlogs)
3. Solutions: Take well-prioritized, collaborative, holistic, innovative approaches to solutions

Group 2 – Lorisa

1. Utilize flexibility and innovation in solutions and programs to avoid regulation actions.
 - ~ Go outside MoDNR to find partners to crowd source ideas.
 - ~ Find incentives to get partners to come to MoDNR instead of MoDNR doing all of the outreach.
 - ~ Find a way to communicate that MoDNR is open to new approaches.
 - ~ Utilize stakeholders to spread the message to their constituents/members.
2. Improve Regional Office/Central Office Coordination.
 - ~ Partners can and should provide feedback to the RO/CO coordinator about what works well and what does not.

~ MoDNR has taken steps to address this by filling the Regional Office Coordinator position with Erin Lepper.

~ Explore regional solutions and decisions. [The group acknowledged that this is challenging when you are also trying to obtain consistency among the regions.]

3. Continue Our Missouri Waters – watershed based planning efforts.

~ Get the word out and get more partners involved.

~ Provide partners with more information and status updates.

~ Tell partners how to participate and how they can help.

~ Partners can do a better job giving credit to MoDNR for their efforts in this area.

Group 3 – Kurt

1) Retain leadership through administration transition

2) Making sure Missouri is open for business

- Keep flexibility for businesses

- Staff need to understand what businesses have at stake

3) Improve collaboration with stakeholders

- Encourage stakeholders of different interests to collaborate (example given was the Citizens Committee for Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax where groups with different views come together and join efforts)

Group 4 – Jennifer

1. Funding, across the board. Ensuring that all programs are adequately funded

2. continue to develop Clean Water 4.0 concept and enhance integrated planning

3. Increased funding and prioritization for land stewardship in State Parks.

Education – within and about State Parks, within and across divisions/programs, and for succession planning

Group 5 – Todd

1. Retain leadership through transition

2. Making sure Missouri is open for business, ie:

- Climate change

- Keep flexibility with business

- Open minded for business opportunities

3. Improve collaboration with different sectors/stakeholder

Remaining priority list that are important, but didn't make the top three for each group:

1. Continue watershed based planning and implementation (OMW) – 3 votes

2. Focus on park infrastructure and stewardship of cultural and natural resources – 3 votes

3. Modernizing tools and practices, incentivized for conservation of natural resources, e.g. green infrastructure, etc. – 2 votes

4. Continue to be open-minded to innovation and change and working with others – 2 votes

5. Trail planning and implementation with respect for private property concerns – 1 vote

6. Education
7. Transparency of science used in decision-making
8. Continue to invite communication and input from stakeholders and with stakeholders (this was voiced a lot – there are many concerns the current climate will disappear with a new administration)
9. Recognize and plan for climate change (drought, flood, extreme weather events)
10. Maintain accountability for programs
11. Continue Our Missouri Waters Program
12. Streamline financial assistance (timeliness of processing and reporting)
13. More transparency on major expenditures
14. Floodplains/Wetlands
15. Succession Planning
16. Sharing work with statewide partners – shared governance
17. Retaining consistency of ongoing efforts, such as Our Missouri Waters
18. Prepare for a water rights discussion with legislators, stakeholders, etc.
19. Focus on ongoing and upcoming water topics (e.g. nutrients, bacteria TMDLS)
20. Continue Our Missouri Waters
21. Streamline financial assistance (processing, reporting)
22. Maintain accountability for programs
23. More transparency on major expenditures
24. Climate change (drought, flood, weather extremes)
25. Floodplains/wetlands

What/how can your organization contribute?

- 1) Engage and participate in meetings and events with the department
- 2) Identify strengths that your organization can contribute
- 3) Local level engagement
 - Help connect local members in local events/meetings

What the Department is doing well, and what needs additional focus

Plus	Additional Focus
Integrated planning	Permitting in ag has gotten slower again (staffing?)
Accessible staff	Staffing insufficient
Collaborative	Better communication between EPA and MoDNR (at all levels, not just Sara/Mark)
Partnership for tax renewal	Continue citizen input in decisions
Stakeholder input	Role of non-profits in integrated planning
RPC partnerships	Staff training
Statewide water planning	Risk communication and prioritization (make sure we are addressing the highest risks for environmental harm first)
Long term thinking	First identify problem, then put resources into solutions (sometimes seems we create solutions to problems that don't exist)

Strong support for public input and participation	Resources for monitoring and solutions
Been more proactive	Data accuracy and transparency
Our Missouri Waters makes sense and is going well	Flexibility in regulatory actions and pass-through funding
Responsiveness of staff to concerns raised	Regional Office/Central Office coordination.
Having regional offices is good	Automation; electronic processing. Move away from paper
Evaluation and changes implemented in soil and water program → Plan for the Future	Create an environmental ethic
Ability to be successful in times of decreasing resources, low salaries, and staff turnover.	Innovate solutions to “real” problems; don’t jump straight to a regulatory solution
There is a good collaborative process in place through the various forums, advisory committees, etc. help ensure good decisions are made.	Include cost benefit analysis when making regulatory decisions.
Engagement with stakeholders; seems to be more inclusion	Continue Our Missouri Waters
Streamlined grant structure process	Solve the turnover problem.
Open communication	Continue collaboration (transparency) with other state agencies
Improved staff / Seem to have more qualified people	Responsiveness (mainly timeliness)
Building partnerships	Continuity or turnover of staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solution = cross training
Stakeholder engagement	Department staff doesn’t always understand business/stakeholder investment & process
Effective communication	Need better enforcement of laws
Transparency (water programs, specifically)	Less studies / more on the ground solutions
Education/outreach	More focus on land stewardship (through State Parks) and increased funding for stewardship
Recreational opportunities (State Parks)	More messaging of the benefits of the work MoDNR does, specifically the benefit of Soil and Water Conservation Program
Soil and Water cost share to local landowners – a unique program within the nation	Making salaries more competitive – ability to attract and retain talent
A focus on practical solutions	Increased education across the board (i.e. youth education, State Parks, inspiring the environmental ethic in our citizens)
Staff commitment to mission and message	Innovative science – use the most current science to develop innovative solutions

Technical expertise	Enhance cooperation between MoDNR & stakeholders; reduce mistrust and work together toward solutions (doing a good job in this, but can continue to improve)
	Education for Department Commissions – so they understand their authority, what decisions they can make
	Enhancing citizens’ connection with Natural Resources and their understanding of the value of those resources
	Leveraging with municipalities, counties, etc. to reach constituents more effectively