

Water Classification Workgroup – Meeting #3

June 28, 2012, 9:00am-12:00pm

Peter Goode: Presentation on water quality protections for wetlands

- Overview on what some other states do.
- Wetland definition – EPA/USACE.
- Wetland definition – states.
- Wetland identification.
- State wetland classification.
- Designated uses for wetlands.
- Narrative criteria.
- Numeric criteria:
 - Aquatic life use
 - Primary/secondary contact recreation
 - Nebraska only state with specific criteria for wetlands (apart from other waters)
- Missouri wetland water quality standards (WQS).

Question: How do states deal with primary contact recreation in wetlands, with waterfowl present (*E. coli* criteria)?

Karen Bataille: Suggested that large numbers of waterfowl present during migration season, outside of recreational season, so may not be an issue.

Lorin Crandall: How do we go about addressing nutrients and metals in wetlands?

- Complex functions, highly variable
- Would classified wetlands be protected from hydrologic modification? This is an important issue to address.

Trent Stober: Suggested that perhaps wetland hydrologic modification is not a water quality standards issue.

Ed Galbraith: How do states apply recreational uses to wetlands?

Peter Goode: We did not really look into this.

Bob Angelo: In Kansas, aquatic life use standards for lakes and streams also apply to wetlands.

- Certain wetlands are given outstanding resource water designation.

Lorin Crandall: Are there wetlands in Missouri assigned Outstanding Resource Waters status?

- Should WQS assign constructed or restored wetlands into a special category?

General discussion of Wetlands Reserve Program and the role of antidegradation in wetlands protection.

Bob Angelo: The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) is not very accurate at this point.

Lorin Crandall: Acknowledges that the NWI includes things that are not wetlands, but that the converse is also true – that there are likely wetlands existing that are not on the NWI.

Matt Combes: Wetlands important for nutrient processing. The Central Plains Center for Bioassessment may have developed nutrient criteria for wetlands.

John Hoke: Need to review and revise wetland WQS.

Lorin Crandall: Develop numeric nutrient criteria for wetlands to encourage function of nutrient processing.

- Make sure wetlands classified correctly to not provide disincentive to do the right thing.

Chris Zell: Presentation on aquatic life designated uses and UAAs

- See presentation online at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/cwforum/adv-uncl-waters-wetlands.htm>
- Can the technical subcommittee look at tiered aquatic life uses (TALU) at level of Ohio and Oklahoma?
- Classification along a continuum?
- UAA isopleth map may be helpful in developing a protocol.

Lorin Crandall: If impaired streams are restored, how does this affect the UAA?

John Hoke: Impairment assessment is a separate but related issue.

Karen Bataille: The important point is to develop TALUs appropriate to the use designation

- Discussion of UAAs then to follow.

Matt Combes: Data exists to develop a TALU framework, just need to apply the information we have.

John Hoke: TALU allows us to protect waters at the level necessary.

Kristol Whatley: Might be useful to the technical subcommittee to define terms that various states use.

Chris Zell: Classification protocol that some states have developed help define waters of the U.S.

Bob Angelo: EPA may be able to help with wetland classification.

Peter Goode/Lorin Crandall: For wetlands, may be helpful in new standards to apply three supplements from USACE wetlands manual that are specific to Missouri.

See following page for goals of TALU wetlands technical subcommittees:

Goals of TALU Technical Subcommittee

- 1) Look at current aquatic life uses and develop more appropriate uses.
- 2) Look at definitions and what these mean – highlight critical terms.
- 3) Establish data quality objectives.
- 4) Review other states' protocol.
- 5) Develop decision tree.
- 6) Define/develop aquatic life subcategories – pilot project.
- 7) Establish decision guidelines/metrics.

Goals of Wetlands Technical Subcommittee

- 1) Revisit and refine wetland definition currently in rule.
- 2) Develop and structured, scientific means to determine wetlands.
- 3) Determine how antidegradation applies to wetland use designation and site-specific criteria development.
- 4) Reference wetlands identification and study by the Central Plains Center for Bioassessment.