



Wetlands Water Quality Standards Meeting – Meeting Notes
Aug. 26, 2014 ; 9 am – 12 pm ; Jefferson City

- Introduction by Bill Whipps
 - Stated that wetland water quality standards (WQS) were not being included in the current rulemaking effort, but efforts to develop WQS are continuing.
 - Purpose of meeting to provide update on efforts to develop wetland WQS up to this point and to discuss a path forward.
 - Discussed the possibility of forming a smaller technical workgroup.
 - Presented PowerPoint presentation
- Discussion led by Steve McIntosh, MoDNR Water Resources Center, regarding receiving \$384,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Missouri Wetland Program Plan (WPP) 2013-2018 was approved on July 29, 2014. The WPP document summarizes the planned and scheduled wetland activities in Missouri. The approved WPP includes monitoring and assessment, restoration and protection, regulation, water quality standards, and education.
 - Another part of grant is to develop a Missouri Wetland Rapid Assessment Methodology (MORAM). There are 3 levels of wetlands delineations. The first level, desk analysis, is based upon imagery and GIS information. The National Wetland Inventory is an example of level one wetland delineation. The third level and highest or most detailed is like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetland delineation manual which is used for regulatory purposes and mitigation requirements. MORAM is second tier wetland delineation and is based upon limited, soil and plant sampling, hydrology descriptors and description of manmade impacts. MORAM will require onsite sampling but is less intensive than level 3 delineation.
 - MORAM will be used to assess and report on botanical conditions of reference wetlands and to describe wetland watershed conditions.
 - John Horton, MoDNR, is principal investigator and has more specific information on projects and goals funded with this grant.
 - The MORAM can be used by anyone for any purpose; however, the methodology was not intended to replace regulatory wetland delineations.
- Discussion led by Bill Whipps regarding reference wetlands.
 - Wetlands to be investigated include non-woody, riparian wetlands along the Missouri River and Mississippi River corridors. Hope is that there will be about 25 sites to be used. Selection of the sites will partially be at the discretion of the scientists conducting the study and will attempt to find the least disturbed sites, possibly wetlands located on public lands.
 - Information and data collected as part of this investigation will be available to the public online.
 - This is a first step for gathering information specific to Missouri wetlands and is not expected to answer all questions.
 - Request was made that the department provide a map of the wetlands that are eventually selected.



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- Request that discussion also include general timelines. Grant is for a 3-year project, so estimated 3-year timeline given:
 - Step 1: Fall 2014 (Oct.?) – Spring/Summer 2015
 - Step 2: 2015 – 2016
 - Step 3: 2016
- Goal of this project is not to develop WQS for wetlands, but to obtain data to inform development of wetland WQS.
- Question was raised regarding sample numbers and whether reference wetlands will meet EPA expectations – Answer that a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be developed and that EPA would have to accept plan before project were to start.
- MoDNR’s partner to this grant will be the Central Plain Center for Bioassessment with the University of Kansas
- General discussions - All
 - Wetlands being drained and other hydrology issues mentioned as a major problem affecting wetlands – Department of Conservation representatives noted importance of distinguishing between drained wetlands and a wetland’s natural drying cycle and stressed the importance of natural wet/dry cycles for wetland processes and function.
 - Bob Angelo, EPA, also noted that excess concentrations of selenium are a cause for concern in the western United States. He further stated that in Missouri, excess nutrients might be an issue for concern in wetlands.
 - Lorin Crandall stated the need for a better state inventory of wetlands. Lack of funding and staff cited as potential obstacles to completing such an inventory.
 - Curtis Gateley stated that rule language should specify to what wetlands WQS are applied to and where they are not applied (e.g., wetlands for treatment vs natural wetlands).
 - Bob Angelo clarified EPA’s expectations for Missouri’s wetland WQS. He stated that CWA 101(a) uses need to be considered and applied where attainable or a demonstration provided where not attainable (fishable/swimmable uses).
 - Phil Walsack asked if mixing zones were allowed in wetlands – Answer by Curtis Gateley was that they are not because they would currently be considered “unclassified” waters.
 - Curtis Gateley pointed out that there may be other stakeholders with an interest in wetlands that may be affected by wetland WQS that should be asked to join the discussion if they have not already been.
 - Lorin Crandall stated that trading and trading considerations should be included in discussions by the technical subgroup.
 - Melissa Scheperle asked if the designated uses for wetlands would be the same as the current uses – Answer by Bill Whipps is that is still a topic up for discussion, but most likely the uses will be a subset of the current uses or would have separate criteria.
 - David Shorr suggested that it be more clearly defined what would not be regulated under wetland WQS in order to allow the discussion/process to



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proceed more easily. Bill Whipps indicated that treatment technology is not waters of the United States. Jay Hoskins stated that reasoning should also be extrapolated to stormwater technology. Peter Goode stated that there are things that they can agree on, but there are some specific concerns that should be discussed. Consensus that wetland WQS need to be developed in a way that does not discourage or disincentivize green infrastructure practices.

- Bob Angelo indicated that an incremental process for developing wetland WQS in Missouri could be appropriate. He also noted that Kansas' WQS list the main wetlands in their Surface Water Register, but that they also assign uses and specify criteria to wetlands by citing specific geographic areas.
 - Lorin Crandall stated that the Army Corps of Engineers should be part of the discussion.
 - Request made that next meeting be scheduled on the same day as another meeting so that those traveling can attend without having to make an extra trip.
 - Bill Whipps stated that for next meeting he would bring a map of wetlands on public lands.
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