

Missouri's Wetland Program Plan

ASWM's Wetland Regulatory Capacity Building
Webinar Series: Introduction to Wetland Program
Plans

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Overview

- Background
- Initial Development
- Missouri's Plan Outline
- Plan in Action
- Revision and Resubmittal
- Challenges
- Future



Background

- Agencies
 - Missouri Departments of
 - Natural Resources (MoDNR)
 - Conservation (MDC)
 - Agriculture (MDA)
 - Transportation (MoDOT)
 - Federal
 - USEPA
 - USDA, NRCS
 - USFWS, Missouri Ecological Services Field Office
 - USGS, Columbia Environmental Research Center
 - USFS
 - USACE

Background

- Educational Institutions
 - University of Central Missouri (UCM)
 - University of Missouri, Columbia (MU)
 - Missouri Resource Assessment Partnership (MoRAP)
 - Missouri Spatial Data Information Service (MSDIS)
- Regional Planning Organizations
 - Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
- Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)
 - Ducks Unlimited (DU)
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Background

- Monitoring and Assessment
 - National Wetland Condition Assessment §106(b)
 - Wetland Program Development Grants
 - Various agencies, universities
 - Plan development, wetland rapid assessment method (RAM), and outdoor recreation promotion (2012)
 - Agencies historically focus on own goals, with some common goals
 - MoDNR = status of publicly owned wetlands
 - MDC = Bottomland Functional Assessment, 1989 Wetland Manual (Management Plan)
 - USGS = gauges and monitoring wells

Background

- Regulatory
 - §401 Water Quality Certification
 - Regulations last updated in 2001
 - Database last upgraded in 2010
 - No separate state wetland program authority
 - USACE
 - 3 Divisions
 - 5 Districts





MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

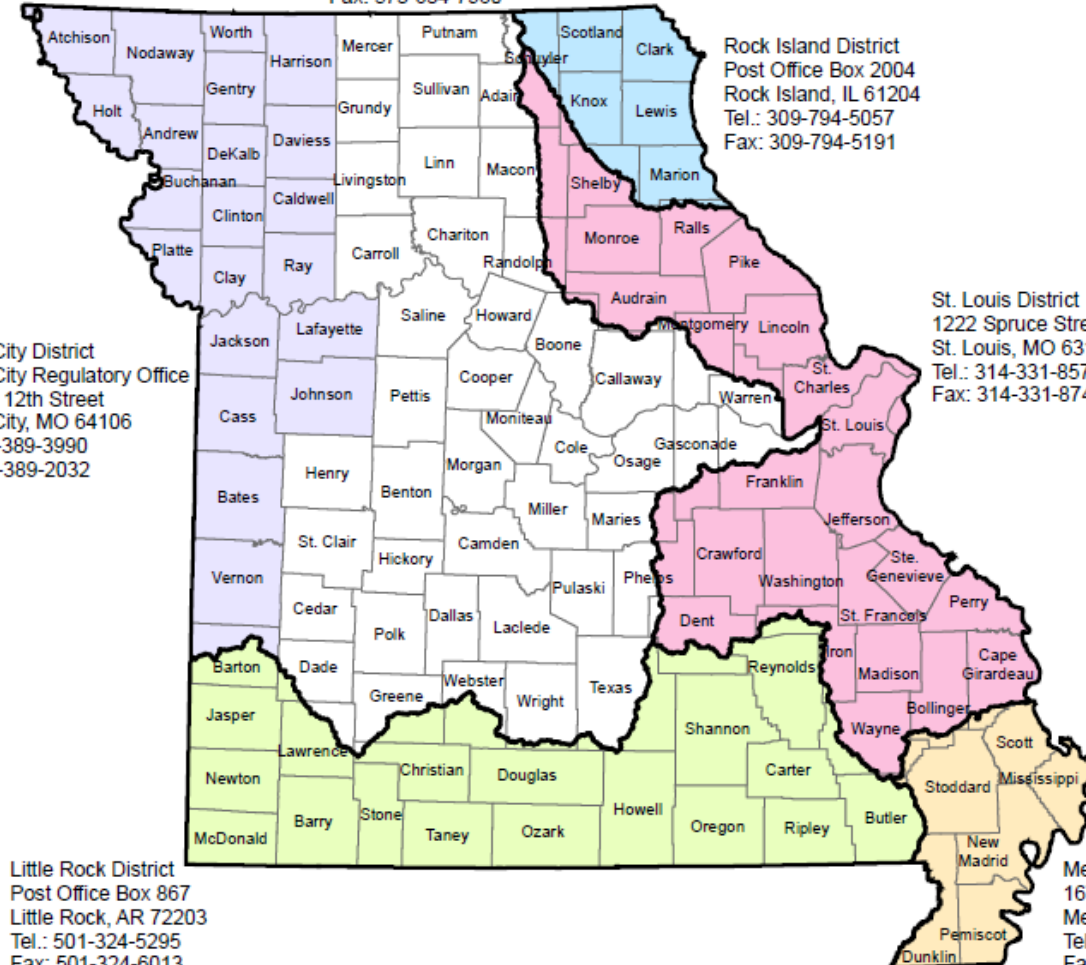
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Background

- Voluntary Wetland Restoration & Protection
 - MARC
 - Land cover data and urban planning
 - Green infrastructure
 - MoDNR
 - §319 grants
 - Parks and Soils Sales Tax – conservation practice cost share
 - NGOs
 - Private hunt clubs (Mississippi and Central Plains flyways)

Background

- Wetland Water Quality Standards
 - Code of State Regulations at 10 CSR 20-7.031
 - Definitions (designated use, class, waters of the state, wetland)
 - General criteria (free form's)
 - Specific criteria
 - Outstanding State Resource Water Designation
 - 3 marshes

Background

- Education
 - Website
 - Inter- and intra-agency coordination meetings



Initial Development

- Wetland Program Development Grant (awarded in 2012)
- Intra- and interagency coordination
- Looked at other state examples
 - Modeled after Massachusetts' format
- Workgroup
 - Key staff in charge of each core element
 - Guided by framework, agency goals/activities
 - One main writer to bring everything together ¹¹

Initial Development

- Added education as 5th core element
- Approval
 - Concurrence through signature pages
 - Through MoDNR management to USEPA
 - Approved 9 May 2014 for 2013 - 2018
- Posted on web for public viewing



Missouri's Plan Outline

- Intro
 - Contacts, planning process, list of contributors, list of acronyms & abbreviations
- Monitoring & Assessment
 - 4 action categories and many activities
- Regulatory
 - 4 action categories and many activities
- Voluntary Restoration & Protection
 - 4 action categories and many activities

Missouri's Plan Outline

- Wetland Water Quality Standards
 - 1 action category & many activities
- Education
 - 1 action category & many activities
- Focused on Monitoring & Assessment
 - Wetlands not well studied in Missouri
 - Basis for many other activities
 - Used grant to begin studying wetlands on public lands

Plan in Action

- Reviewed activities periodically
- Agency/organization coordination
 - More discussions
 - Data sharing
 - Working together on goals where authority and need overlap (or had gaps!)
 - Sharing costs

Plan in Action

- Wetland Program Development Grants
 - Activities listed in plan
 - So far would not be able to do as much as we have without this additional funding
 - Agencies, universities, etc. → partnerships
 - Examples
 - Reference wetland water quality assessment (MoDNR & Kansas Water Survey)
 - Missouri wetland rapid assessment method (MoDNR & UCM)
 - Functional assessment of Missouri's wetlands of past and present (MDC & MoRAP)

Revision and Resubmittal

- Quarterly Wetland Coordination Meetings
 - Started in 2012 to increase internal coordination
 - Used as avenue for development and revision
 - Included USEPA
- Workgroup
 - Assigned sections to staff with expertise in each area (provided with guidance)
 - Coordinated with others on their work related to wetlands
 - SharePoint (working from one draft)

Revision and Resubmittal

- Work in Progress
 - Hope to submit for approval soon
 - All involved will get a chance to review final draft
 - Submitting it without other agency signatures this round, they didn't want or need to sign



Challenges

- Staff time
- Management support
- Other demands/focus areas (e.g., fires or new initiatives not addressing wetlands)
- Changes in contact or unsure of who to contact
- Complex topic
- Touches so many agencies/organizations

Challenges

- How concrete vs. abstract plan should be
- Patience: Domino-effect will take time
 - To strengthen regulatory → specific water quality standards → more data through monitoring → more education to empower grassroot groups to demand more attention be given to wetlands, etc.

Future

- Monitoring and Assessment
 - National Wetland Condition Assessment §106(b)
 - Continue and expand data gathering
 - Wetland Program Development Grants
 - Increased interagency coordination
 - MDC's revision to their Wetland Manual

Future

- Regulatory
 - §401 Water Quality Certification
 - Update regulations (10 CSR 20-6.060)
 - Update database
 - More detailed mitigation information
 - Geodatabase to track cumulative impacts
 - Update wetland and stream methods
 - Functional rather than conditional assessments
 - Joint USACE/MoDNR Application, Public Notice, and Processing Agreement
 - §404(g) State Assumption? State program? ²²

Future

- Voluntary Wetland Restoration & Protection
 - MoDNR
 - Cost share wetland practice?
 - State Revolving Fund?
 - §319 grants?
 - NGOs



Future

- Wetland Water Quality Standards
 - Code of State Regulations at 10 CSR 20-7.031
 - Postponed further development of wetland WQS
 - Macroinvertebrate index of biological integrity
 - Statewide reference wetland dataset
 - Wetland classification system based on wetland type (landscape position, vegetative cover, hydrology, etc.)

Future

- Education
 - Update and add to publications on state authorizations, application processes, and how to comply with §401 WQC, Land Reclamation permitting, etc.
 - Peer-to-peer information exchange
 - Training
 - Update MoDNR website





Questions? Thoughts? Experiences?



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