

A publication of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Program of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

Nonpoint source stakeholders take stock

LITTLE ROCK -- Runoff, restoration, watersheds and regulation were among the topics discussed at the annual Nonpoint Source Stakeholder Conference, held Sept. 21 and 22 at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service state headquarters in Little Rock.

Participants focused on doing what they could to develop attainable, measurable goals that fit the needs of the Environmental Protection Agency. Watershed development and support was also discussed, including the need for more direction among priority groups.

Mike Daniels, professor-environmental management for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, led a presentation on the Texas Watershed Stewards Program, a plan Arkansas hopes to modify and incorporate into its watershed activities and events. Tom Riley, director of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's Public Policy Center and interim director of community and economic development, led a discussion on issues relating to urban runoff, recommending that existing goals be fine-tuned and more precise.

More than 50 stakeholders attended the meeting, the purpose of which was to review the Nonpoint Source (NPS) plan process and get an update on projects funded through the 319 watershed program.

The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act established the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program. Section 319 focuses state and local nonpoint source efforts through grant monies to support a wide variety of education, monitoring and demonstration projects.

Those funds are less certain this year, in light of the economy and federal budget issues.

Funded 319 projects, however, comprised the entire second day of the meeting. It was a strong showing, with 11 presentations covering water monitoring, assessment, stream bank restoration, modeling, implementation, cost share and education.

Continued on Pg. 4

Project Highlights:

Volunteers keep an eye on the Illinois River

The purpose of this monitoring program is to improve the integrity of the Illinois River through public education and community outreach, water quality monitoring and implementation of conservation and restoration practices throughout the Illinois River watershed. Trained leaders took part in this project including individuals, businesses and industry. Many leaders were eager to participate and required little training. Using volunteer leaders made project money go farther. Many of the leaders had a vested interest in the project and have indicated a willingness to continue to assist with the program. Data on phosphorus and nitrogen was analyzed through grab samples. Results of the project were shared in meetings and with those assisting with the program.



Volunteer takes a water sample in the Illinois River.



To ensure the volunteers collected high quality data, we:

- Developed a QAPP
- Trained volunteers to collect samples following EPA techniques
- Kept it simple: collecting grab samples and making site notations
- Collected duplicates

We also provided the results to the volunteers and gave them an idea of whether the samples were high, low or average.

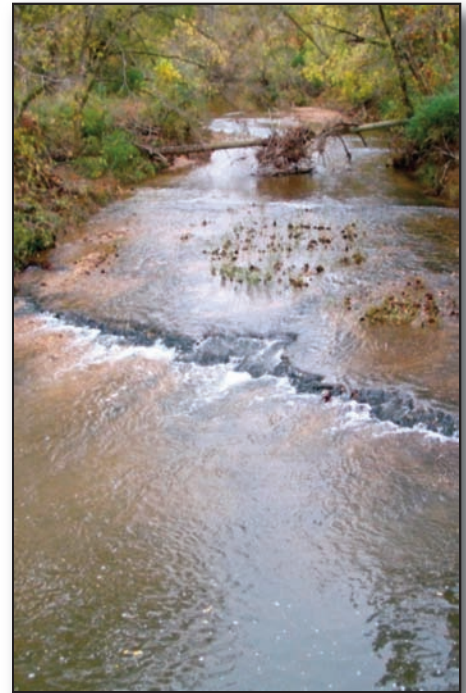
Project Highlights:

NWA water quality trends

The objectives of this project are to evaluate changes in water quality, identify the effects of management actions such as proper riparian buffers and identify the effects of new pollutant sources such as new WWTP.

Kings River monitoring

A new monitoring program was successful at estimating loads at the Kings River. The regressions used to estimate loads considered seasonal effects where appropriate, and this site also showed different relations between concentration and discharge at low and high flow.



Cross County site before erosion controls put in place ...



... and after.

Cross County erosion control

The purpose of this project was to prevent soil erosion, improve water quality, decrease damage to the land, reduce water conveyance losses through proper management of irrigation water, and increase sustainability of soil and water resources. As a result, 422 water control structures were installed, 119,200 feet of water transfer pipe installed, 65 percent of the recommended practices are complete, and \$880,000 were designated for the projects in Cross County. Producers have increased utilization of the NRCS office programs, and the voluntary tax proceeds in the county have increased by 22 percent.

Committees work to develop milestones for nonpoint source plan

Committees have been designated to work on developing logic models for each section of the Nonpoint source plan. Stakeholder committees are developing measurable and attainable goals that can be evaluated for each section of the plan. Logic models will be completed in early November for review by stakeholders. Information on the logic models can be obtained through the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Public Policy Center by calling 501-671-2299.

Stakeholders take stock

Continued from Pg. 1

In an effort to preserve, protect and improve water resources in Arkansas, partnerships have been formed between the University of Arkansas and city and county governments in Benton, Jefferson and Washington counties. These partnerships provide for the Cooperative Extension Service in these counties to carry out public education, outreach, participation and involvement, as well as pollution prevention and “good housekeeping” procedures.



Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
101 E Capitol Ave # 350
Little Rock, AR 72201-3813
501-682-3986

The Arkansaswater.org website is regularly updated with new content and user-friendly features. Most recently, the 319 Program section has been revised, and new links and sub-menus have been added. All of the 2011 319 project presentations have been uploaded with links to other documentation associated with the project. New maps have been created for each county, and links to University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service geospatial data is now available on the website. All of the 319 project presentations from 2006 through 2011 have been standardized and a one-paragraph summary has been written for each presentation. The modified practices section has been modified to include Land Use Land Cover information from CAST, with thumbnails linked to larger images. A groundwater section was added to the Water Quality page, with links to such sites as ANRC publications and USGS groundwater stations in the state. ANRC, The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture’s Public Policy Center and the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts will continue to customize Arkansaswater.org so it will continue to be the one-stop website for up-to-date water quality information.