

STRATEGY:

Watershed-based Organization

OBJECTIVE

Establish Watershed Committees, modifying SMP's organization to align funding with the needs of each watershed in Johnson County.

REASON

The SMP could currently be described as a municipal-based program. Under the new Strategic Business Plan, projects would be developed and identified according to an overall watershed plan. Benefits of shifting to a Watershed-based Organization include:

- Comprehensive watershed planning
- Ability to evaluate improvements spanning multiple municipalities
- Improved ability to respond to anticipated future regulation
- Uniform application county-wide of flood management and/or water quality improvement principles

TACTICS

- Determine watershed groupings
- Establish Watershed Committees with bylaws and charters
- Establish funding request criteria and procedures
- Complete watershed improvement plans

IMPACTS

Each strategy is designed to have impacts on multiple gap areas. In addition to closing gaps around organizational structure, the Watershed-Based Organization strategy will help SMP close gaps associated with:

Water Quality: Water quality impairments are sometimes observed remotely from the cause. This approach will allow a comprehensive view of impairments and causes.

Flood Damage Reduction: By considering flooding on a watershed scale, larger and/or more wide-spread protection measures can be considered.

System Management: Evaluating system management on a holistic watershed scale allows efficiency in the use of funds. Often, system replacements are necessary in the same areas as flooding or bank instability.

Alternative Funding: Federal programs and Non-governmental Organizations are more interested in supporting programs that take a watershed-wide view of watershed management.

In response to new stormwater-related challenges and opportunities, the Johnson County Public Works & Infrastructure Urban Services Division initiated an update of the initial 2002 Strategic Business Plan of the Stormwater Management Program (SMP). The "State of Practice" in stormwater management, including new approaches and advances, are reflected in the strategies developed for the new 2016 plan. In addition to water quantity and flood damage reduction concerns, the strategies address water quality and regulatory issues as well as a growing trend toward integrated water resource management planning.

