



Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: April 17, 2017 **Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Meeting Location: Johnson County Transit Facility, 1701 W Old Hwy 56, Olathe, KS 66061

Attendees:

Water Quality Focus Sub-Committee	JC SMP	Consultant Team
Ian Fannin-Hughes – City of Overland Park	Heather Schmidt	Patti Banks – Vireo
Patty Ogle – City of Overland Park	Sarah Smith	Triveece Penelton – Vireo
Pam Fortun – City of Overland Park	Lee Kellenberger	Andrew Smith – B&V
Bryan Dyer – City of Merriam		Jeff Henson – B&V
Rob Beilfuss- City of Olathe		Justina Gonzalez – B&V
Matt Just – City of Lenexa		
David Roberts – City of Leawood		
Todd Rogers – JC Department of Health and Environment		
Julie Davis – JC Department of Health and Environment		
Teresa Rasmussen – U.S. Geological Survey		
Lauren Grubbs – CDM Smith		
Katie Handley – GBA		
David Dodds - AECOM		
Jamie Cole – HDR		
Rachelle Lowe – Burns and McDonnell		

Agenda Objectives

Discuss the goals of the water quality focus sub-committee and the anticipated process
Consider the water quality level of service to be established for the SMP
Discuss what water quality factors the SMP should address along with prioritization
Consider how the SMP would impact water quality priority factors

Handouts: Agenda
 Water Quality Focus Sub-Committee Tactics & Actions

Notes

Introduction / Sub-Committee Goals and Expectations:

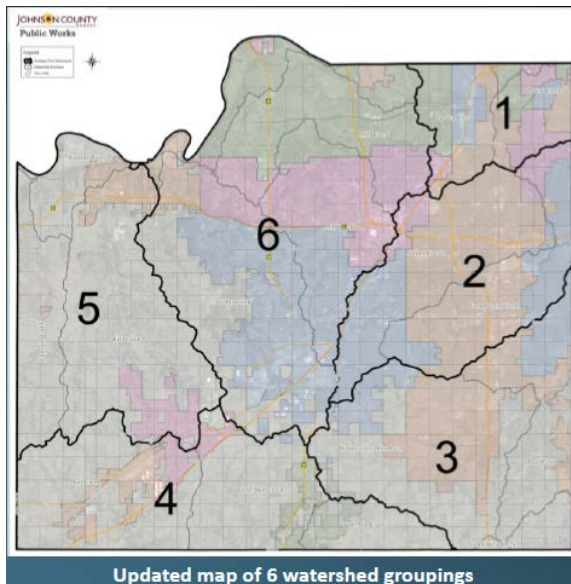
- Heather of JC SMP welcomed participants to the first meeting for the water quality focus sub-committee. Most attendees are familiar with the SMP either through SMAC meetings or other involvement. The SMP Strategic Plan was updated in 2016 and has been adopted by County resolution. A steering committee met for about a year and drafted a new framework for the program which will now involve dedicated funding for

water quality. The framework will also include dedicated funding for system management and will evaluate ways to promote alternative funding.

- The purpose of sub-committee meetings is to now begin implementing the updated plan. Feedback from the sub-committee will be used in establishing the new structure of the SMP. B&V and Vireo are the consultants that will help facilitate this process. The focus on water quality will be an exciting change for the SMP and the JC area. Heather thanked participants for committing their time and expertise to the sub-committee.
- Andrew of B&V asked attendees to introduce themselves. He then provided a quick review of the SMP Strategic Plan along with group goals and expectations.
 - **SMP Strategic Plan Review:** Six strategies were presented in the 2016 Strategic Plan. As part of sub-committee implementation, two of the strategies were combined resulting in five sub-committees that are meeting which include watershed-based organization, system management, water quality, flooding, and funding. The updated plan seeks to establish a state-of-practice for a watershed based approach. Such an approach will look at needs on a watershed basis rather than a jurisdictional basis so as to gain maximum value regarding flood control and water quality.
 - SMP would like to get as much input and feedback to the greatest extent possible from all of the stakeholders in the County. The development of how the water quality strategy will be structured will be determined in the oncoming months through the sub-committee meetings.
 - **Water Quality Focus Sub-Committee**
 - **Goals:** Essentially, the water quality sub-committee will be looking at how the County should define and handle water quality issues. The logical outcome of the group will be the establishment of water quality goals and prioritization.
 - **Tactics & Actions:** The 2016 Strategic Plan outlined specific tactics and actions of SMP staff, the subcommittees, SMAC, and other assistance. Tactics for the water quality sub-committee include defining water quality project criteria, working with watershed committees to develop strategies to address TMDLs, and working with watershed committees to develop strategies to de-list 303(d) water bodies and/or avoid development of a TMDL.
 - The sub-committee will also consider if there are additional goals the County should look at in regards to water quality.
 - **Schedule:**
 - The sub-committee will meet once a month for a total of 4 to 6 meetings.
 - A Water Quality Focus White Paper will be drafted and provided to participants, outlining case studies across the nation of water quality programs. Consultants will facilitate a discussion of the White Paper during sub-committee meetings so as to gather participant responses.
 - The sub-committee will eventually draft a project prioritization matrix and will identify a preferred direction for the County.
 - **JC Watershed Groupings:** The 2016 Strategic Plan calls for a shift from a municipal based program to the structure of watershed-based organizations. Consequently, the watershed-based organization sub-committee has looked at the County and has broken it down into 6 watershed groupings based on similar watershed characteristics. The watershed-based sub-committee is drafting the skeletal framework for the new program while other sub-committees, like the water quality group, will be looking at more fine-tuned details. A map of the 6 watershed groupings is provided along with a list of the cities in each grouping. Highlighted cities compose a significantly small portion of the watershed grouping.

Cities in the 6 Watershed Groupings

Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6
Fairway	Prairie Village	Olathe	Edgerton	Gardner	Bonner Springs
Merriam	Overland Park	Johnson County Unincorporated	Gardner	De Soto	De Soto
Lenexa	Leawood	Overland Park	Johnson County Uninc.	Johnson County Uninc.	Gardner
Mission	Olathe	Spring Hill	Olathe		Johnson County Uninc.
Mission Hills	Lenexa	Leawood	Spring Hill		Lake Quivira
Mission Woods					Lenexa
Overland Park					Olathe
Prairie Village					Shawnee
Roeland park					
Shawnee					
Westwood					
Westwood Hills					



Water Quality Level of Service:

- Consultants then asked the sub-committee to consider what water quality level of service should be established for the SMP. Individual participant comments are summarized as such:
 - Another way to look at level of service is to consider what is “success” from a water quality perspective. In order to establish a level of service, there would need to be an established method to quantify “success”.
 - Multiple, diverse criteria should be used to evaluate the water quality such as water chemistry, bacteria, aquatic life, sediment conditions, etc.
 - Many of the water quality complaints that cities receive are immediately visible concerns such as foul odor and algae.
 - The program should establish a priority to protect water bodies that are in good shape. There should be a focus to maintain water bodies that are meeting their designated uses. Sometimes

protecting what you already have is a better investment than trying to restore something that is already impaired.

- The watershed groupings should be ranked in terms of level of impairment/prioritization per water quality factors.
- Tributaries should be evaluated to determine the incremental flows that they contribute to a watershed. Also, lakes are an important component of the system management inventory because they are often a repository of upstream issues.

Water Quality Factors / Priority / Impact:

- JC SMP provided large scale maps of Johnson County with the 6 watershed groupings along with USGS monitoring sites and highlighted streams with noted water quality impairments.
- Consultants separated participants into two groups and asked that each group provide a list of what water quality factors the SMP should address, which water quality factors should have priority in the SMP, and how would the SMP impact priority factors.
 - Results from the two groups are provided below:

What water quality FACTORS should the SMP address?	Which water quality factors should have PRIORITY in the SMP?	How would the SMP IMPACT priority factors?
HUMAN INTERACTION <i>Is the creek safe to play in?</i> why is the water murky?	Multi-benefit impacts <i>WA + Flooding + system management</i>	stream bank stabilization septic to sewer
Difference btwn public perception + Regulatory focus	Aesthetics priorities Assessment	waste water projects - integrated planning
<i>found</i> Impairment to that stream (Nutrients, sed, bacteria)	cost/benefit ratio low hanging fruit	dredging for lakes/ponds Wetland Mitigation Banks
Sometimes higher quality areas could be higher priority Reduce pollutants at source <i>w/ Education</i>	Reduce pollutants at the source Incorporating WQ in other project types	Conservation / Preservation Permits , land purchase with Education
Aquatic life support + habitat Riparian area	Human health Habitat	Composting facilities P.O.
Hydro Hydro modification Private pollutants source		
		How to encourage improvements on private property - outside of permit requirements

What water quality FACTORS should the SMP address?	Which water quality factors should have PRIORITY in the SMP?	How would the SMP IMPACT priority factors?
① ③ ④ Sediment	① Supporting aquatic life	restore hydrology (impact mitigation)
② Bacteria (parks + streams)	② recreation (primary/secondary)	purchase of development rights (conservation easement)
① ④ temperature/dissolved oxygen	③ stream stability	stream restoration projects (stream mitigation bank)
② algae/nutrients	④ riparian corridor health	mitigation banking
③ ④ streambank erosion (point discharge)	⑤ fish consumption	regional WQ facilities
④ ⑤ heavy metals/hydrocarbons (impervious)		incentive program (retrofits)
③ flow rate		retrofits - Detection, etc.
② ④ pHs, chloride		coordination w/ CTRs + system of replacement program
② ⑤ mercury?		
① substrate embeddedness		
④ policy + codes		

- Along with the activity results, individual participant comments are noted as such:
 - If wanting to make significant water quality improvements, then the SMP will need to do root cause analysis, meaning regional planning issues should be assessed. Development is changing the hydrology of the area. Projects through the SMP should look at strategies to increase stream buffers and green space to increase overland flow time, etc.
 - Water quality factors should also include the public perspective of what is considered “nice”/ aesthetic priorities. There are key differences between public perception and regulatory requirements.
 - Some areas will likely always have TMDL issues due to existing uses. Areas of higher water quality should be prioritized for conservation purposes.
 - The program could specify a certain allotment of project funding for conservation vs. repair.
 - Public health should be a key driver in pursuing water quality projects.
 - Water quality factors should consider the justification behind pursuing a project. Projects should be identified that would be “low-hanging fruit” in terms of gaining public support, such as needing to meet regulatory requirements.
 - Projects with multi-benefit impacts should be evaluated and prioritized. For instance, water quality benefits could be incorporated with projects initially geared towards flooding or system management.
 - Integrated planning with wastewater should be pursued.
 - Prioritization should consider projects in higher populated areas for not only the greater impact on public health but public access as well.
 - Water quality factors should be used in drafting cost to benefit ratios for a given project.
 - Every project should have a public education component.

Closing / Next Steps:

- Meeting closed with consultants asking for final questions and comments.
 - **Final Comments from Sub-Committee Participants:**
 - The County should consider the role of conservation easements which are generally a more effective and cheaper method to accomplish water quality goals versus buying and maintaining land.
 - The County should also consider getting involved in mitigation projects, such as pursuing streambank restoration through the Corps of Engineers.
- The sub-committee will meet again on May 15th at the same place. **However, the time of the meeting will change to 1:30-3:30 pm.**
 - The discussion will be in regards to a Water Quality Focus White Paper that will be sent out for review prior to the next meeting.
- JC SMP and consultants thanked the participants for their time and thoughtful discussion. Comments will be incorporated into meeting notes and used in later discussions.