Working with Partners to Improve Water Quality

District Supervisor Training
Spring of 2017

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Utah Department of Environmental Quality
It has been said that there are three kinds of people:

1) Those who make things happen,

2) Those who watch things happen,

3) And those that don’t know that anything is happening.

How would you describe your District when it comes to conservation work that is taking place in your zone?
What is the role of the Local Conservation Districts when it comes to improving or protecting water quality?
How is the Water Quality in your Watershed?

**Utah’s 305(b) Water Quality Report**
This is a report that is done every two years for the majority of waterbodies across the state. This report helps identify what waterbodies are meeting their beneficial uses and which ones are not.

**Utah’s 303(d) list of impaired Waterbodies**
This is a list of all of the waterbodies in the State that do not meet water quality standards. It is required under the Clean Water Act that TMDL’s or other management measures be taken to restore the waterbodies on the 303(d) list.

So, **How do you know if the waterbodies in your zone are impaired or not?**
The Division of Water Quality has resources to help you understand the status of water quality in your watershed.


wq.deq.utah.gov

State and Local Watershed Coordinators

Utahcleanwater.org
The Watershed Management Approach

- Implementation
- Strategic Monitoring
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Watershed Management Units
- Prioritization and targeting
- Development of Watershed Plan
So, if my District wants to do conservation work focused on water quality where do we start?

You need to invite all of the relevant partners to the table, and on board.

1. Where do we want to focus?
   - Private Property?
   - Forest Service?
   - BLM?
   - All of the above?

2. What types of practices are needed?
   - Stream Bank Stabilization?
   - Nutrient Management?
   - Grazing management?

3. What are our overall goals?
   - Improved Water Quality?
   - Improved Fishery?
   - Improved Flows?
   - All of The Above?

TEAMWORK coming together is a beginning
keeping together is progress
working together is success

- Henry Ford
With Your Partners, Develop a Management Plan

1. Who Will Facilitate the Planning Efforts and Meetings?
   - Do you need to hire a consultant/professional facilitator?
   - Does the District have an employee that can take the lead?

2. Are There Grants Available that Can Pay for the Plan Development?

3. What are your partners expectations on issues and timeline for completion?

4. The plan purpose is to identify projects that need to be implemented. Projects should not determine if a plan should be developed.

There are many resources that can help you begin the planning process. Governmental and private resource professionals can help guide you to those resources.
Once the Plan is Developed then What?

“May I please have some more information?”
Find Funding to Implement the Plan

• Implementing largescale watershed plans can be very expensive. This is where your partners come in.

• Funding agencies want to use their resources to implement a plan, not random acts of conservation.

• If your partners have been involved in the planning process since the beginning they will likely take ownership of the plan and feel obligated to put money toward implementing the plan.

• Not all funding is created equal. Try to figure out which projects will be funded with each funding source, and how they can be used together to meet matching requirements.
Two grant programs that can be used to help implement Water Quality Projects

**State Nonpoint Source Grants**
Funding comes from the State Water Quality Board. There is a $150,000 per project cap, and a mandatory 90/10 match requirement. Anyone is eligible for this funding. Applicant will have 2 years to complete the grant.

**Section 319 Funding**
Funding comes from EPA. There is no limit on the amount that can be applied for, but there is only $500,000 available for project implementation every year. There is a 60/40 match requirement. Anyone is eligible, but can be trickier for federal agencies to receive a grant. Recipient will have 3 years to complete the grant.
Watershed Management Unit Funding Cycle

Basin Priority Funding Schedule

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NPS Grant Application Process

March 1\textsuperscript{st} – DWQ will begin accepting nonpoint source grant applications

May 12\textsuperscript{th} - Application deadline

June 16\textsuperscript{th} - Grant recipients will be announced

July 1\textsuperscript{st} - State NPS funding is available for contracting

Spring of 2018 - Section 319 funding is available
**Project Monitoring**

Monitoring needs to take place before, during, and after the project is implemented. How will we know if the work that we are doing is making a difference.

The goal is to restore the waterbody so we need the data to show that the waterbody is meeting standards.

This is another area where your partners will come in handy. Different agencies are proficient at monitoring different resources. Develop a Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP) to determine the who, what, when, and where of the monitoring scheme.
A final report will need to be completed when the project is finished. This is your opportunity to really toot your horn.

These final reports will identify:

• The quantities of practices that were installed
• The funding and sources of funding that were used to implement the project
• The participating agencies
• The water quality and other resource improvements that were gained
• What worked well and what didn’t
• What will need to be accomplished moving forward
QUESTIONS