Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
Allen Brown, Program Coordinator
NPS Management Program
Funding

$3,062,000 was approved by EPA to fund 11 NPS related projects in Arkansas starting on October 1, 2017

- Costshare
- Streambank Restoration
- Monitoring
- Green Infrastructure
- Education

Workplans

- No request for workplans will be announced by ANRC in December 2017

- The FY18 grant will be used for administrative cost over a 3 to 4 year period
Funding – unknown in the future
- We expect allocation amount(s) to be systematically reduced. It also appears allocation amounts will not be determined quickly.
- Also we do not know what the focus will be if EPA downsizes

Annual Report
- Annual report to EPA was submitted on January 20th, 2017 and received a favorable review of the accomplishments made, the success accomplished, coordination with other partners and projects being implemented.

Success
- Since January 1st of 2017 ANRC has had a total of 3 Watershed Management Plans that have been accepted by EPA and currently 1 is in development
## Historic Funding for the NPS Program in Arkansas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Funding (M)</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Budget Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 15</td>
<td>$2,957M</td>
<td>(-) 31K</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 16</td>
<td>$3,057M</td>
<td>+ 100K</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 17</td>
<td>$3,062M</td>
<td>+ 5K</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 18</td>
<td>$?????</td>
<td>(?)</td>
<td>*</td>
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* Currently we are anticipating and planning for less $$ for FY18.

Depending on the FY18 $$ we would fund admin to keep the program going.
NPS Program focus for the Future?

Changes

- More focus on BMP implementation
  - Smaller 12 Digit HUCs
  - Delistings
- Costshare projects are declining based on match
  - More Costshare partners
- Slight upswing in LID projects
- Milestones

Hurdles

- MS4 permits
- City ordinances
- Knowledge based Planners, Developers and Contractors
  - Education opportunity
Essential changes needed of the NPS Management Program

Money
- The NPS program could use more $’s but only if there are partners (entities) willing to do the work (projects) or do the work necessary (eligibility) with the restrictions of where $’s can be used based on EPA guidance (criteria)
- Currently only federal $’s are put into the NPS program. There is no “line item” or Arkansas legislative funding allocated
- Project area or stream segment monitoring, results and WQx cost versus “on the ground” implementation

Field Capacity – there are not entities to carry out projects
- Not financially secure or ever develop a long term revenue stream
- No full time coordinator or dedicated personnel
- No activities to keep partners involved
- Little or no recognition or expressed appreciation

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) –
- ADEQ develops the Integrated Water Quality Report (305b) and the subsequent 303(d) list of impaired waters
  - Roving monitoring network – waters actively assessed on a rotating basics
  - Typically an 8 digit HUC has 2-3 monitoring stations
  - Not enough monitoring to assess effectiveness of “small” projects
Limitations of the NPS Management Program

- **Documented Success**
  - Difficult and takes time (long term monitoring and assessment)
  - Indicative of waters removed

- **Reactive versus Proactive management**
  - Historically EPA has mandated a reactive management approach to WQ (i.e. address only waters that are impaired)
  - Federal fiscal year 2014 EPA agreed with states that some $’s be dedicated to maintaining waterbodies

- **Time**
  - Practices (BMPs) placed along the streambank have the most immediate effect
  - BMPs placed within the riparian zone have the next quickest effect
  - BMPs placed out of the riparian zone but within ¼ of a mile typically will not show an effect for years (dependent on the practice, condition, slope, etc.)

- **No real way to assess the effects of controlling, reducing or abating NPS expediently**
  - Watersheds are not static
  - Improvements may be negligible or negated in the geographic scope of the watershed
Strength of the NPS Management Program

Partners
- Federal and State agencies, academic institutions, conservation districts, organizations and watershed groups

How is Partnership strength demonstrated
- Informing stakeholders and citizens who your are and what you do
- Giving credit where credit is due
- Reporting activities through “snap shot reporting”
- Distributing the “annual report” to partners

The NPS Program has initiated a “Snap shot” reporting form to help capture activities occurring in the State that agencies, academic institutions, conservation districts, organizations and watershed groups are doing.

- 2015 ANRC received 21 Snap Shot forms
- 2016 ANRC received 13 Snap Shot forms
ANRC is currently in the process of updating the plan to submit to EPA.

New plan will not include regulatory or permitted practices:
- Mining
- Septic tanks
- CAFO’s
- Land application
- Roads/Construction
UP Next

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