NONPOINT

SOURCE

MINI-GRANTS

May 17, 2001

INTRODUCTION

This report describes mini-grants programs used by various States, local agencies, and non-profit organizations to implement efforts to address nonpoint source pollution and to protect or restore watersheds. Many of these are implemented as sub-awards, through State grant or contract mechanisms, of funds received by the State as part of an EPA grant under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Others are purely State-funded. In addition, the report closes with some examples of similar mini-grants used by estuary programs in the National Estuary Program under Section 320 of the CWA.

This report is a product of the Grants Workgroup of the State/EPA Nonpoint Source Partnership. (For more information on the Partnership, see www.epa.gov/owow/nps/partnership.html.) A major purpose of the workgroup is to enable States and their partners to learn from each others' experiences to help each other build more effective programs. We hope that this report will provide the reader with useful ideas for how to achieve "more bang for the buck" by implementing mini-grant programs that can catalyze State and local efforts to control NPS pollution and foster watershed protection efforts across the United States.

This report is not a "formal" document and may best be characterized as an information tool that is capable of being modified at any time. If you have any useful information to add as to other successful (or unsuccessful) mini-grant programs that may be of interest to others, or if you would like to suggest corrections or deletions from the current report, we encourage you to share them with us.

We would like to thank the many State and EPA staff that submitted information for this report. There are some very impressive efforts taking place around the country with relatively few dollars, and we appreciate the time taken by participants to share these efforts with their peers.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the issues or information discussed in this report, please contact any of the persons named below:

Norm Marcotte (Co-Chair, State/EPA NPS Partnership's Grants Workgroup, and Nonpoint Source Coordinator for the State of Maine); norm.g.marcotte@state.me.us, 207-287-7727.

Audrey Shileikis (Co-Chair, State/EPA NPS Partnership's Grants Workgroup, and Nonpoint Source Coordinator for EPA's Region 9); shileikis.audrey@epa.gov; 415-744-1078.

Dov Weitman (Chief, EPA's Nonpoint Source Control Branch); weitman.dov@epa.gov; 202-260-7088.

CONNECTICUT

1. **Connecticut's Nonpoint Source Program**

Connecticut has a new $60,000 "Watershed Association Small Grants Program" Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection plans to subcontract with the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut (a watershed umbrella organization), which in turn will administer a competitive process targeting watershed groups. Small grants could be up to $10,000, and they can be used: (1) by new or weak organizations to build capacity, and (2) by older, more established groups for outreach, education, public access, and on-the-ground implementation projects.

For more information, contact: Charles Fredette, the CT DEP Watershed Unit supervisor, at (860) 424-3714.

2. **Long Island National Estuary Program**

The Long Island Sound Study (NEP) has made annual grants to New York Sea Grant to administer a small grants program for outreach, education, and public access projects since 1995. That project has been a very successful and popular program, with over 50 projects funded at more than $200,000 since 1995.

For more information, contact: Kimberly Zimmer at (631) 632-9216.

RHODE ISLAND

While Rhode Island does not currently implement any mini-grants programs with 319 funds, they do have several mini-grant programs in the State that are relevant and useful to its nonpoint source program. Jim Riordan, RI's NPS Coordinator, states:

"Personally, I find mini-grants to be especially effective for planning on very targeted issues. Wastewater management planning grants have been enormously effective in establishing municipal wastewater management programs backed with enforceable policy. I expect similar results on storm water management planning. I see this as being a critically important tool for capacity building."

1. Municipal Wastewater and Stormwater Programs

Using State funds, Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management has a mini-grant program for municipalities to help them plan wastewater management and/or storm water management programs. They may apply for $10-25,000 with 20% match. Other requirements for administration are essentially the same as for 319 grants. Rhode Island has awarded 15 grants in the last 2 years. In Winter/Spring 2001, Rhode Island is publishing a Request for Proposals for wastewater management planning. It will be posted on Rhode Island's website (www.state.ri.us/dem).

For more information, contact Jim Riordan, at 401-222-4700., ext. 4421; jriordan@doa.state.ri.us.

2. Wellhead Protection Plan Implementation

Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management also does mini-granting with CWA Section 104(b)(3) ground-water funds for wellhead protection plan implementation. In FY 2000, solicitations for project proposals went out with the Section 319 Request for Proposals and probably will again in FY 2001.

For more information, contact Jim Riordan, at 401-222-4700., ext. 4421; jriordan@doa.state.ri.us.

3. EPA Grants to Identify and Protect Critical Natural Resources

EPA's Region I used discretionary regional money to support an interagency grant (IAG) with the RI office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS in turn has a very simple process for conducting a Request for Proposals and awarding actual grants which can provide some up-front support, as opposed to State of RI contracts that can only reimburse for deliverables. Grants ranged from $3,000–$8,000 and were targeted to help the towns identify and protect critical natural resources. The Region believes that the program produced "some great results with very little money, and some of these have helped idenitfy projects for implementation under 319."

For more information, contact Margherita Pryor, 617-918-1597; pryor.margherita@epa.gov.

4. **Narragansett Bay Estuary Program**

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program will be issuing a Request for Proposals in the spring of 2001, combining the results of this request with $75,000 from another Massachusetts agency. These grants will focus on building local environmental capacity, strengthening the ability of communities to carry out watershed management and planning; restoring habitat and natural resources, and finding better ways to involve the public. Depending on final criteria and match requirements, the program may fund several tiers of projects, ranging from $15,000 to $20,000, $5,000 to $10,000, and $3,000 to $5,000. In additional to municipalities and local government agencies, eligible applicants will include nongovernmental organizations, nonprofits, schools and universities, watershed and community groups, and professional and trade associations. Grants will be awarded through the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, again in order to simplify the process and provide more flexibility.

For more information, contact Margherita Pryor, 617-918-1597; pryor.margherita@epa.gov.

VERMONT

Vermont's Conservation License Plate Watersheds Grants Program

The 1996 Vermont legislature authorized the creation of a special license plate, the "Conservation Plate", to provide funds to restore and protect Vermont's watershed resources and non-game wildlife. Revenues for these projects are raised by the fee for the plate – an additional $20 per year fee to register motor vehicles. Proceeds from the sale of Vermont's Conservation Plate have supported two funds since 1998: the Vermont Watershed Fund and the Nongame Wildlife Fund.

The Watershed Fund, administered by Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources, supports watershed projects that protect, restore or enhance Vermont's watershed resources. The funds are granted to community-based watershed organizations through the Vermont Watershed Grants Program. A wide range of projects are eligible for finding, including monitoring, outreach, land acquisition, recreational enhancement, and pollution prevention. In addition, a "mini-grant" category (for grants under $1,000) facilitates start-up projects, particularly for groups that have little fund-raising experience. A Citizens Review Committee evaluates the applications and makes funding recommendations to the Commission of Fish and Wildlife. Many local groups in Vermont have begun to look at water issues from a watershed perspective, and these funds have helped many groups bring a project to completion. Projects funded in 1998 and 1999 ranged from mine remediation to lake watershed surveys to river stabilization to integrated crop management in a small watershed. Funds available for the watershed grants program have grown steadily from $16,000 in 1998 to $45,000 in 2000. While modest in size, the program already has produced many success stories and fills a critical gap in state-wide funding sources for watershed-based projects.

For more information contact: Susan Warren, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, 802-241-3794, susan.warren@anrmail.anr.state.vt.us.

NEW YORK

New York has been conducting a mini-grant program using Section 319 funds for several years. New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) provides these 319 funds to the State's Soil and Water Conservation Committee and Department of Agriculture and Markets. The Committee announces the availability of these funds to all of New York's County Water Coordinating Committee contacts.

Approximately 10 years ago, New York allocated slightly less than $5,000 to each county in the State to enable each county to collect data and develop a County Water Quality Strategy. Subsequently, New York employed a two pronged approach to awarding mini-grants: (1) Once all the County Water Quality Strategies were developed, the counties were asked to submit proposals, based on their Strategies, that addressed a priority source category, and/or performed stewardship projects (e.g., stream work or road bank stabilization) to address priority NPS issues in priority water bodies. (2) Mini-grants were also made available to support work on county-wide issues.

In 1998, New York established two levels of funding: each county was eligible for $1,000 under Level I.. Level II was awarded on a competitive basis and had a maximum of $5,000 for a single county proposal and $7,500 for a multi-county proposal.

In FY 2000, funding was provided in three levels. In Level I, each county that completed a survey received $500 dollars. At Level II, counties can submit requests, granted under a competitive approach, for agricultural clean sweep program funding; a single county can request up to $15,000 and a multi-county request can be up to $25,000 At Level III, each county that completed the survey could apply for up to $2,500 for beach, streambank and stream clean up programs. (Note that the categories/priorities to be addressed change from year to year.

All proposals are reviewed by New York DEC's NPS Steering committee. In FY 2001, funding is being increased; it is expected that all proposed projects can be funded. Donna Somboonlakana, EPA Region II's nonpoint source coordinator, states: "Many of the proposals focused on chemical/pesticide clean sweeps and we couldn't even rank them because they were all so good."

New York plans to continue to fund projects that have a greater focus on supporting the State's short and long term goals listed in the State's upgraded Nonpoint Source Management Program. This is likely to result in a broad variety of good quality projects.

For more information contact: Gerald Chartier, New York's Nonpoint Source Coordinator, 518-457-0633, grcharti@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania has two nonpoint source-related mini-grant programs. They can be found through the DEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us. Click on "Subjects" and choose "Nonpoint Source Management". Then scroll down to "Educational Mini-Projects." Frances Koch of the State's nonpoint source program states that these programs "sure help prepare groups for the LARGER grants and the accompanying responsibilities."

1. **NPS Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-Project Grant Program**

Choose Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Education mini-projects, and this will link you to a page of Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts' website entitled "Mini-Project Grant Programs". This page states:

"PACD in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administers two grant programs that provide up to $1,000 for small projects that benefit the environment. The Chesapeake Bay Program Mini-Project Program is targeted to activities within Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay watershed, and the Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Mini-Project Program is open to all applicants in Pennsylvania."

It further states that these projects must be educational projects that stimulate an awareness of and interest in Pennsylvania's nonpoint source water pollution problems and solutions; publicizing and/or demonstrating the value of new and innovative ways to address nonpoint source pollution; encouraging homeowners, local officials, farmers, and other citizens to take action to reduce nonpoint source pollution, improve water quality, and help protect the watershed.

There is a "click here" for completed projects that are catalogued by category. There is also a listing of projects funded for 2000-2002. Frances Koch of the State NPS staff states that the program has been very successful and ongoing for eight years.

2. **League of Women Voters**:

Pennsylvania has another mini-grant program that is implemented by PA League of Women Voters Water Resources Education Network, which includes a mandatory attendance at a two-day orientation/Wrap-Up (including lessons learned as presented by the previous year's grantees) Workshop. Then they provide small mini-grants ($2,000 - 5,000) to help the groups get going. The internet link to this website is Watershed Assistance Grants for Watershed Protection Projects. (The project is in GRTS.) Both the State and Region III regard this grant as having been very effective in helping local watershed groups. The grant is between $50,000 and $100,000.

3. **Future Developments?**

Pennsylvania is also presently working to develop a Growing Greener (which is a very large State environmental funding program with a very significant nonpoint source component) mini-grant program to assist waders groups with start-up costs.

Some Thoughts on Process

Pennsylvania contracts with the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania's Water Resource Education Network, The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, the Eastern Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and the Western Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation to provide mini-grants. These individual groups in turn handle their mini-grant programs and have agreements with the specific grantees. This results in a minimum of paperwork for the grantee. Each grantor provides mentoring and direct field contact as needed to the grantees.

For more information contact: Frances Koch, 717-783-2289, fkoch@state.pa.us.

VIRGINIA

Small Watershed Protection Grants
Chesapeake Bay Nonpoint Source Implementation Program
Department of Conservation and Recreation – Rappahannock Watershed Office

Background

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), with funds from the Environmental Protection Agency Chesapeake Bay Nonpoint Source Implementation Program, has solicited small watershed projects in the Rappahannock River Watershed through June 30, 2002. Funds are intended to provide seed money to non-profit organizations and communities for activities which involve coordination, planning, education, pollution prevention, and organizational development throughout the Rappahannock watershed.

Grants are intended to satisfy needs among Rappahannock organizations involved in watershed protection activities. In addition, the program aims to assist in implementing components of the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement. Projects eligible for funding include development of local watershed management plans, public outreach, education, publication development and dissemination, water quality monitoring, training, demonstration projects, and organizational capacity building. This grant does not support agricultural best management practices that could be funded through the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost Share Program.

Objectives of the Program

- Promote implementation of the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement
- Promote implementation of the "Tributary Restoration Strategy for the Rappahannock River and Northern Neck Coastal Basins."
- Support organizations and communities in developing local watershed activities in the Rappahannock Watershed.
- Develop capacity at the subwatershed level to address public education and outreach issues.
- Promote the exchange of watershed protection ideas and experiences.
- Encourage exchange of information between Rappahannock River organizations and communities.
- Strengthen links between grass roots initiatives and local, state, and federal programs.

Eligible Participants

Project proposals were solicited from nonprofit and community organizations, educational institutions, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and local governments within the Rappahannock Watershed. Organizations that are not 501(c)(3) certified were advised to partner with a local agency, Soil and Water Conservation District, or another 501(c)(3) organization.

Proposed Strategies

The group or locality's proposed project must address an issue directly related to the objectives of the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement and improvement of water quality in the Rappahannock Watershed. Project sponsors must provide quarterly reports and a final document that reports Lessons Learned. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2002 and final reports must be submitted to the Department of Conservation and Recreation by July 15, 2002.

Specific projects that will be supported through these mini-grants may include the following:

- Local Watershed Plans: Development of watershed plans by localities and other local organizations at a subwatershed level.
- Organizational development: Work that strengthens the capacity of a community group to be more effective in educating the public, organizing pollution prevention activities, or changing community behavior at the small watershed scale.
- Educational Material: Development of educational and outreach publications and materials related to watershed issues (e.g. promotion of the Tributary Strategy).
- Water Quality sampling: This includes Stream Walk Monitoring and Assessments, Izaak Walton League Save Our Streams Monitoring, or other comparable sampling measures.
- Pollution Prevention: Demonstrations or investigations of ways to reduce pollution at the source.
- "Mini" or Innovative BMPs, e.g., storm drain stenciling: Those not included under Agricultural cost share funding.

Budget

Proposals can be submitted by organizations for mini-grants of up to $10,000. The Department of Conservation and Recreation wishes to maximize the number of organizations using the money; therefore, project proposals of $5,000 or less will be given a higher funding priority.

Project Proposal Submittal

Project proposals must address the following:

- Explanation of
    - Project description & purpose
    - Project budget
    - Responsible parties & roles
- Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement components being implemented
- Relationship of project to Rappahannock Tributary Strategy

- Number of individuals impacted by this project
- Names of cooperating agencies/organizations
- Effects of project which extend beyond funded time period

Funds can only be provided to organizations with a taxpayer identification number. Local groups and organizations without such status are encouraged to partner with Soil and Water Conservation Districts or established conservation and environmental organizations. Questions regarding this program, proposal submittal or project eligibility should be directed to Matthew Criblez, Rappahannock Watershed Manager, (540) 899-4074 or email to mdcriblez@dcr.state.va.us.

Matthew Criblez, Rappahannock Watershed Manager
Rappahannock Watershed Office
Department of Conservation and Recreation
2601 Princess Anne Street, Suite 101
Fredericksburg, Virginia

KENTUCKY

We'll let Rosetta Fackler, Kentucky's Nonpoint Source Education Coordinator, tell the story in her own words:

"Although Kentucky has been moving toward bigger, more comprehensive grant projects, we also feel that there is a place for the pass through mini-grants., We are fortunate to have a statewide water interest group, Kentucky Waterways Alliance (KWA), that is the perfect vehicle for using small grants to impact a broader segment of the state's population. The mini grants have been used to set up watershed councils, develop training programs with Waterwatch type groups, produce a compendium of available water education projects, and work with NRCS personnel to develop watershed education programs.

"In addition we have even had one micro-grant program that enabled KWA to train teachers from all over the state. These teachers then developed a proposal out of the training and the chosen few were given a whopping $250 to carry out the project in their schools. Twenty-three of these micro grants were awarded and one of the best education programs that I have seen came from that tiny grant.

"Four teachers got together under the leadership of a doctoral candidate who is doing an internship at the Louisville Nature Center (LNC) to test, analyze, and report on results from sites across the county in three different creeks. The results were plotted on a land use map and recommendation for corrective actions were prepared . The students are middle and high school age (including one correctional institution), The students will present their results to the community at the opening of the new Metropolitan Sewer District Environmental Education Center on April 20 with city and county officials (and we hope some Division of Water folks) in attendance. All of the lab work was done under the direction of a retired chemistry Professor and the information will reside at LNC in their new computer/GIS center.

"I am real proud of this particular effort because it speaks to what good environmental education is about – good science, hands on learning, responsible reporting and action-oriented results. Would that they were all this well done. Another micro grant that got (I think) national attention was the Girl Scout leader who went through the training and did a project on a stream that runs through their camp. She was written up in a Girl Scout national publication and her troop got their Water Drop Badges and a real life learning eye-opener!

"In short, while I think we get a lot of wonderful results out of larger projects, there is an important place for the mini-grants. All of these small efforts are a needed underpinning for the larger picture. Lots of ordinary folks get brought into and become engaged in water issues through these grants. I hope they continue."

Rosetta has also provided good detail on the process used and amounts awarded.:

"We usually award an umbrella grant to one Grantee. That person/organization is then responsible for awarding the smaller increments and managing them. They report back to us

under one administrative procedure. This eliminates the tedium of us dealing with tiny dollar amounts and cuts our administrative time so that we are essentially dealing with only one medium size grant.

"What dollar amounts were involved?

1. Kentucky Environmental Education Council (1995): Distribution and effective use of Enviroscapes (statewide education using resource schools)
$47,000

2. KEEC (1997): Mini-grants of $500 each to State Environmental Resource Schools for Public Education.
$47,000

3. KEEC (1998) Pass through for public education through public schools
$22,500

Total KEEC: $116,500

4. Kentucky Waterways Alliance (1994): Bio-engineering workshop; community outreach ($2,500 mini-grants); education and technical assistance.
$61,000

5. KWA (1995): Grants to local organizations ($2-5,000 mini-grants) for community outreach and education
$85,000

6. KWA (1997): Education outreach; soil bio-engineering conference; and community education micro grants of $250 each
$102,000

7. KWA (1998): Development of High Priority Watershed Councils
$61,000

Total KWA:
$248,000

8. University of Kentucky Extension Service (1997): Production and distribution of video as part of Gee Whiz in Agriculture series
$35,000

Total UK Ext. $35,000

GRAND TOTAL: **$399,500**

"Advice to other states: Find a, or several, responsible statewide groups already formed around watershed issues and have them do the administrative work. Usually it is very difficult for these groups to get funding, because they are not known entities out of their states. We still maintain oversight on the products they produce so there are controls in place to insure quality and accuracy of the end product. Since this is their passion, they will maintain more interest than would a, for example, NRCS contact. With the watershed group, they have a vested interest in improving their water quality. Make sure outside reviewers understand the way the pass though grant works and the scope of territory covered. Frequently the titles sound the same and our reviewers think they are looking at a rehash of last year's project.

"How the process works: "It is not the formal, big, overblown process that we go through for the umbrella grant. Usually the mini-grantee writes an informal proposal, one page, just to tell what they are going to do with the money and they then submit a shortened version of the budget showing their match, which is usually the grantee's time. The contractor sends the proposal to me to make sure the activity qualifies and I give it my okey dokey and it flies. Sometimes we actually have a competition; teachers are lacking in resources and will compete for small amounts of money. In those instances, we convene a panel of three or four people to look over the proposals to see which best meet our needs. The panel is generally formed from a representative of the umbrella grant, The Kentucky Environmental Education Council, the State Environmental Association and me. That way we have both formal and non-formal educators represented, the person who will have to deal with the paperwork and the NPS program.

"When all the projects covered under the mini grants are completed, they are turned in to and presented by the umbrella grantee as their report for closing out the federal grant. In the end, the state is dealing with only one grantee, one report and one set of paperwork. Works like a charm. The umbrella grantee does the lessons learned portion of the final report."

For more information, contact: Rosetta Fackler, Nonpoint Source Education Coordinator, Kentucky Division of Water,502-564-3410, rosetta.fackler@mail.state.ky.us.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina implemented a mini-grant program using 319 funds for three years. However, as explained below, they no longer do.

"Results were mixed. There was considerable interest from volunteer organizations at first, and generally a good variety of interested organizations. Our agency formed new working relationships with town governments, universities, lake association, conservation districts, a water recreation club, utility department and a regional planning council. The involvement of these groups and their partners served to expand the State's NPS program and also resulted in significant publicity. However, it proved to be difficult to reconcile the administrative requirements of both federal and state governments with the need for a relatively user-friendly funding program suitable for volunteer organizations targeted by this funding program. Many of the organizations had never received and implemented a grant before."

Grants ranged from $500 to $20,000; the average grant was $8,514. The total over 3 years was $153,252.

The process did not save the State any time. It required much additional time to administer. It did help involve some players who otherwise would not have been involved, particularly local governments, councils of government (COGs), and utilities.

The State stopped implementing its 319 mini-grant program because it proved difficult to ensure that first-time grantees could adequately perform the administrative requirements of the grant; considerable staff time was required to get proper reimbursement and close out of grants.

Lessons Learned: Depending on the state, it is probably advisable to avoid using the state procurement procedures for each individual minigirant. It would probably be better to subcontract the administration to another larger organization such as a state-wide environmental nonprofit that is also experienced with grant administration.

For more information, contact: M. Kathy Stecker, steckemk@columb32.dhec.state.sc.us 803-898-4011.

KANSAS

Clean Water Neighbor and Stream Steward

Kansas currently funds these two mini-grant programs under Section 319 annually at about the $50,000 - $75,000 level. Clean Water Neighbor is mainly for educational projects, and Stream Steward is to contribute to stream restoration/bioengineering projects. The Kansas Department of Health and the Environment limits funds to approximately $5,000 per project.

Attached below is a download of about 8 pages from the Section 319 Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS), which contain descriptions of all the Kansas Clean Water Neighbor mini-grants in FY 1999. These will hopefully provide food for thought for others as to what types of activities might be accomplished through mini-grants, as well as some people to contact for further information. (Hopefully, they will also provide food for thought as to the type of information that is already available on GRTS, which could be further improved if more States choose to enter this type of information into GRTS.)

1. **Small Acreage Management Workshop Miami County**

Contact Information:
State Contact:

Miami County Extension Council
Scott Satterwaite
Herschel George
785-296-5573
913-294-4306

2. **Nonpoint Source Education for Fourth Grade Level**

This project includes three major goals: 1. Alert 4th Level students in the Topeka Public Schools (USD 501) to the negative effects of pollution and waste disposal in their community and the subsequent impact on water quality for human and wildlife consumption. 2. Familiarize students with sites and agencies at work in the Topeka area which are part of their community's response to these problems. 3. Challenge pupils to monitor and change practices in their school, at home, and in their neighborhoods which lead to nonpoint source pollution.

Contact Information:
State Contact:

Topeka Public Schools - USD 501
Judy Scherff
Brenda McMurphy
785-296-8038
785-575-6760

3. **Ark River Keepers: A Public Education Program**

The objective of this project is to reconnect people to the water ways of their community, in this case, the Big Arkansas River and its tributaries, by getting them involved in a program which will have them walking the banks of the river during all seasons of the year. a second objective is to educate the public about the importance of the Arkansas river, its drainage and water ways, to their community and give them avenues through which they can take action to protect the surface water resources of their community.

Contact Information:
State Contact:

Arkansas River Coalition Inc.
Scott Satterwaite

DeEtte Huffman
785-296-5573
316-978-6813

4. **Talking Trash for Water Quality**

The workshops will be designed to train NRCS technical personnel and Conservation District supervisors on the benefits of no-till/reduced-till systems including the economic, agronomic, and environmental advantages over conventional farming. All Conservation District Supervisors and NRCS personnel in the Kansas NRCS Area I/III will be invited to participate in the workshops and tours. It is expected that an average of 5 people from each of the 24 counties will participate in the workshops for a total of 120 people at the workshops. These people are key players in environmental issues at the county level. With the current high level of ag producers participating in USDA programs, these key players have a great opportunity to work directly with producers in their respective counties to improve water quality

Contact Information:
State Contact:
Douglas County Conservation District
Scott Satterwaite
Clyde Mermis
785-296-5573
785-843-4288

5. **Sycamore Ridge Impact Study**

Sycamore Ridge Golf Course at Spring Hill, Kansas is under construction and expected to open in the fall of 2000. Throughout the city council's negotiations with the developer, water quality issues and the need to protect Spring Hill City Lake was emphasized. Due to the course's size, plans for Sycamore ridge had to receive permits from the state. This process allowed numerous

agencies to comment on the design and construction plans. The project is also subject to the city's regulations regarding the use of sediment control measures

To some degree, the course will be maintained using chemicals and fertilizers. This plan's proposed monitoring program would analyze the impact of these pollutants on the city's drinking water supply, Spring Hill City Lake, and downstream in Spring Creek. These water bodies are part of the Hillsdale Lake watershed. Hillsdale Lake serves as a secondary water source for the city. Irrigation of the course is expected to increase the city's dependence on Hillsdale Lake.

The parameters to be analyzed include total phosphorus, orthophosphorus, total suspended solids, nitrate nitrogen, total kjeldahl nitrogen, and chlorpyrifos. Golf course management is still undecided on the herbicides that will be applied. Once the herbicides have been selected, this information will be passed along to the city. this information may generate the need to test for additional parameters and could impact the project's sampling frequency

Contact Information:
State Contact:

City of Spring Hill
Fran Bennett
Eric Berlin
785-296-5579
913-592-3664

6. **KVHA Rolling Down the River Festival**

As part of the ongoing KVHA StreamLink program, teachers and youth group leaders will be trained using the EPA-approved protocols for StreamLink. As part of StreamLink, students are expected to research historic and current land-use practices in the vicinity of their sampling site. They also complete a visual assessment data sheet that helps them delineate the conditions immediately surrounding their site so that they begin to recognize the connections between Best Management Practices vs. poor practices and the beneficial vs. harmful effects on water quality.

Contact Information:
State Contact:
Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance
Rob Belifuss
Alison L. Reber
785-296–5535
785-840-0700

7. **Reno County Water Festival**

Reno County is the site of numerous impaired surface and groundwater resources. Many of these impairments are due to nonpoint source pollution. When pollution threats come from

numerous sources, prevention needs to be broad based and educational in nature. Public education of our children and thorough them their parents is the focus of this effort.

The target population for this festival is the 4th grade students of Reno County. Attempts will be made to inform the general public of the message of nonpoint source pollution prevention through direct contact with the print media requesting coverage of the festival. Press releases will also be sent to all media outlets in the Reno County area as well as Wichita television stations prior to the date of the festival. Community and State leaders will be sent invitations explaining the scope and focus of the festival as well as requesting their attendance at the festival.

Contact Information:
State Contact:
Reno County Health Department
Scott Satterwaite
Judith A. Seltzer, RN
785-296-5573
316-694-2900

8. **Great Plains Foundation Water Quality Restoration and Protection Plan Initiative**

The Great Plains Foundation is a Nonprofit, 501(3)c group which has a mission of using citizenry and others to help protect our water and natural resources. Their membership is not limited to Kansas, which gives it a good watershed approach, in going across state boundaries. They have been annually sponsoring groundwater symposiums in the Dodge City area mostly on conservation. They believe they should start looking at protection from pollution as well.

This project, if successful, will at the least accomplish the following in selected HUC 8 watersheds in the Lower and Upper Arkansas River basins in one year:

* Take the leadership in the development of a water quality restoration and protection strategy by.
* Help establish a store front for water quality protection information in Dodge City, KS.
* Provide a meeting space for those involved in developing the water quality restoration and protection strategy.
* Incorporate information on the Kansas NPS program in their annual Symposium.
* Develop a method to persuade persons to pledge to protect water resources using their own pledge based on a model from KDHE. (Estimated 1% of the total population of the watersheds or 270.)

Contact information:
State Contact:
Great Plains Foundation
Scott Satterwaite

H. Jan Scoggins-Waite
785-296-5573
316-227-5024

9. **Lake Shawnee Water Quality**

Conduct a concentrated information and education program within the Lake Shawnee Watershed. Institute a high profile marketing campaign to insure benefits of this program are seen by both residents in the watershed area as well as residents in the County.

Contact Information:
Shawnee County Conservation District
Norman L. Sawyer
785-267-5751

State Contact:
Scott Satterwaite
785-296-5573

For more information, contact: Donald Snethen, Dept. Of Health & Environment, (913) 296-5567 dsnethen@kdhe.state.ks.us. Also, readers with access to the Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) for the 319 grants program can find more information about the mini-grant projects in GRTS.

NEBRASKA

Elbert Traylor, Nebraska's Nonpoint Source Coordinator, reminds us all that "Nebraska invented 319 mini-grants back in '92!" He also provides the following detailed narrative:

"We have made considerable changes since then. Here is a little history of our Section 319 small grant sub-programs.:

1. NPS I&E Mini-grant Program:

"Our original mini-grant program ('92-'96) was budgeted at $50,000/year and was limited to limited to local I&E [information and education] projects. It had a $5,000 cap, 40% match requirement and 2-year time limit. The application was a 1-page (2-sided) form (lots of complaints about the form because no one had typewriters anymore). Senior management had to sign the agreement, but that was never a problem. Turn around was usually within a week. We would get 20-30 applications per year and fund about 75%. Applications were taken quarterly and approved at the state level.

"We got some very innovative projects early in the mini-grant program. Making Waves, for example, was produced by the Groundwater Foundation with a 319 mini-grant. Today it is distributed worldwide and has become the"textbook" on how to put on a water festival. That was followed up by companion publications, Making More Waves (advanced festival management) and Making a Bigger Splash (the best of festival activities). Both were funded from other 319 funds. A festival management software package is in the works. Not bad for a $5,000 investment. The program was an important resource for expanding the development of new children's water festivals in the state, now numbering 23.

"By '96 the quality of proposals declined. The majority were repetitive requests to continue funding festivals and requests to fund organizational newsletters, operating costs and similar activities. We canceled the I&E mini-grant program in 1996 and incorporated its eligible activities into the Small Grants Program (now Small Projects Assistance Program). We continue to support youth water festivals through a single larger master grant to Cooperative Extension. CE allocates the funds to individual festivals through a formula based on number of student and program content."

2. Small Projects Assistance Program (SPA) Program:

"The Small Projects Assistance Program, started as the Small Grants Program in 1995, is budgeted at $50,000+/year. Grants are capped at $15,000, require 40% match, and limit the project period to three years. Sponsors report annually. Units of government, educational institutions and nonprofits are eligible applicants. Proposals may not exceed four pages and must follow a minimal format. Projects may include any activities eligible under the NPS program. Applications are considered at least quarterly and are approved at the state level.

"Purely I&E projects (i.e., no direct management implementation) at the local level are referred to the SPA grant program. This program has been especially useful for supporting pilot projects that initiate I&E efforts, demonstrations and planning in preparation for larger watershed management projects. Between 1996 and 1998, three separate SPA grants were awarded to a small community to help restore a complex of three lakes (ponds) in the city park. This series of projects generated enormous local press coverage and several statewide news articles. Citizen support was outstanding throughout the project. Prior to this project, the park had become largely ignored, except for complaints, by local citizens. Today it is necessary to reserve camping and picnicking facilities in advance. The huge success of this community lake restoration project(s) led to creation of the Community Lakes Restoration Assistance Program.

3. Community Lakes Restoration Assistance (CLaRA) Program

"The CLaRA program was created in 1999 and budgeted at $400,000+/year. Grants are capped at $75,000, require 40% match and are limited to three years. Sponsors report annually. Subunits of government are eligible to apply. Activities are limited to sediment removal, shoreline stabilization (least engineered methods necessary), aquatic habitat rehabilitation, aeration, publicity, volunteer monitoring and, where rarely necessary, watershed management. Proposals not exceeding two pages are considered at least quarterly. Sponsors of "accepted" projects are invited to work with state staff to develop detailed project implementation plans (PIPs) and to formally apply for funds. State-approved PIPs are submitted to EPA-Region VII for a 30-day comment period. Pending available funds, projects are approved at the state level after the comment period expires or after any EPA concerns are resolved.

"Response to this, as yet un-advertised, program has been enormous. Three pilot projects were recently completed and potential projects have been identified that could utilize the funds expected over the next three years. The infant CLaRA program has already spawned an inter-agency Community Lakes Enhancement And Restoration (CLEAR) Team. The CLEAR Team brings together technical and financial assistance from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Urban Fisheries program, technical and educational assistance from the University of Nebraska's Lake Water Quality Management program, and technical and financial assistance from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's CLaRA program. Other partners are included within local projects. The CLEAR Team recently received a grant of $1.7 million from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) to advance the community lake restoration effort over the next three years. CLEAR project grants will be limited to $300,000 from combined CLaRA and NETF resources. CLaRA program protocols will be used to select, design and manage CLEAR projects.

4. Urban Run-off Management Assistance (URMA) Program

"The URMA program was created in 1999 to offer rapid response capability to take advantage of opportunities to work with communities, developers and contractors to demonstrate urban BMPs; particularly construction site management and development alternatives. Funds are budgeted annually with sufficient funds to maintain an available pool of $150,000. Grants

are limited to $75,000, require 40% match and are limited to two years. Sponsors report annually. Eligible applicants are subunits of government and nonprofits. Activities are restricted to installation and demonstration of urban BMPs and rehabilitation of urban streams. I&E activities necessary to promote the demonstration and restoration efforts are eligible. Proposals are not to exceed two pages are reviewed quarterly. Sponsors of "accepted" projects are invited to work with state staff to develop detailed project implementation plans and to formally apply for funds. State-approved PIPs are submitted to EPA-Region VII for a 30-day comment period. Pending available funds, projects are approved at the state level after the comment period expires or after any EPA concerns are resolved.

"This is expected to be a small program with only one or two projects per year. The only current project involves removing rubble from a college campus stream, rebuilding its flood plain, creating habitat pools and filtering wetlands, re-seeding the flood plain and buffer with native vegetation, volunteer monitoring and developing outdoor classroom curricula based on the project area.

Conclusion:

"The projects funded by these small grants typically do not compete well with larger watershed management projects for funding in the usual review and selection process. However, they may be extremely important and beneficial within the local community. Over-all we are very pleased with the ability these small grant sub-programs give us to target very specific resources and audiences. These projects bring us much closer to local community leaders and their citizens and generate significantly more publicity and good will than the traditional large watershed management projects. We are already incorporating lessons learned from these small local projects into the planning and implementation of larger watershed management projects. I would be happy to provide additional information if you desire."

For more information, contact: Elbert Traylor, Nebraska Nonpoint Source Coordinator, 402-471-2585, deq107@mail.deq.state.ne.us. Also, readers with access to the Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) for the 319 grants program can find more information about the mini-grant projects.

MISSOURI

Missouri considers its mini-grant program to be "very successful". Their awards are for a maximum of $5,000 and 18 months, and they focus on information and education projects. They require the same 40% match as other grants, but the application process is considerably different and much easier for the applicant. Missouri accepts applications quarterly, take about a month to review, then about another six weeks to get the funding out. Internally, the State has delegated signatory authority lower in the organization than for their large grants, which means quicker processing. The application form is one page, front and back. Projects are typically for short-term educational activities -- festivals, workshops, awareness campaigns -- although they are not limited to that.

Missouri does not experience a huge demand for the mini-grants, but considers them to be "definitely worthwhile". To provide some perspective, Becky Shannon points out that, for January 2001, the State received 8 applications and is funding 5 of those projects. The other three will be fundable upon revision. Often the applicants for such grants are Stream Teams, watershed organizations, and schools.

Becky considers the mini-grants to be a great way to facilitate small projects and to get new partners involved with 319. However, the actual award process and oversight is the same as for larger grants from Missouri staff's perspective. "If we were to see dozens of applications each quarter, I might re-think my position."

Becky adds: "We hope to increase the maximums on our mini-grants to $15,000 and 2 years, but will only do so if we can retain the delegated signatory authority. That's key to making these simpler for us."

For more information, contact Becky Shannon, Missouri's Nonpoint Source Coordinator, at 573-751-7144; nrshanb@mail.dnr.state.mo.us.

Attached below is a download of about 9 pages from the Section 319 Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS), which contain descriptions of all the Missouri mini-grants in FY 1998. These will hopefully provide food for thought for others as to what types of activities might be accomplished through mini-grants, as well as some people to contact for further information. (Hopefully, they will also provide food for thought as to the type of information that is already available on GRTS, which could be further improved if more States enter this type of information into GRTS.)

MISSOURI MINI GRANT PROGRAM: FY 1998

Thomas Jefferson Outdoor Classroom

$4,500 was awarded to Thomas Jefferson Middle School to fund the establishment of an outdoor classroom with a pond and wetlands. Use of the outdoor classroom and associated environmental curriculum will heighten the awareness of middle school students to the water quality concerns associated with stormwater runoff. The project combines the expertise of the Thomas Jefferson Middle School staff, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Environmental Education Unit and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). Linn Technical State College will provide the labor for construction of the ponds and wetland. The outdoor classroom will be shared with other schools in the community.

The 18-month, $4,500 project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VII, FY98 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant through MDNR's Division of Environmental Quality, Water Pollution Control Program.

Products: Outdoor classroom
Water quality curriculum

Information Contact:
Robyn Behen
Thomas Jefferson Middle School
Jefferson City, MO 65109
573-659-3250

State Contact:
Ruth Wallace
573-526-7687

Atrazine Abatement Demonstration for Route J Watershed, Ralls County, Missouri

Ralls County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) located in northeast Missouri is in the claypan soils region. These claypan soils have a shallow, very dense clay layer, seasonal high water table and slow internal water movement through the soil that causes surface water ponding and increased surface runoff water that contain potential agricultural pollutants entering surface waters in the watershed. Threats to the Monroe City-Route J water supply include season-long contamination of the herbicide product atrazine, a triazine, for which the city has previously received a notice of violation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Ralls Co. SWCD received this mini-grant to support education and the establishment of field demonstration plots to showcase alternative herbicide treatments and other beneficial management practices such as split application of herbicides to abate atrazine runoff in the watershed of Monroe City-Route J public water supply reservoir. Most residents are dependent on this up-grade surface water supply, both public and private. The Monroe City officials initiated a Watershed Protection Plan in 1995 with an approved plan signed and agreed-to in 1998 identifying various sources of contaminants in the watershed and action items to abate these contaminants.

Route J Watershed Atrazine Abatement/Management Project is to support education and the establishment of field demonstration plots to showcase alternative herbicide treatments and other beneficial management practices to abate atrazine runoff in the watershed of Monroe City-Route J public water supply reservoir. The project will serve as a catalyst for stakeholders in this surface water-drinking watershed to protect their water resource.

Objectives

1. Reduce the annual application rate of atrazine to 1.0 lb./ac. active ingredient or less on 840 acres in the Route J watershed.

2. Establish 1 field plot annually within the watershed to showcase and promote atrazine management through alternative herbicide programs.

3. Conduct field days to inform/educate producers and crop protection industry on Integrated Crop Management (ICM)/Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.

4. Sixty (60) percent of the watershed farmers will utilize an ICM Consultant on their row crop acres in this watershed.

Products

Pre- and post survey results will be studied for comparison of before-and-after knowledge of surface water protection, beneficial management practices (BMPs), in the Monroe City-Route J water supply watershed as a result of herbicide strategies adopted. The project's intent is to establish a two-pass herbicide application (split-application) to reduce the annual application rate of atrazine to 1.0 lb./ac. active ingredient or less on 840 acres. Additionally the following products are to be provided: 1) there will be two field days conducted annually to inform and demonstrate results; 2) conduct annual training courses and workshops on Integrated Crop Management/Integrated Pest Management; and 3) annually establish field plots (for two years) to better inform producers and crop protection industry staff on the beneficial management practices to protect surface water supply.

Project Sponsor: Ralls County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cooperating Agencies: US EPA Region VII, Missouri Department of Natural Resources-DEQ-Water Pollution Control Program; University of Missouri-Columbia (CAFNR-Agronomy Dept.), University Outreach and Extension-Columbia, University Outreach and Extension-Plant Science Unit/Pest Management, University of Missouri-Columbia (CAFNR-FAPRI), Mark Twain Water Quality Initiative, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Quinn Farm Supply, Monroe City COOP, Crop Protection Companies (AgrEvo, DowElanco, Rhone-Poulene Agro, Cyanamid, BASF, Bayer, Monsanto, DuPont), Monroe City Public Water Supply Superintendent, Monroe City Alderman, Missouri Corn Growers Assoc., and local landowners.

Information Contact: State Contact:

Ralls County
Soil & Water Conservation District
17623 Highway 19, Suite 3
New London, MO 63459
Lori Robinson, District Manager
573-985-8631, ext. 3

Donald Schuster
573-751-6623

Little Sac and Sac River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

The Little Sac River watershed encompasses about 400 square miles of the 1970 square mile Sac River basin in southwest Missouri. There are two drinking water reservoirs and one 27-mile stream segment within this watershed on the state's final 303 (d) list. Nutrients and fecal coliform are pollutants responsible for the listing - nutrients for the two reservoirs and fecal coliform for the Little Sac River. Furthermore, the Sac River watershed is the #3 priority watershed in the recently completed "Unified Watershed Assessment." Concerns relate to nutrient enrichment, biological impairment, drinking water source protection, karst geology and large numbers of livestock in the basin. The entire Little Sac watershed is a public water supply source area containing two reservoirs, Fellows & McDaniel Lakes, plus Fulbright Spring and Stockton Lake, all utilized for municipal water supplies. The large intake on Stockton Lake is designed to serve the high growth areas of Springfield and Greene County for the next fifty years.

A minigrant to the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District is supporting development of a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) for the Little Sac and Sac River. The WRAS will identify the seven elements specified by the Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII, as follows: (1) public outreach methods; (2) monitoring and evaluation activities based on water quality goals and outcomes; (3) specific water quality problems; (4) identify a watershed coordinator/evaluator; (5) blueprint of actions to be taken and desired water quality goals and outcomes; (6) schedule of implementation; and (7) funding needs.

Project Sponsor**:** Green County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cooperating Agencies**:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, MO Department of Conservation, MO Department of Natural Resources

Information Contact
Larry Jones
Green Co. SWCD
688 S. State Hwy. B, Suite 200
Springfield, MO 65712
417-831-5246

State Contact:
Tod Hudson
573-751-8728

North Fork Salt River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

The mini-grant will allow the Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission (CCWWC) to develop a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy for the North Fork Salt River

watershed. The document will be developed with the participation of government agencies, landowners, producers, and other entities involved in water quality projects in the area. Public input will be obtained through public meeting and utilizing a technical committee.

Objectives: To develop a Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRAS) document for the North Fork of the Salt River Watershed that contains the seven elements as specified by the Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII. The seven items that will be identified in the document includes the following (1) public outreach methods (2) monitoring and evaluation activities based on water quality goals and outcomes (3) specific water quality problems identified (4) identify a watershed coordinator/evaluator (5) blueprint of actions to be taken and desired water quality goals and outcomes, (6) schedule of implementation (7) funding needs.

Products:

1. The development of Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRAS) document. 500 copies will be printed for distribution within the watershed.

2. Development of a steering committee that will continue to work with the CCWWC on the 319 North Fork Salt River Project.

Project Sponsor: Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission

Cooperating Agencies: Local landowners/producers, Mark Twain Water Quality Initiative, Department of Natural Resources, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, University Outreach and Extension.

Information Contact:
Liz Grove
Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission
34146 Route U
Stoutsville, MO 65283
573-672-3221

State Contact:
Lisa Sowa
573-526-5297

Stream Care Guide for Urban Areas

The St. Louis area is rich in water resources, however the practices of the residents and businesses that generate nonpoint source pollution problems are generally unrecognized by the constituents. The individuals that live within the riparian corridor streams do not utilize common practices that can eliminate or greatly reduce nonpoint source pollution on their property. Several municipalities identifies a lack of understanding of landowners about nonpoint source pollution in stream and requested information from the Soil and Water Conservation District on best management practices to prevent pollution. The Stream Care Guide will target urban residents and businesses along streams riparian corridor. It will provide informational material that will identify practices that could be used to reduce nonpoint source water problem within

streams. Workshops, news releases, radio programs and home visits will be utilized to educate landowners.

Objectives

1. To educate homeowners and business owners that live in the riparian areas of Tavern Bonhomme and Creve Couer watersheds on the reduction of nonpoint source pollution within the stream corridor

2. Increase awareness of non-point source pollution in the homes, yards and business property in Bonhomme and Creve Couer watersheds.

3. Increase proper chemical use and disposal in the stream riparian corridor.

4. Increase natural landscaping and gardening practices that reduce runoff, promote infiltration and protect stream banks.

Products

- Develop 3,000 Stream Care Booklets
- Submit several news releases to radio and print media
- Conduct two workshops for landowners in the Tavern Bonhomme and Creve Coeur Creek Watershed.

Project Sponsors**:** St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cooperating Agencies**:** Local, Federal and State government agencies such as Missouri Department of Conservation, City of Chesterfield, City of Manchester, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the City of Wildwood.

Information Contact:
Charyn Grandau
St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation Dist. 573-522-2740
1215 Fern Ridge Parkway Suite 212
St. Louis, MO 63141-4406
314-453-9555 ext. 108

State Contact:
John Johnson

Adopt-A-Spring

The mini-grant will support development of a standard process of recruiting, training and keeping volunteers involved in an Adopt-A-Spring program. A volunteer coordinator will be responsible for day-to-day communication with volunteers and coordination between volunteers, the Committee and laboratories, and a Watershed Committee board member will serve as liaison

between volunteers and the committee. A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be submitted to DNR and approved prior to water quality sampling and analysis.

Objectives

The primary objective is to raise awareness about the value and importance of springs and shallow groundwater, an often-neglected resource. There is no formal, organized program to evaluate the quality of shallow ground water sources in Greene County. The information obtained throughout this program will be very helpful in targeting future resources toward pollutant sources that are adversely affecting the groundwater. A specific, measurable objective is to organize and train a cadre of volunteers that will be able to further educate and activate other citizens in the area about nonpoint source pollution. The goal is to have, initially, ten dedicated that can not only evaluate springs but also help with the variety of other outreach activities.

Products

The products will include a database on the quality of the shallow groundwater; a group of educated citizens that can help further the awareness of nonpoint source pollution and its effects on our springs, a group of spring owners who understand more about how springs function and what can affect their quality, and a trained group of volunteers who will be able to help the Watershed Committee develop more effective and long lasting education and outreach programs.

Project Sponsor**:** Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

Cooperators: City Utilities of Springfield, Groundwater Guardian Program
Springfield/Greene County Parks Dept.

Information Contact:
Loring Bullard
Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
320 N. Main
Springfield, MO 65806
417-886-1127

State Contact:
Tod Hudson
573-751-8728

Water Quality for Earthworks Students

This $5,000 minigrant to The Learning Exchange located in Kansas City, Missouri, supports interactive water quality education for students in grades 3-5 as part of a summer learning program. This summer learning program, entitled “College for Kids” will be offered June 21 through July 31 at the EarthWorks education facility located in the underground limestone cave. EarthWorks provides realistic field-stations, complete with state-of-the art equipment, and habitats thriving with native plant and animal species. The curriculum allows students to develop the skills practiced by scientists including hypothesizing, observation, data

collection and collaboration. The importance of healthy Missouri water habitats and the effects of nonpoint source water pollution will provide the basis for much of the curriculum. Nonpoint source water pollution typically comes from areas such as leaking septic systems, urban development and agricultural runoff.

The $5,000 in federal funding for water quality education is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII, FY98 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant through MDNR's Division of Environmental Quality, Water Pollution Control Program.

Products: Water quality education for 375 students.
Water quality curriculum for ongoing Earthworks programs.

Information Contact:
Linda Segebrecht
The Learning Exchange
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-414-6100

State Contact:
Ruth Wallace
573- 751-7428

Wellhead Protection Program - Phase I

This grant will be used to support a wellhead protection program in cooperation with the Cape Girardeau County Groundwater Guardians (a project of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri). This grant will allow the Guardians to construct a karst model that can be used as a visual aide at local exhibits as an educational tool. In addition to the karst model, funds will be used to complete an inventory of potential threats to groundwater for the area public community and non-community drinking water supplies. Through distribution of informational materials and by setting up displays at local fairs and other public gathering places, county residents will be encouraged to inventory their own private well sites.

In 1999, the Guardians are entering their fifth year of bringing information about local groundwater and the need to protect that supply for the future. One of the serious underlying concerns in the county is the karst topography, which could turn a localized water quality hazard into a regional problem.

Objectives

1. Complete an inventory of potential threats to groundwater in the designated areas surrounding each public and non-community public well.

2. Distribute materials/objects to County residents which will remind hem of the need to protect groundwater and encourage them to inventory their own private well sites.

3. Provide displays in public places which will alert residents to potential hazards.

4. Involve as many organizations/residents of the County as possible in activities.

Products

- Additional supplies of local info/handouts previously used.
- New local-specific information handouts
- A groundwater/karst model
- Inventory of County community and non-community wellhead protection areas for public information and emergency response tool
- Other display materials produced as needed

Project Sponsors: Cape Girardeau County Health Department,

Cooperating Agencies: Cape Girardeau County Groundwater Guardians (a project of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri)

Information Contact
Jonell McNeely
Cape Girardeau County Health Department
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
573-243-4716

State Contact
Tod Hudson
573-751-8728

COLORADO

Colorado has a small pot of 319 funds that they use for funding projects up to $5000 each. In the past this money has been targeted toward I&E projects for NPS, specifically schools. This year it has opened up to any and all NPS issues (mining, agriculture, etc.). The application process for mini-grants is designed to be a smaller process since it is for less money. Below is the information that have been sent out by the Loretta Lohman of Colorado State Extension Service to guide the application process.:

Colorado's Nonpoint Source Program
It's our water-let's control polluted run-off

COLORADO
NONPOINT SOURCE
PROGRAM

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Water Quality Control Division
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246
303-692-3570 phone
303-782-0390 fax
E-mail: nps@state.co.us

Colorado Nonpoint Source Information and Education Coordinator
CSU Cooperative Extension
Denver County Office
110 16th Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202
303-549-3063 cell
720-913-5285 phone
720-913-5289 fax
E-mail:
llohman@coop.ext.colostate.edu

Nonpoint Source Water Pollution
Outreach Grant Opportunities for 2001

Consider applying for a nonpoint source water pollution outreach grant. It is not a difficult process and the rewards can be significant. Typical grants range from $1,000 to $2,500, with a grant maximum of $5,000. Matching funds are required, but may be either in-kind or in dollars-increasing the reach of your program.

✔ ***What?*** *Nonpoint source water pollution-sometimes called polluted runoff-involves almost every aspect of water use.*

✔ ***Why?*** *It is our water. We all live downstream. We all live in a watershed. We all have good reasons to keep our water clean.*

✔ ***How?*** *Prepare a simple four-page proposal with the components listed on the two attached sheets. Note that each category has specific questions to answer.*

Examples of Previously Funded Projects

Identify potential sources of nonpoint source pollution and develop best management practices to prevent it.

Create or adapt educational processes or products specific to NPS, such as a computer-generated slide show, a video, a play, a brochure or a school curriculum unit to share lessons learned in the study of NPS.

Develop a community-school partnership to create a wetlands demonstration project as a tool for treating nonpoint source pollution and a means of educating students.

✔ ***Match?*** *Outreach grants require a 40 percent match of the total project cost. Matching funds can be cash contributions to the project or in-kind donations such as the instructor's time and effort, equipment supplied by community sponsors, use of vehicles, outside consultants or other types of donations.*

✔ ***When?*** *Although proposals may be made year-round, the standard timetable requires a draft proposal by April 15, 2001. If accepted, grant proposals received in April will be awarded and funded by August.*

✔ ***Funding?*** *Grants are issued on a cost-reimbursable basis for expenses incurred, based on the line items in the project budget, up to the amount approved in the award.*

✔ ***Where?*** *Submit proposals electronically, with "Proposal" in the subject line. To submit your proposal or get additional information, contact:*

Loretta Lohman, Nonpoint Source Information and Education Coordinator
CSU-Cooperative Extension, Denver County
110 16th Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202-5202
Phone: 303-549-3063 or 720-913-5285
Fax: 720-913-5289
E-mail: llohman@coop.ext.colostate.edu

Colorado's Nonpoint Source Program
It's our water-let's control polluted run-off

Components of a
Nonpoint Source Outreach Grant Proposal

1. Sponsor Contact Information

Name
Work address
Work telephone number
Fax telephone number

Home address
Home telephone number
E-mail

2. Project Name/Title

3. Project Category: Information/Education; Agriculture/Silviculture; Urban/Construction. Select one and include answers to appropriate questions at the end of this guidance.

4. Project Description

- Goal or purpose
- Expected outcome, benefits, results
- Steps or tasks which will accomplish the goal or purpose

5. Timetable

Start and end date for the project
Start and completion dates for key tasks

6. Budget

- Task-by-task breakdown in table format (template available)
  - ✔ Clearly identify which items will be funded by the grant, and which will be used as match.
- Identify source of matching funds

7. Target Audience

Who or what
The significance of targeting this audience

8. Nonpoint source pollution connection

Describe component(s) of project that specifically deal with nonpoint source pollution

9. Coordination

Partners in venture (if applicable) and their contribution to project
Partnerships should help build on existing knowledge and products, rather than duplicating efforts.

10. Final product

Define product to be developed

- ✔ Examples: field notes, a specific product or plan, classroom training, a better management practice, or other efforts to improve water quality or understanding of nonpoint source pollution

11. Evaluation

How will the project be evaluated for success or failure?

The evaluation will be the basis of the final report to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Questions specific to information and education projects

1. If this is a school project, how will this project assist you or your school in achieving the State Content Standards, in particular the science standards? Will it improve the understanding of scientific investigation processes; of the interrelationships among science, technology and human activity; and of life process and how living things interact with each other and their environment?

2. What message(s) will your audience receive, embrace or learn? Will audiences learn about taking responsibility, “doing no harm” and water flows?

3. What lessons do you hope to teach and learn?

Questions specific to agricultural projects

1. How does this project relate to the agriculture/silviculture water quality issues in the area? How will this project enhance the impact of ongoing or previous water quality activities in the area?

2. How does the project relate to the management of local agricultural operations (for example, the practicality of applying results of a small demonstration to a farm field)? Will the project influence local best management practices and implementation?

3. How and where will the results of the project be shared?

Questions specific to urban and construction projects

How will this project assist in educating your target audience with urban runoff, pollutant reduction, pollution prevention or other preventative programs? Programs that target the proper use and disposal of household waste products are encouraged.

What is the main focus of the project (e.g., classroom education, training, small demonstration, improving technological understanding, innovative management practices, manuals or guidance materials)?

Does this project teach how best management practices can help clean up urban or construction runoff?

NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM MINI-GRANTS

Many National Estuary Programs provide mini-grants that provide excellent models of how to achieve results with small amounts of funding. Here is just a subset from NEP's in EPA's Region IV.

Mobile Bay National Estuary Project in Alabama is proposing to make available approximately $40,000 per year available for mini-grants, with individual grants not to exceed $5000. The next proposal submittal deadline is September 1, 2001. For more information on this program, please contact Mr. David Yeager, Mobile Bay NEP Director, at 334/431-6409 or visit the web site at http://www.mobilebaynep.com/Mini%20Grants/Min%20Grant%20Criteria.htm.

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Project in Florida has traditionally had one advertisement per year, making available $18,000, with individual grants not to exceed $3000. For more information, please contact Mr. Robert (Rudy) Rudolph, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Project Director at 941/995-1777 or visit the web site at www.charlotteharbornep.com/grants_available.htm. The next request for proposals will be posted around September 01, 2001.

Tampa Bay National Estuary Program in Florida budgets $10,000 per year for their mini-grants program. Individual mini-grants for $5,000 or less are awarded to community groups for bay restoration and improvement projects. Additionally, up to 5% of the proceeds from their license plate sales will be used for mini grants. Grant recipients are selected by a subcommittee of the Citizen Advisory Committee. Requests for proposals are typically announced in late summer every other year, but some consideration is being given to shifting to an annual solicitation. For more information, contact Mr. Richard Eckenrod, Tampa Bay National Estuary Program Director, at 727/893-2765, or visit the web site at www.tbep.org.

Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program in Florida has budgeted $9,800 in FY 01 for the "Bay Partners Mini-Grants" The program may begin soliciting proposals in May/June 2001. For more information, contact Mr. Mark Alderson, Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program Director, at 941/359-5841 or visit the web site at http://pelican.gmpo.gov/gulfofmex/estuarypartner/Sarasota/SarasotaBay.html .