

Improving Implementation Success

Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable

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Improving Implementation Success

Background Questions/Considerations

There's Not Enough Success

- Why haven't we seen successes in the past from plans?
- What is the key to success? What are we missing?
- How do we make this work?
- How effective are current efforts in accomplishing the goals they set out to?

Key Questions To Consider Regarding Implementation Incentives

- What economic incentives make practices worthwhile adopting
- How do we redirect the ship to head towards practices with higher success rates?
- Should we target funding for specific high impact BMPs and addressing point sources?
- Do we need a heavy handed “stick” to get stakeholders to implement BMPs more aggressively?
 - TCEQ manage permittees through regulations and enforcement – need a stick
 - Regulations that enforce entities (WWTP permits)
- Watershed-based permitting. Potential interest in this issue from entities that own and operate WWTPs, and could serve as a means of providing funds needed to implement plans.
- Guidance for BMP implementation planning and capital improvement programs for watershed plans
- How can private entities be incentivized to include BMPs as part of the development process, with more consideration to post-construction/long-term BMPs

Solutions Offered

Improve Implementation By:

- Targeting incentives to:
 - High impact measures
 - High impact zones (i.e. riparian)
- Increasing incentives in targeted areas

Key Questions To Consider Regarding Implementation Monitoring

- How do we better monitor the effects of our BMPs?
- Can we improve our success rate thru better monitoring?
- Issues with how we're monitoring – i.e. effectiveness monitoring used for listing purposes which exasperates the problem.
- How do we get greater value placed on watershed improvements beyond water quality improvements? More value needs to be placed in watershed plans besides water quality improvements to give stakeholders pride in what they're doing.

Solutions Offered

Improve Implementation Monitoring By:

- Decrease reliance on routine monitoring
- Use paired watershed approach
- Increased use of volunteer monitoring
- Use surrogate parameters to reduce monitoring costs

Key Questions To Consider Regarding Implementation Funding

- How do you fund implementation?
- With less \$, what are alternative sources and avenues to achieve success?
- How can we better use SRF to tackle some of the big \$ problems associated with watershed plans?
- What are the issues with using SRF and how can they be alleviated?
- What are the impediments of getting 319 \$ on the ground?

Solutions Offered

Improve Implementation Funding By:

- Increased integration of water programs
 - Wildlife habitat improvement
 - Water conservation plans
 - State Water Plan
- Greater use of volunteers
- Increased engagement with private entities