

CHAPTER 14

KEY CONCEPTS

1. Continued WMA Structure

This chapter offers recommendations on how the WMA should continue to operate and coordinate with other Central Iowa WMAs.

2. Evaluation Framework

This plan needs to be evaluated at least annually, with more in-depth evaluations after year five.

3. Amendment Timeline

After a ten-year period, the entire plan should be re-evaluated with the goal of developing a new ten-year implementation strategy.

HOW DO THESE CONCEPTS INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN?

This plan needs to be a “living document,” which may need to be changed based on what is learned through annual reports as well as the financial, technical and staffing resources that are available to carry out this plan. Effective collaboration and communication between the various jurisdictions within this watershed will be vital to successful implementation of this plan.



Evaluation and Amendments

Continued WMA Structure

The Walnut Creek WMA currently coordinates through an executive committee panel and a larger board with representatives from all the jurisdictions located within the Walnut Creek watershed. Other stakeholders and consultants frequently attend the WMA board meetings. It is recommended that both the executive committee and board continue to meet on at least a quarterly basis, to discuss plan progress and to coordinate implementation of the plan. Should a project coordinator be designated (refer to Chapter 13), this person would help to schedule meetings, develop agendas and minutes and prepare information for review by the board and committee.

Evaluation Framework

Implementing a ten-year plan requires regular review periods to determine if implementation is following the schedule set forth. It is also critical to review monitoring and other forms of measurement to ensure that the plan is achieving the desired results. By the end of June 2017, a status report should be prepared by the project coordinator (or other party designated by the board). This report should be repeated annually and contain the following information:

- Document which communities have enacted new ordinances related to the recommendations listed in Chapter 9.
- Include a brief update from each community related to erosion and sediment control enforcement and compliance.
- Itemize completed improvement projects related to water quality within each community.
- Summarize of monitoring results, including average, minimum and maximum pollutant concentrations and comparison of those values to those observed during Year 1 of the monitoring program.
- Detail progress on rural plan implementation including an update on the rural case study area and other conservation or storm water management practices applied throughout the watershed.

After Year 5 of monitoring, the annual report should include a more detailed review of monitoring results and determine if progress towards water quality goals (pollutant concentration reduction) is on pace, based on the level of improvements that have been implemented. If it is not, the implementation plan should be reviewed and adjustments considered, informed by local observations and updated study related to management practices.

Process / Timeline to Amend the Plan

This study has detailed how rapidly conditions within this watershed are changing. Based on past growth rates, it could be expected that within the next ten years an additional six to eight square miles of the watershed may be developed. At that point, urban development may cover between 50 and 55% of the overall land area. Over a similar period of time, it would be expected that stream conditions may be much different and the need for improvements could shift.

Over a decade, the other improvements within the case study areas and throughout the watershed should be implemented. Following Year 10 of the monitoring program, it is recommended to review and update many of the findings within this plan, and develop a new implementation and monitoring plan from those findings. New strategies should extend the plan for an additional 10 years.

