

Approved: 2-3-98
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on January 28, 1998 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Jamie Clover Adams, Legislative Liaison, Governor's Office

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Corbin made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 27 meeting as submitted. Senator Downey seconded. Motion carried.

Jamie Clover Adams, Legislative Liaison, Governor's Office, appeared before the committee to request introduction of a committee bill to implement the Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative (Attachment 1). She stated in order to address non-point sources of pollution, such as runoff from agricultural land and urban streets and lawns, will require working side-by-side with landowners and citizens through voluntary, incentive based programs, and this Initiative is one such program.

Senator Clark made a motion to introduce this bill. Senator Biggs seconded and the motion carried.

Senator Biggs made a request to introduce a bill concerning water pollution control and relating to swine confined feeding facilities.

Senator Biggs made a motion to introduce said bill and Senator Downey seconded. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 1998.

STATE OF KANSAS

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Agriculture Committee

FROM: Jamie Clover Adams, Legislative Liaison *Jamie*

DATE: 28 January 1998

SUBJECT: Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am here today to request the introduction of a committee bill to implement the Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative. The Governor announced \$800,000 in funding for this Initiative during the State of the State message. Tracy Streater, Executive Director of the State Conservation Commission is here today to help answer any questions you may have.

Kansas has made great strides in improving water quality over the past 25 years. The main focus of these pollution control efforts has been point sources of pollution, i.e., industrial facilities and municipalities that discharge from pipes. Governor Graves understands that the remaining pollution problems cannot be addressed in this command and control manner. To address non-point sources of pollution -- runoff from agricultural land, and urban streets and lawns -- will require working side-by-side with landowners and citizens through voluntary, incentive based programs.

The Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative is one such voluntary, incentive based program. It provides an incentive to landowners for creating a buffer to protect rivers and streams from pollution. A buffer is an area of stream side vegetation along any perennial or intermittent stream that is at least 66 feet wide and no more than 150 feet wide. Its purpose is to filter out sediment, pesticides, and other pollutants that might wash into rivers and streams during rainfall events.

The Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative has two components. One portion of the Initiative will target the Upper Black Vermillion watershed located in portions of Marshall and Nemaha Counties, and the Grasshopper Creek watershed, which is located in portions of Atchinson and Brown Counties. The Conservation Commission will enter into long-term contracts with landowners to implement the program. The payments will be per acre rental payments in exchange for landowners planting these riparian areas with grass and/or trees.

*Senate Agriculture
January 28, 1998
Attachment 1*

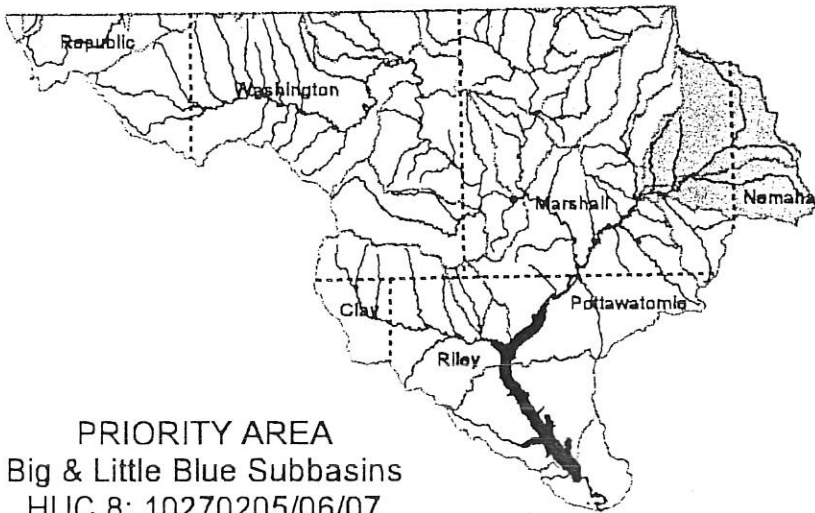
Our goal is to enroll at least 50 stream miles -- about 1,200 acres. We believe this incentive, along with the USDA's Buffer Initiative through the Conservation Reserve Program will be an enough to persuade landowners to install buffer strips.

The Administration intends to use this program to test the effectiveness of buffer strips in preventing pollution. Water monitoring locations currently used in the Governor's Water Quality Initiative will be used to collect data near these buffers.

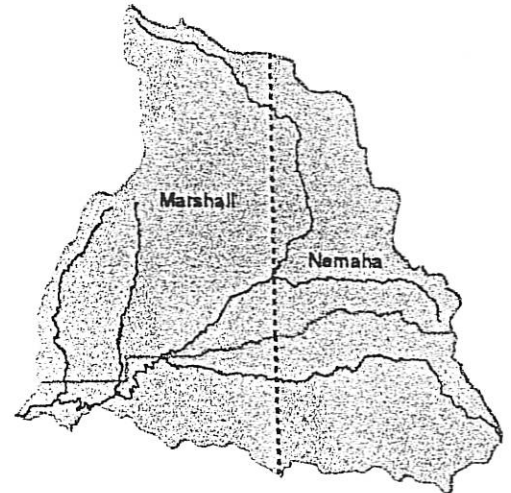
The second component of this Initiative involves a property tax incentive for landowners across the state to install buffer strips. The proposal changes the classification of these strips from cropland to grassland. Since grassland is assessed at a lower rate, it will provide landowners with additional incentive to protect streams and rivers across the state.

On behalf of the Governor, I respectfully request introduction of a committee bill to implement this program. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have on the program.

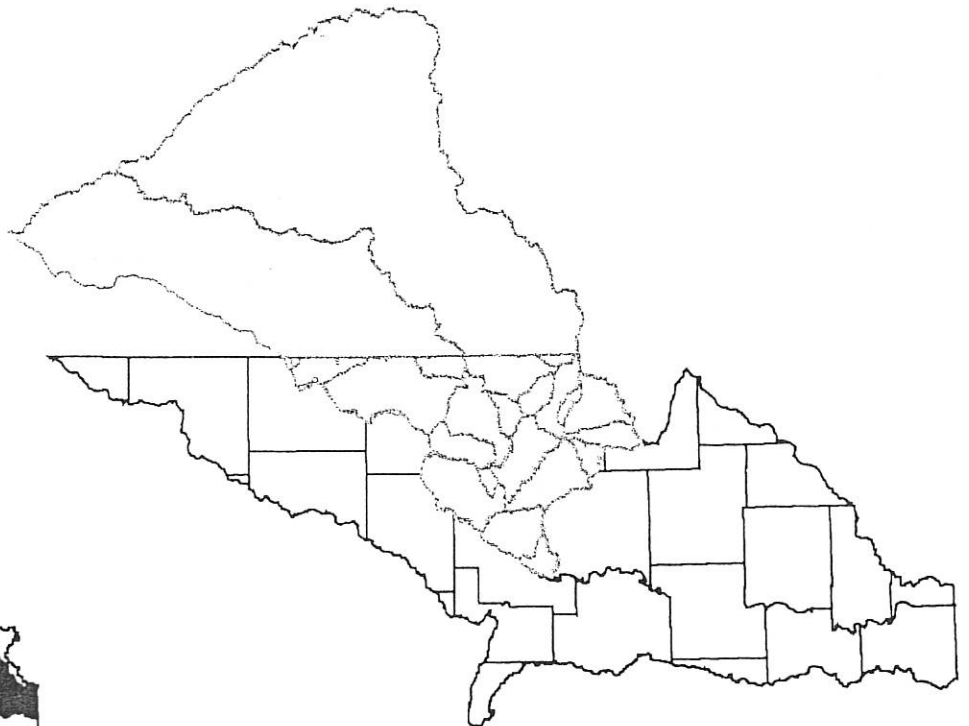
Governor's Water Quality Plan Priority and Target Areas



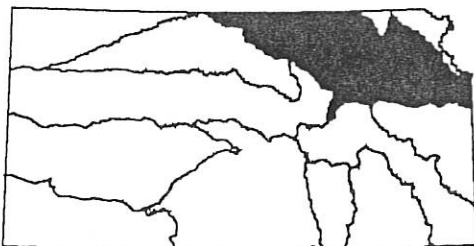
PRIORITY AREA
Big & Little Blue Subbasins
HUC 8: 10270205/06/07



TARGETED WATERSHED
Black Vermillion River
HUC 11: 10270205090/100

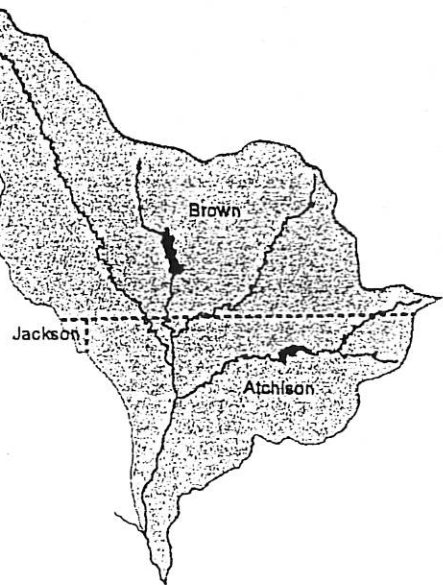
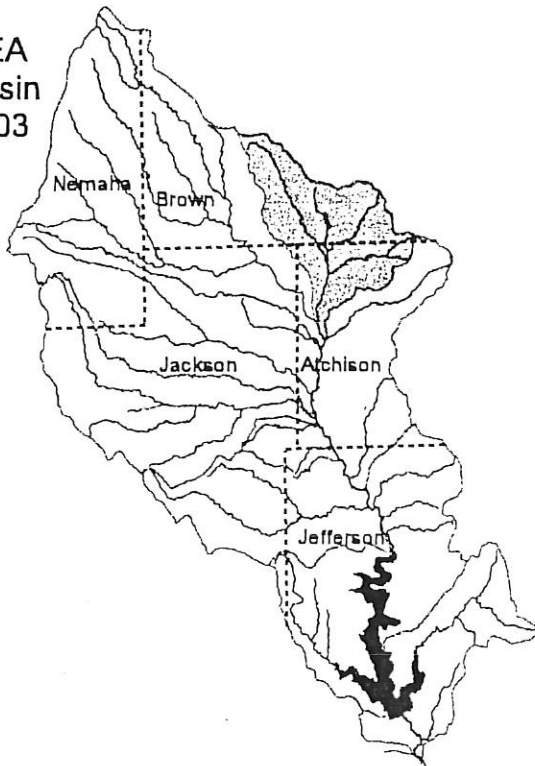


Kansas - Lower Republican Basin



Governor's Water Quality Plan Priority and Target Areas

PRIORITY AREA
Delaware Subbasin
HUC 8: 10270103



TARGETED WATERSHED
Grasshopper Creek Watershed
HUC 11: 10270103020

Kansas - Lower Republican Basin

