Watershed Considerations and Risk MAP
(alternate title)
Catchment If You Can

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Introduction

• Why is watershed-based thinking important?

• National Disaster Resiliency Competition Application
  – What we learned

• How are lessons learned being applied to Risk MAP

• Implementation problems to be addressed
Why Is It Important To Think On A Watershed Basis?
National Disaster Resiliency Competition
National Disaster Resiliency Competition

99 Square Miles in Area
- Urbanized Area is in lower 10%

Dynamic Factors Impact Flooding
- Extremely “Flash Floody”
- Both Old and New Structures are at Risk
- Everyone in the Watershed Contributes
- Steep topography and watershed shape
- Flood Stage of Kansas
- Existing Infrastructure plays a role
National Disaster Resiliency Competition

Project Goals

– Reduce Flood Risks

– Reduce Stormwater Flows, Improve Water Quantity and Quality in the Agricultural Area
  • Treating the rain where it falls

– Develop Wildcat Creek into an Amenity for the Watershed and the Region

– Develop a new way of thinking locally about the watershed as a system
National Disaster Resiliency Competition

Project Outcomes

- Community engagement
- Developed a mitigation plan for the community
- Enhanced relationships with the community
  - Ft. Riley
  - K-State
- Identified new opportunities to change the way they are dealing with flooding issues
- Wildcat Creek Working group
- Grant Failure
National Disaster Resiliency Competition

• Wildcat Creek Watershed Working Group
  – Leveraged data and opportunities from other sources
    • USACE Silver Jacket Project for the Wildcat Creek Floodplain Management Plan
    • Future Conditions Floodplain Mapping
  – Higher Standard Regulations
  – A community engaged response to flooding and future development
National Disaster Resiliency Competition

What we learned:

– Communities respond to engagement
– Public participation is more robust when topics related to their daily lives are included in the discussion, not just disaster response
– We now understand a broader way to communicate with communities that we can carry over to Risk MAP and other community engagement
– Watershed based discussions and topics allow us to broaded the stakeholder groups we engage
How Can We Apply Watershed-Based Thinking To Risk MAP?

Community Working Groups

Technical Assistance Projects

Kansas Department of Agriculture
What Is A Community Working Group?

Group of stakeholders organized and recognized by the Local government to participate in the risk MAP process.
Community Working Groups

• The point is to involve the community in a deeper capacity that leads to more local ownership of mapping and data behind it

• Groups should include elected officials, operating officials, private landowners, and commercial/industrial reps
  – Broad representation of stakeholders

• Group should include floodplain affected stakeholders
What Is A Community Working Group?

Can provide the **FORUM** to initiate watershed-based discussion, planning, and action
Technical Assistance

• Technical assistance is a tool to get communities involved

• Gives you and the community something to Work on Together
What Is Technical Assistance?

Can provide the **MOMENTUM** for watershed-based organization, planning, or action
Working groups and technical assistance ensure you and the community DO something, DO anything, TOGETHER.
Technical Assistance

- City of Topeka
- City of Hoisington
Problems To Overcome

• Pre-existing jurisdiction boundaries
  – Working outside normal jurisdictions is a challenge

• Inter-jurisdictional cooperation

• Size
  – What is an appropriate basin size to work within?

• Variability
  – Between your project watersheds
  – Within a project watershed
Opportunities To Implement Watershed Concepts

• The One In Front Of You
  – May not be the most interesting or exciting

• The One That Solves An Obvious Problem

• The Straight Forward One

• The One With An Enthusiastic Champion or Local Official Support

START WITH SIMPLE ACTIVITIES AND BUILD TOWARDS A BROADER GOAL OF WATERSHED-BASED PLANNING
Possible Avenues

• **Risk MAP Community Working Groups**

• **Programs for Public Involvement (PPI)(CRS)**

• **Watershed Districts, Authorities, Associations**

• **Existing Outdoors, Environmental, Cultural Groups**
Future Opportunity Example

• Upcoming Risk MAP Project

• Community (City) has undersized drain tunnel
  – Causes street flooding

• Mitigation opportunity exists upstream
  – Detention

• Possible detention site (County) is owned by a developer who is considering subdividing the ground
Our Plan

• Form community working group for the Risk MAP project
  — Include City & County officials, residents, and hopefully developers

• Fund Watershed Management Plan development with the CWG as Technical Assistance

• Help the CWG find public will and funding for mitigation or smart regulation based on a watershed planning concept.
Questions

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