

KANSAS-LOWER REPUBLICAN BASIN TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD

Waterbody: Sabetha Watershed Pond (Niehues)
Water Quality Impairment: Eutrophication

1. INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

Subbasin: Delaware

County: Nemaha

HUC 8: 10270103

HUC 11: 010

Drainage Area: Approximately 2.59 square miles.

Conservation Pool: Area 14 acres, Maximum Depth 4 meters

Designated Uses: Primary and Secondary Contact Recreation; Aquatic Life Support

1998 303d Listing: Table 4 - Water Quality Limited Lakes

Impaired Use: All uses are impaired to a degree by eutrophication

Water Quality Standard: Nutrients--narrative: The introduction of plant nutrients into streams, lakes, or wetlands from artificial sources shall be controlled to prevent the accelerated succession or replacement of aquatic biota or the production of undesirable quantities or kinds of aquatic life. (KAR 28-16-28e(c)(2)(B)).

The introduction of plant nutrients into surface waters designated for primary or secondary contact recreational use shall be controlled to prevent the development of objectionable concentrations of algae or algal by-products or nuisance growths of submersed, floating, or emergent aquatic vegetation. (KAR 28-16-28e(c)(7)(A)).

2. CURRENT WATER QUALITY CONDITION AND DESIRED ENDPOINT

Level of Eutrophication: Hypereutrophic - Trophic State Index = greater than 70

Monitoring Sites: Station 075101 in Sabetha Watershed Pond.

Period of Record Used: Five previous surveys during a special project in 1995. The year was near normal for precipitation, although May was higher than normal just before the project began. The water quality values listed are based on later summer data as a result. The later summer data should be representative of mean summer condition.

Current Condition: The pond has an elevated chlorophyll a concentration (332 ppb), indicative of hypereutrophic conditions. Total phosphorus concentration (1155 ppb) is elevated. Co-limitation by both nitrogen and phosphorus is likely, with some greater leaning towards nitrogen limitation at times (Total N/Total P = 4.4, <7 indicates nitrogen more important). Chlorophyll-to-phosphorus yield was moderate. There is a very low level of inorganic turbidity (although it was high early in the summer), with only slight deficiency of light within the water column.

There have been unanticipated downstream problems due to the pond. There have been at least a few incidences of blue-green algae slugs moving down the Delaware River and causing fish kills. These blooms would not have occurred without the time spent in the pond environment.

The Trophic State Index is derived from the chlorophyll a concentration. Trophic state assessments of potential algal productivity were made based on chlorophyll a concentrations, nutrient levels and values of the Carlson Trophic State Index (TSI). Generally, some degree of eutrophic conditions are seen with chlorophyll a concentrations over 12 ug/l and hypereutrophy occurs at levels over 20 ug/l. The Carlson TSI, derives from the chlorophyll concentrations and scales the trophic state as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Oligotrophic | TSI < 40 |
| 2. Mesotrophic | TSI: 40 - 49.99 |
| 3. Slightly Eutrophic | TSI: 50 - 54.99 |
| 4. Fully Eutrophic | TSI: 55 - 59.99 |
| 5. Very Eutrophic | TSI: 60 - 63.99 |
| 6. Hypereutrophic | TSI: ≥ 64 |

Interim Endpoints of Water Quality (Implied Load Capacity) at Sabetha Watershed Pond over 2004 - 2008:

In order to improve the trophic condition of the lake from its current hypereutrophic status, the desired endpoint will be summer chlorophyll a concentrations at or below 12 ug/l, corresponding to a trophic state of slightly eutrophic conditions by 2008. Refined endpoints will be developed in 2004 to reflect additional sampling and artificial source assessment and confirmation of impaired status of lake.

3. SOURCE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

NPDES: The Sabetha WWTP discharges 7,000 pounds per year to the pond and dominates both nutrient load and hydrology. One important factor to consider: the pond was built after the WWTP, with the intention of trapping effluent. The rationale was that “bigger fish” would result because of the high nutrient level.

Land Use: A non-point source of phosphorus within Sabetha Watershed Pond is probably runoff from agricultural lands where phosphorus has been applied. Land use coverage analysis indicates 63% of the watershed is cropland. A mean annual total phosphorus load of 1,080 pounds per year is necessary to correspond to the concentrations seen in the lake.

Another source of phosphorus is from urban fertilizer applications. Land use coverage analysis indicates that 14% of the watershed is urban. Urbanization of the county is projected to stay constant through the year 2020.

Phosphorus from animal waste is a third contributing factor. Twenty-three percent of land around the pond is grassland.

Background Levels: Nutrient recycling from the sediments in the lake is likely contributing available phosphorus to the lake for algal uptake. Some organic pollution may be contributed by wildlife near the pond. Geological formations contain small amounts of phosphorus (up to 0.5% of total weight), and may contribute to phosphorus loads.

4. ALLOCATION OF POLLUTION REDUCTION RESPONSIBILITY

More detailed assessment of sources and confirmation of the trophic state of the lake must be completed before detailed allocations can be made. The general inventory of sources within the drainage does provide some guidance as to areas of load reduction.

Point Sources: Since this impairment is primarily associated with Sabetha WWTP, some of the load will be allocated to point sources. The Wasteload Allocation should be at 70 pounds per year, a decrease of 99%, which should result in a large decrease in available phosphorus.

Non-Point Sources: Some of the phosphorus loading is due to non-point source pollution. Background levels may be attributed to geological sources and wildlife waste. The assessment suggests that cropland, urban areas, and livestock waste contribute to the hypereutrophic state of the pond. Given the runoff characteristics of the watershed, overland runoff can easily carry phosphorus into the streams. Generally a Load Allocation of 530 pounds per year, leading to a 45% reduction in available phosphorus is necessary to reach the endpoint.

Defined Margin of Safety: The margin of safety provides some hedge against the uncertainty of variable annual total phosphorus loads and the chlorophyll a endpoint. Therefore, the margin of safety will be 60 pounds per year of total phosphorus taken from the load capacity to ensure that adequate load reduction occurs to meet the endpoint.

State Water Plan Implementation Priority: Because Sabetha Watershed Pond is a small pond under local jurisdiction and a more detailed source assessments and additional in-lake monitoring of nutrient and algal content is needed, as well as reduction or elimination of the point source discharges into the lake, this TMDL will be a Low Priority for implementation

Unified Watershed Assessment Priority Ranking: This watershed lies within the Delaware Subbasin (HUC 8: 10270103) with priority ranking of 3 (Highest Priority for restoration work).

Priority HUC 11s: The entire watershed is with HUC 11 (010).

5. IMPLEMENTATION

Desired Implementation Activities

Point source reduction/elimination must occur if pond water quality is to improve. Projections indicate full use support could be achieved if the point source is directed out of the watershed, plus BMPs are pursued within the drainage for nonpoint source control. Dredging is not indicated to improve pond water quality, plus the pond is fairly new and could not be made deeper than it was in 1993 due to leakage concerns.

Implementation Programs Guidance

Until additional assessment of probable non-point sources and in-lake nutrient content is made, no direction can be made to those implementation programs.

Timeframe for Implementation: Additional point and non-point source pollution reduction practices should be installed within the pond after the year 2004 re-evaluation.

Targeted Participants: Primary participants for implementation will be Sabetha and any targeted activities identified by follow up assessment of sources, conducted by KDHE, conservation district personnel and county Local Environmental Protection Program staff.

Based on the local assessment, implementation activities should focus participation within those areas with greatest potential for impact on stream resources.

Milestone for 2004: The year 2004 marks the mid-point of the ten year implementation window for the watershed. At that point in time, additional monitoring data from Station 075101 will be re-examined to confirm the impaired status of the pond. Furthermore, any reduction or elimination of Sabetha effluent should be noted. Should the case of impairment remain, source assessment, allocation and implementation activities will ensue.

Delivery Agents: The primary delivery agents for program participation will be the City of Sabetha and conservation districts for programs of the State Conservation Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Producer outreach and awareness will be delivered by Kansas State Extension.

Reasonable Assurances:

Authorities: The following authorities may be used to direct activities in the watershed to reduce pollution.

1. K.S.A. 65-164 and 165 empowers the Secretary of KDHE to regulate the discharge of sewage into the waters of the state.
2. K.S.A. 65-171d empowers the Secretary of KDHE to prevent water pollution and to protect the beneficial uses of the waters of the state through required treatment of sewage and established water quality standards and to require permits by persons having a potential to discharge pollutants into the waters of the state.

3. K.S.A. 2-1915 empowers the State Conservation Commission to develop programs to assist the protection, conservation and management of soil and water resources in the state, including riparian areas.
4. K.S.A. 75-5657 empowers the State Conservation Commission to provide financial assistance for local project work plans developed to control non-point source pollution.
5. K.S.A. 82a-901, et seq. empowers the Kansas Water Office to develop a state water plan directing the protection and maintenance of surface water quality for the waters of the state.
6. K.S.A. 82a-951 creates the State Water Plan Fund to finance the implementation of the *Kansas Water Plan*.
7. The *Kansas Water Plan* and the Kansas-Lower Republican Basin Plan provide the guidance to state agencies to coordinate programs intent on protecting water quality and to target those programs to geographic areas of the state for high priority in implementation.

Funding: The State Water Plan Fund, annually generates \$16-18 million and is the primary funding mechanism for implementing water quality protection and pollution reduction activities in the state through the *Kansas Water Plan*. The state water planning process, overseen by the Kansas Water Office, coordinates and directs programs and funding toward watersheds and water resources of highest priority. Typically, the state allocates at least 50% of the fund to programs supporting water quality protection. This watershed and its TMDL is a Low Priority consideration and should not receive funding until after 2004..

Effectiveness: Effectiveness of corrective actions will depend upon the sources which contribute to the impairment at the lake.

6. MONITORING

KDHE will collect nutrient and chlorophyll a samples from Sabetha Watershed Pond in 2001 and 2003. Additional data, to establish nutrient ratios, source loading and further determine mean summer lake trophic condition, would be of value prior to 2004. If lake impairment is confirmed in 2004, further sampling and evaluation should occur in 2005 and 2007.

7. FEEDBACK

Public Meetings: Public meetings to discuss TMDLs in the KLR Basin were held March 10, 1999 in Topeka, April 27 in Lawrence and April 29 in Manhattan. An active Internet Web site was established at <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/tmdl/> to convey information to the public on the general establishment of TMDLs and specific TMDLs for the Kansas-Lower Republican Basin.

Public Hearing: A Public Hearing on the TMDLs of the Kansas-Lower Republican Basin was held in Topeka on June 3, 1999.

Basin Advisory Committee: The Kansas-Lower Republican Basin Advisory Committee met to discuss the TMDLs in the basin on December 3, 1998; January 14, 1999; February 18, 1999; March 10, 1999; May 20, 1999 and June 3, 1999.

Discussion with Interest Groups: Meetings to discuss TMDLs with interest groups include:
Agriculture: November 10, 1998; December 18, 1998; February 10, 1999; April 10, 1999, May 4, 1999, June 8, 1999 and June 18, 1999.
Municipal: November 12, 1998, January 25, 1999; March 1, 1999; May 10, 1999 and June 16, 1999.
Environmental: November 3, 1998; December 16, 1998; February 13, 1999; March 15, 1999, April 7, 1999 and May 3, 1999.
Conservation Districts: March 16-18, 24-25, 1999

Consideration for 303d Delisting: The pond will be evaluated for delisting under Section 303d, based on the monitoring data over the period 1999-2003. Therefore, the decision for delisting will come about in the preparation of the 2004 303d list. Should the pond continue to be listed as impaired in 2004, the next evaluation for delisting will occur with the preparation of the 2008 Section 303d list. Should modifications be made to the applicable water quality criteria during the ten year implementation period, consideration for delisting, development of desired endpoints of this TMDL and implementation activities will be adjusted accordingly.

Incorporation into Continuing Planning Process, Water Quality Management Plan and the Kansas Water Planning Process: Under the current version of the Continuing Planning Process, the next anticipated revision will come in 2002 which will emphasize revision of the Water Quality Management Plan. At that time, incorporation of this TMDL will be made into both documents. Recommendations of this TMDL will be considered in *Kansas Water Plan* implementation decisions under the State Water Planning Process after Fiscal Year 2004.

Approved January 26, 2000.