



Title: Community Development/Water Quality State Specialist

Name: John Tharp

Email: TharpJ@missouri.edu

Organization: University of Missouri

State: MO **Region:** Heartland

Year of Funding: 2003

Theme: Watershed Management

Situation: The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has developed a list of impaired waters throughout the state known as the 303d list. As watershed communities gained awareness of their inclusion on this list they have begun searching for strategies to address the water quality problems. Agencies typically have taken the approach your community has a problem we have the solution. Local people typically have not been encouraged to evaluate the situation and deal with it locally.

Objectives: Creating awareness in agencies organizations and local people of the importance of working together as they conduct watershed management activities. Local watershed communities' people are empowered through direct involvement and educational opportunities to take the lead role in protecting their watershed. Agencies and organizations presence becomes more of a supportive role of providing resources as needed contributing to the success of locally led watershed management efforts.

Methods: University of Missouri Water Quality staff attended local watershed planning meetings encouraging local people to take responsibility for their watershed management activities while encouraging local state and federal agencies to take more of a supportive role technical resources providers.

Partnerships: Partnerships were developed or strengthened between the community and local state and federal agencies. Local people realize they can control their destiny Agencies and organizations play supportive roles

Research: Most of the notices of violations were delivered to communities with reservoirs providing water to local communities and water districts. The University and various state agencies conducted educational information relating to the problem. Information for correcting the problems based on research efforts were made available to communities as they evaluated planned strategies to alleviate the water quality problems.

Resources: Several of the watershed communities developed watershed management plans which made them eligible for state and federal funding. Many of the watershed communities received Conservation Resources Enhancement Grants.

Results: Several watershed-planning committees have been formed and are now operating around the state. Many of the functioning watershed groups were able to secure funding for their projects from various funding sources. Partnerships have been developed and strengthened at all levels of involvement local state and federal. Local people realize they have the abilities to evaluate plan and implement strategies for improving their watersheds water quality.



The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the Environment, human health and well being, and communities.

