

Chiques Creek Restoration Initiative

Innovative Approaches (PA)

Collaborative Purpose:

Develop local stakeholder momentum to voluntarily (i.e., TMDL alternative) achieve sediment & nutrient load reductions in an extensively impaired watershed.

Solutions:

- Formed work groups/action teams consisting of local stakeholders & regional specialists from academia, government, private sector, and non-profits
- Generated & vetted an inventory of practices & projects capable of reducing pollutant loads
- Committed to on-going Outreach, Implementation, and Water Quality Monitoring activities

Top 2 Challenges:

- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program
- Extent of water resource degradation (>95% of ~200 linear stream miles are impaired)

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Takeaways/Lessons Learned:

- Messages & Language matters – not all stakeholders have same expectations or needs, especially stakeholders tied to regulation (MS4, CAFO, point sources)
- Models are necessary tools, but their purpose is readily misunderstood
- Expect set-backs and differences among stakeholders – keep working
- A trusted & committed core partner is vital for success

Best tools:

- Trusted, committed and funded central coordination
- On-going stakeholder engagement
- Strong technical/regulatory guidance
- Clear back-forth communication