

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed's Initiative/National Water Quality Initiative: U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces Five-Year Extension



Walter Wright, Jr.
 wwright@mwlaw.com
 (501) 688.8839

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The United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) announced in a July 19th news release that it is extending for five years two water quality initiatives.

The extension was announced for the:

- Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (“MRBI”)
- National Water Quality Initiative

USDA describes its Natural Resources Conservation Service (“NRCS”) as working “with producers in targeted watersheds to implement conservation practices that prevent runoff of sediment and nutrients, which can degrade water quality.”

USDA states that the NRCS is updating its approach to both initiatives based on recommendations from conservation partners and staff. The updates are stated to include:

- Providing greater technical assistance for watershed assessment in MRBI to help ensure critical source areas are identified;
- Establishing watershed goals and interim metrics; and
- Ensuring that an outreach strategy is in place

Active MRBI projects listed for Arkansas include:

<u>Watershed</u>	<u>County/Counties</u>
• Cache Willow/Podo	Jackson, Lawrence, Craighead
• Caney Creek	Cross
• Middle Strawberry	Sharp
• Strawberry River	Fulton and Izard
• Tupelo Bayou-Beaverdam Creek	Faulkner

- Upper Bayou Macon Desha, Lincoln
- Upper Cache River Clay and Green

A copy of the [USDA news release](#) can be downloaded here.