



Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Lower Kansas WRAPS

November 2, 2007 Kick-off Meeting Summary (Updated on 12/31/07)

The kick-off meeting for the Lower Kansas WRAPS was well attended, with 31 participants including state and federal agencies, professors, concerned citizens, and landowners. A list of attendees is included at the end of this summary. The meeting was held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Lawrence from 8 am til 2 pm, and represents the beginning of the Development Phase of the WRAPS process.

Seven invited speakers presented talks as briefly summarized below.

Frank Norman, Lower KS WRAPS coordinator: briefly described the WRAPS process, which includes four phases—Phase I—Development, Phase II—Planning, Phase III—Assessment, and Phase IV—Implementation. Go to the KDHE website, www.kswraps.org, for more details.

Tom Stiles, KDHE environmental scientist: presented a very informative talk on TMDLs in the Lower KS sub basin. He provided information on high, medium, and low priority TMDLs and their locations; research in obtaining presented data; and prioritization recommendations. Priority TMDLs on the lower Kansas included Bacteria, biology, nitrate, dissolved oxygen (DO), and lake and wetland eutrophication and DO. He indicated that Shawnee Mission Lake is considered a reference water body, given its high quality conditions.

Laura Calwell, Kansas Riverkeeper: presented a fun slide show of views of the Kansas River during a canoe trip on the river. She also described her role as the riverkeeper and what various activities that Friends of the Kaw do. Laura also mentioned the Kansas River atlas, which provides you the opportunity to view the river. Check www.kansasriver.org.

Heather Schmidt, Johnson County Water Quality Specialist: presented an interesting talk on the effects of urban sprawl on the environment, including wetlands, streams, and water quality. Revealing statistics on impervious cover included that residential areas often had 11 to 21 percent impervious cover, while light industrial and commercial land use had impervious cover of more than 50 percent. Intact streams required less than 5 percent impervious cover.

Dr. Mark Jakubauskas, Researcher at Kansas Biological Survey: presented a talk on GIS data available for use and some of his research conducted in Kansas. Especially intriguing was the bathymetric studies of Kansas reservoirs, where the newly forming and the original lake bottoms can be determined with new technology. This information is useful in predicting sedimentation rates and reservoir capacities, and where to remove sediment, etc.

Dr. Craig Paukert, Assistant Professor of Biology at Kansas State University: presented a very informative talk on his fisheries research in the Kansas River. Some of the interesting fish found included shovel nose sturgeon, Asian carp, and two SINC species—blue suckers and plains minnow. He also revisited Professor

Cross's study on the effects of dredging and found similar results, with relatively consistent fish communities over time for the shallower and deeper habitats.

Marty Burke, KLR Basin Planner: presented an interesting talk dealing with water supply issues and how the Kansas Water Office determines supply and demand through modeling varying scenarios over time. He showed data for a number of reservoirs.

KAWS hopes to put each presentation on its website or at least provide a link to the talks. Discussions during the kick-off meeting centered around each of the talks and how they may relate to the lower Kansas watershed.

A delicious lunch was catered by Vermont St. BBQ.

The meeting adjourned around 2 pm after discussions concerning the time and location of the next meeting. It was tentatively scheduled for December 4th at the Bass Pro Shop in Olathe, KS. Frank Austenfeld of the Watershed Institute agreed to make arrangements there.