



Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

LOWER KANSAS WRAPS

Website – kaws.org

Meeting Notes

The Lower Kansas WRAPS held it's Stakeholder Leadership meeting June 27, 2008 at the Douglas County Extension Office in Lawrence.

- Opening remarks and discussion on last meeting

Tom Huntzinger opened the meeting with introductions at 9:00am. Others attending were Mel Theno, Jerry Wooley, Mike Epler, John Cotter, Heather Schmidt, Jim Weaver, Susan Iverson, Ginny Moore, Trevar Flynn, Will Boyer, and John Bond. He gave a briefing of the previous meeting and there were no comments.

- Discussion on coordinator selection

John Bond noted that a position description is being prepared and will be shared with the Leadership Team within the week. He asked the Leadership Team to provide candidates if they had some for consideration. The Leadership Team will have an opportunity to interview candidates and share with KAWS in the selection.

- Discussion on Charter for Leadership Team members

A draft of the Charter was discussed and a final draft prepared. Huntzinger will update the document and have a final completed for the next meeting. It is expected that a vote for approval of the Charter will be on the agenda at the next meeting. A final draft of a companion document of the meeting protocol was also prepared. Huntzinger will also have a final completed meeting protocol for the next meeting.

The meeting protocol lists the interests represented by the members of the Leadership Team. Eleven people have agreed to serve on the Leadership Team. Each of them will be assigned to represent one of the interest groups listed in the protocol. Jerry Wooley has agreed to contact some members about representation of some interest groups. Some effort will be made to solicit membership from Atchison County. It is expected that representatives

for all interest groups will be determined by the next meeting. It is expected that a vote for approval of the Charter and meeting protocol will be on the agenda at the next meeting. It was agreed that an election of officers will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

- **Establishment of sub-basins (Stranger Creek, Metro area, and rest of Lower KS and corresponding sub-committees)**

It was decided that the watershed would be divided into three subareas. The Eastern Subarea that will include the tributaries in the metro area and the Kansas River alluvium downstream of DeSoto; the Northern subarea will be the Stranger Creek basin; and the Western Subarea will be the remaining tributaries primarily upstream from Stranger Creek, Captain Creek and tributaries upstream, and the Kansas River alluvium upstream of DeSoto. Trevor Flynn agreed to ask his colleagues at KDHE to prepare a map showing these sub-basin areas.

The subcommittee concept will be part of the discussion for next meeting after the officers are elected.

- **Discuss high priority areas**

John Bond explained the concepts of determining priority subareas within the watershed that will allow the WRAPS program to focus on those areas most in need of water quality improvement. Defining priority subareas should be consistent with the water quality characteristics of the watershed and should focus on those subareas and constituents that exceed standards. In some cases there may be sufficient water quality data to determine priorities. Typically simulation models are needed to estimate the potential contaminants from each subarea. Johnson County water quality studies conducted by the USGS are expected to be sufficient to set priorities for the Johnson County portion of the Eastern Subarea. There were also some studies conducted by the USGS in Stranger Creek but it is not known how well they would meet WRAPS needs. USGS scientists will be invited to give presentations at the next meeting. KDHE water quality studies associated with the TMDL determinations also give insight into priority subareas. Tom Stiles of KDHE will also be invited to give a presentation and some recommendations of priority subareas at the next meeting. It was also noted that a priority should be given to protecting subareas such as Captain Creek that have no known contaminant issues.

- **Discuss areas needing additional assessment and what type needed**

It was noted that information obtained from the presentations at the next meeting would provide insight into the assessments needed.

- **Review of Development Plan**

Comments and suggested edits to the draft Development Plan will be included in an updated draft of the Development Plan. Ginny Moore, MARC, agreed to provide the sections on the metro area by the next meeting. It is expected the Leadership Team will have a final draft of the Development Plan by the close of the next meeting.

- **Other Topics of discussion**

Susan Iverson reminded the Team that the Douglas County Planning Ordinance remains in process. It has a section on critical and sensitive areas that will be important to WRAPS and that the Team should be aware of the progress on this document.

- **Partner updates – new items from members**

No new items from members

- **Next meeting date and location**

The next meeting has been tentatively set for August 21 from 9:00am to noon. The location is yet to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.