



## Middle Kansas WRAPS Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2006, 1:30 pm  
Shawnee County Farm Bureau, Topeka, KS

September 27, 2006, 2:30 pm  
.Wamego Senior Center, Wamego, KS

**John Bond, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS)**, welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves and the organization they are affiliated with. **Rick Davis, Middle Kansas WRAPS Coordinator**, provided a short presentation entitled “An Overview of Water Quality Protection and Restoration.”

**Debra Baker, Kansas Water Office**, presented “WRAPS: A Process for Water Quality Planning and Implementation.” A Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) is a planning and management framework that engages stakeholders in a process to:

1. Identify watershed restoration and protection needs.
2. Establish watershed management goals.
3. Create a cost-effective action plan to achieve goals.
4. Implement the management plan.

Watershed stakeholders are encouraged to form a leadership team to guide the WRAPS process and chair the committee.

**Tom Stiles, KDHE – Watershed Planning Section** presented “TMDLs in the Middle Kansas Basin.”

**Existing TMDLs in Middle Kansas include:**

### **High Priority**

1. **Bacteria**
  - Mill Creek
  - Vermillion Creek
  - Shunganunga Creek
2. **Dissolved Oxygen**
  - Shunga Creek (2005)
3. **Biology/Sediment**
  - Soldier Creek (Jackson Co. 2005)

## **Medium and Low Priority**

- 1. Bacteria**
  - Kansas River at Wamego
  - Kansas River above and below Topeka
- 2. Biology**
  - Kansas River below Topeka
- 3. Small City Lakes**
  - Wamego
  - Topeka (Gage, central, Warren Parks)
  - Myer's Pond

## **2006 Listings – TMDLs for 2010**

- 1. Biology**
  - Kansas River above Topeka
  - Lower Vermillion Creek
  - Halfday Creek
- 2. Zinc**
  - Kansas River at Wamego
  - Kansas River above Topeka
- 3. Copper**
  - Muddy Creek
  - Mission Creek
- 4. Regional Lakes**
  - Lake Shawnee
  - Lake Wabaunsee
  - Pottawatomie Co. Fishing Lake #1

## **Recommendations to Consider for Priorities**

1. Long term restoration and protection of regional lakes: Shawnee, Wabaunsee, and Pottawatomie SFL #1.
2. Bacteria abatement on Vermillion Creek and Rock Creek.
3. Collaborative abatement of sediment and bacteria on Soldier Creek with the Pottawatomie Nation.

4. Collaborative abatement of bacteria and organic loading on Shunganunga Creek with Topeka.
5. Short term emphasis on sediment, nutrient and bacteria abatement on smaller watersheds such as Muddy Creek and Mission Creek.

**Laura Calwell, Friends of the KAW**, presented “Friends of the Kaw: To Protect and Preserve the Kansas River.” The Kansas River has three times been ranked as one of the country’s ten most endangered rivers by American Rivers. There are eight river access points along 170 miles of river. Public floats are held throughout the year by FOK. FOK provides river cleanups with volunteers. One cleanup yielded over 200 bags of trash, half of those were individual plastic beverage containers!

**Sylvia Michaelis, City of Topeka**, presented “Beyond Permits and Into Partnerships.” Topeka is one of three Kansas communities to receive a national Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 1 Permit. One inch of rainfall over Topeka translates to 940 million gallons of water.

## **NPDES**

- Phase I Permitting is part of the Federal Clean Water Act.
- Requires communities of a certain size to identify potential sources of stormwater pollution.
- Required communities to develop management plans to address sources of water pollution.

## **Stormwater Transition**

- 1993 - NPDES Phase I Permit application to KDHE
- 1994 - Public Education Program begins
- 1997 - Permit issued by KDHE
- **1999 Permit driven ----- vision driven**

## **Vision = Livable Community**

- Reduced flooding
- Enhanced water quality where possible
- Multidimensional stormwater projects
  - Open space
  - Trails
  - Etc...
- Multiple partnerships

## **Stormwater Re-innovation**

- Wetlands
- Stream buffers
  - New developments
  - Retrofitting older areas
- Bioretention
- Public Education

## **Garfield Park Wetland**

- Part of an \$8 million project to separate a combined sanitary and storm sewer system
- Original project would separate and pump stormwater to Kansas River
- Revised project separated and directed stormwater to wetland

## **Stream Buffers**

- Decrease pollutants
- Stabilize stream banks
- Keep public/private structures away from flood zones
- Provide scenic and recreational opportunities
- Creates green space and green corridors

## **Buffer Ordinance**

- May 2002
- Requires Setbacks in New Developments Based on Stream Type
- Retrofit program – money budgeted annually

**Rob Reschke, State Conservation Commission**, presented “SCC Program and Funding Overview.”

## **FY 2006 Water Resources Cost-Share Program**

### **■\$3,493,233**

District Needs Allocation \$2,676,608 (105 CD's)

TMDL Allocation \$566,625 (76 CD's)

Irrigation Initiative Allocation \$250,000 (38 CD's)

### **Middle Kansas Watershed**

**\$172,416**

## **FY 2006 Non-Point Source Pollution Control Cost-Share Program**

### **■\$2,976,872**

Base NPS Allocation \$1,535,000 (104 CD's)  
TMDL Allocation \$581,891 (74 CD's)  
Information and Education \$201,627 (104 CD's)  
Technical Assistance \$329,177 (41 CD's)  
Supplemental Livestock Waste System Account \$329,177

**Middle Kansas Watershed**  
**\$201,099**

## **FY 2006 Riparian and Wetland Cost-Share Program**

### **■\$232,235 (projects approved by the State)**

\$192,235 Streambank and Wetland Projects (17 CD's)  
\$40,000 Technical Assistance

**Middle Kansas Watershed**  
**\$28,200**

**Steve Swaffar, Kansas Farm Bureau**, presented "WRAPS: What is Agriculture's Role."

## **Agriculture and WRAPS**

- Agriculture producers manage and own most of the land in Kansas watersheds
- Ag producers have as much at stake in the WRAPS process as any stakeholder group
- Watershed planning must include agriculture if plans are to be successfully implemented

## **Why Does Agriculture Need to participate?**

- Watershed planning may contemplate changes to landscapes that impact producers
- Some watershed plans may not be compatible with ag uses
- Watershed planners need to understand the ag perspective on land management and ag economy

## **How Will WRAPS be Implemented?**

- More questions than answers
- Is there enough money for every WRAPS?
- Are there too many WRAPS?
- Will State Water Plan or EPA 319 dollars pay for implementation once plans are finalized?

- Cost-share programs are successful with Ag
- Real Answer=\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

**Susan Blackford, US Fish & Wildlife**, presented “Culverts and Fish Passage Study”

- Currently inventorying culverts in the Mill Creek watershed to study how they impact fish passage by improper construction and maintenance.
- Culverts can create several types of barriers to fish:
  - \* Jump Barriers occur with a grade differential between the down stream end of the culvert and the stream.
  - \* Velocity Barriers occur when the culvert is undersized, creating too strong velocity for fish.
  - \* Depth Barriers occur when the culvert is oversized and cannot sustain flow.
  - \* Exhaustion Barriers occur when the culvert matches stream grade, but contains too high velocity or other factors that fish cannot overcome.
  - \* Behavioral barriers occur when culverts are improperly constructed and/or maintained creating an unusual circumstance that deters fish from passage.

**Craig Paukert, USGS – Kansas Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit**, presented “Fisheries Research at the Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit: Conservation and Management of Topeka Shiners to Flathead Catfish.”

- Fisheries projects include:
  - \* Effects of road crossings on aquatic organism passage.
  - \* Trophy potential for flathead catfish in the Kansas River.
  - \* Status of Species in Need of Conservation (SINC) in the Kansas River.
- Road crossings study builds on Susan Blackford’s work on culverts.
  - \* Funded by KDOT.
  - \* Mark - recapture on stream fishes (Topeka Shiner) to determine movement through road crossings.
- Applied research to meet stakeholders needs.
- Goal: Provide information that can be used for management and policy decisions.

Final discussions revolved around formation of a Leadership Team that would meet periodically to begin developing some goals and objectives for the watershed. Once a draft is put together, public meetings would be held throughout the watershed to discuss the initial draft and get more input from stakeholders. The first stakeholder Leadership Team meeting will be held October 26 with all stakeholders invited to come.

KAWS will be developing a place on their website to post all presentations, meeting summaries, watershed maps, etc. Items should start showing up on the site within the next couple of weeks.

