



Middle Kansas Rock Creek Focus Group
Thursday, July 8, 2010
South Forty
Westmoreland, KS

Rock Creek Focus Group

The Rock Creek Focus Group met from 10:00 – 11:45 am. Discussion topics included:

1. Carol Blocksome provided an update on the bacteria source tracking in Rock Creek. A dead animal composting demonstration was an original deliverable with her grant. Carol requested guidance from the group whether they would like her to pursue the composting or use the remaining money to collect additional water quality samples in Rock Creek. Samples previously collected only indicated whether human or cattle biomarkers were detected. These samples did not include the concentration of bacteria. The additional samples to be collected will also include concentrations.
2. Sherry Davis provided an update on the second Rock Creek Watershed Newsletter which was mailed in June. A third newsletter is planned for October 1 and will promote a workshop to be held this fall or winter.
3. Mary Howell provided an update on two livestock producer meetings that were held in Frankfort on April 13 and Seneca on April 22. Mary, along with Carol Blocksome, Sherry Davis, Roberta Spencer, Will Boyer, Dennis Schwant and other representatives of the Pottawatomie County Conservation District will be organizing the topics and logistics of the next workshop.
4. Janice Plummer is retiring from the SLT. Marlene (Molly) Schmidt is now District Manager for Pottawatomie County CD, including Rock Creek and other watersheds. Dennis Schwant continues his active role. Bob Lienemann is Dist Mgr for Riley County CD and will continue to participate on behalf of Riley County, but be less involved re Rock Creek efforts.
5. Roberta Spencer discussed strategies she has employed to reach livestock producers in Jackson County. Meetings, workshops, and tours show casing enhanced livestock production is often the calling card that motivates producers to attend. Water quality protection and restoration practices are incorporated as compatible activities with enhanced production.



Middle Kansas WRAPS Meeting Summary
Thursday, July 8, 2010
Pottawatomie County Extension Office
Westmoreland, KS

Rick Davis, Middle Kansas WRAPS Coordinator, welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves and the organization they are affiliated with. Meeting attendees included:

Management Team:

Doug Helmke 😊
Dennis Schwant 😊
Shelly Buhler
Granville Davidson 😊
Sharon Bosse 😊
Mary Howell 😊
Bob Lienemann
Gary Larson 😊
Roberta Spencer 😊
Janice Plummer
(😊= Present)

Others in attendance:

Rick Davis - Coordinator and KAWS
Bobbi Wendt - Kansas Water Office
Amanda Reed - KDHE
Will Boyer - KSU Extension
Sherry Davis - Kansas Pride
Billy Beck - Kansas Forest Service
Carol Blocksome - KSU Extension
John Bond - KAWS
Trevor Flynn - KDHE
Molly Schmidt - Pottawatomie Co. CD
Judy Boltmann - Shawnee Co. CD

Overview of Middle Kansas WRAPS SFY 11 budget

The Middle Kansas WRAPS received \$149, 911 for SFY 2011, effective July 1, 2010. Please refer to the attached award letter for funding details.

Middle Kansas WRAPS SFY 11 Request for Project Applications

The Middle Kansas SLT has established a process for funding SFY 11 project applications. The SFY 11 grant started on July 1, 2010 and \$25,000 is available for demonstration projects. From July 1 – September 30, priority applications will be in the Rock Creek watershed in Pottawatomie County and Upper Soldier Creek in Jackson County. If there is money available after October 1, applications from other areas in the watershed will be considered.

Review/Discuss Two Project Applications

Two project applications were presented for \$1,500.00 remaining in SFY 10 funding:

- Topeka Round-Up Club Project

The project will provide a dual waterer for two new horse turnout pens in a level area away from the creek and the slope which faces the creek.

Currently there are turnout pens used daily for horses on an earth slope facing the creek. A new dual waterer will allow for rotational use of turnout pens. Less horse traffic and use rotation will allow for the establishment of increased vegetation in the turn out pens. The increased vegetation will slow and trap runoff from the horse turnout pens before it reaches the riparian areas along the creek. Requested funding is \$2,000.

- Dan Pollack Cross Fencing Project

Dan Pollock operates a 60-70 head cow/calf operation. Dan wants to cross-fence a 99.2 acre native pasture. Cross Creek flows through the east side of this pasture. Dan has fenced out the creek and has also developed a spring. He has installed an exclusion cage in order to monitor the native grass conditions. He plans to cross-fence into three cells consisting of around 30 acres in each cell. He uses the pasture from March 1st to May 1st during the calving season and then moves the pairs to another pasture. He rotates 17 pairs back through the cells from May 10th through mid-June. Approximately 2400 LF of fence is to be installed. Request through the Middle Kansas 1200 LF for one of the cells. He has also applied through the State of Kansas for funding for the remaining 1200 LF. Requested funding is \$1,500.00.

The Middle Kansas SLT had the difficult choice between worth projects, but awarded the \$1,500.00 to the Topeka Round-Up Club. Mr. Pollack's project may be funded with SFY 2011 funds.

Discussion of service provider roles for SFY 11

Bacteria is the dominant pollutant in the Middle Kansas and we are fortunate to have multiple service providers (SP) that contribute to livestock management. Coordination and communication are essential since each SP has their own unique niche. Hence, the Rock Creek Focus Group was formed. See the Rock Creek Focus Group Meeting Summary above for details. Each of the service providers receiving funding from the Middle Kansas SFY 11 budget has been requested to provide a list of deliverables. Hopefully, this will help us track progress.

Update on Middle Kansas Nine Element Plan

Tier 1, composed of elements 1, 2, and 3 is nearly complete. Work on Tier 2, composed of elements 4, 5, and 6 will begin soon. Please refer to the attachment entitled "Watershed Plan Development Checklist" provided by KDHE for additional information.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next Middle Kansas WRAPS meeting is scheduled for September 16 in the Rock Building at the Prairie Band Pottawatomie Nation. A lunch-on your-own will be available at the Prairie Band Casino at 11:30 am, followed by the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 P.M.