

KS Wetland and Aquatic Resources Plan Team Meeting
April 16,2007
SCC Office
Topeka

Tim Christian, KAWS, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the SCC conference room in Topeka and welcomed attendees. Attending were Christian and John Bond, KAWS; Deb Baker, KWO; Dan Zerr, KDHE; Travis Rome, NRCS; Paul Liechti, KBS; Frank Norman, AES; Rob Reschke, SCC; Matt Scherer, KDA/DWR; John Silovsky, KDWP; and Patrick Trier, USACE.

Travis Rome, NRCS, gave a presentation on the NRCS Geo-data for wetlands and riparian areas. He covered ortho imagery from 1991 to 2002 for comparison. He highlighted the National Agriculture Image Program (NAIP) – it is acquired with leaf-on condition, it is delivered within a month of acquisition for FSA compliance, provides new digital imagery every year, updates the ortho image base on a 1-5 year cycle. He compared images from 2002 ortho (black and white) with 2006 NAIP and with 2006 CIR (infrared images). He showed an example of a Wetlands Reserve Program digital image noting that NRCS maintains this database – currently, 127 easements on 12,500 acres. Travis showed a riparian inventory image and discussed how this is used. He also discussed the Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) and noted it is available on-line. He showed the hydric soil interpretation layer and the national hydrography dataset (NHD). Travis then illustrated the additional geodata available in USDA Service Centers – catastral – Public Lands Survey PLSS, census; climate, hydrography, hydrologic unit boundaries, land use/land cover – NLCD, riparian, TeleAtlas, and topographic images. Travis also indicated that NRCS had completed numerous farm bill wetland determinations that were available only on old aerial photos held in Farm Service Agency offices. He said it would be great to have that data digitized and available as well. Discussion ensued.

Andy Bishop, US FWS, was not available to present and Mike Rich was unable to attend due to jury duty. So, we will hold Andy's presentation until a later meeting.

Dan Zerr, KDHE, passed out a series of handouts that illustrated USGS and KDHE data layers for Shawnee County. They included the NLCD, 1993 GAP, and the US FWS National Wetlands Inventory. Tim has several copies available for those not attending.

Deb Baker, KWO, provided an overview of the Wetland and Riparian Areas Project. She indicated that much of the information the WARP team may be interested in might be found in this publication(s). The group asked if

electronic version of this existed – Deb said she would check to see. Much good information is available in this project report.

The group then reviewed the plans provided by Eliodora Chamberlain, EPA. The Texas, Oklahoma, and Minnesota plans provided a good base to develop the Kansas plan (especially wetlands). The group will compare the plans against the Wetland and Riparian Area Project and see what can be included from both.

John Bond handed out the Minnesota definition for wetlands and the group discussed the merits. The definition for riparian areas will be needed as well as for streams, etc. The group felt we should ask EPA Region 7 what their definitions were, and then we could compare with others.

Tim outlined briefly that KAWS and the SCC were applying for a FY-1007 Wetlands Program Development Grant to continue this thought process and develop the plan over the next 18 months or so from the framework that the WARP team is building. Tim said he had presented the WARP information to the WRAPS working group on March 27, so they are aware of the activity and will be looking forward to reviewing the framework this fall.

Interim work (prior to the next meeting) will be to further research the three state plans, to review definitions, and to talk with NRCS about their inventory – ground truthing, scanning maps, etc. from their 1985 and 1992 farm bill wetland determinations.

The **next session** will be a teleconference on **June 4 at 1:00 p.m.** Tim will provide the conferencing numbers, passcode, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.