



# WAKARUSA WRAPS

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

## Watershed Happenings

WEBSITE - WWW.KAWS.ORG

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## June 10, 2009 Meeting Notes

### Coordinator's Report

The meeting began at 9:00 am with Patti Adams, Wayne Lukert, Lori Kuykendall, Richard Runnebaum, John Bond, Will Boyer, Keith Whealy, Amanda Reed, Judy Boltman, Rick Davis, Barry Beagle, Frank Norman and Tom Huntzinger attending. Meeting adjourned about noon.

**Opening remarks and welcome** – Patti Adams, Chair, presided over the meeting. Tom Huntzinger gave a briefing of the last meeting and there were no comments.

**2009 WRAPS Program Proposal (completed)**- Final allocation for the grant proposal for the coming year was provided to the Coordinator prior to the meeting but not in time to be included in the meeting materials. The final allocation was the same as the preliminary allocation which covered all activities proposed either directly through allocation or through separate service provider agreements. Specifics about the distribution of Buffer Coordinators and Technician positions among Conservation District offices are pending decisions by SCC and KDHE. Copies of the final allocation will be sent to the Leadership Team. Year two and three allocations are subject to change until state and federal funds are secured for these years. A nine element work plan is the next administrative step. The Upper Wakarusa already has a work plan that is sufficient in content and should be reformatted to reflect the nine element plan but is not a high priority for KDHE at this time. Currently KAWS has four active grants for the Upper Wakarusa. Both KDHE and KAWS are anxious to close the oldest one which was transferred to KAWS from KVHA. Amanda Reed, KDHE, proposed that the grant be used to cover expenses of new activities and postpone the start of the new grant. The Leadership Team will make a decision on the proposal by email after more specific information is made available.

**Status of Demonstration Projects**- Payments were made to Badger, Crume, and Little. Cains terrace and tile outlets are completed and invoices submitted, the wetland has some final grading. Flukers project construction will commence when Cain is complete. Owens is pending a construction contract and Howbert construction is expected to start and should be completed in the next month or two. Colvin did not meet criteria for District cost share and will proceed with WRAPS only. The Leadership Team requested that KAWS not cover more than 70% of project costs. Applications are in process for Graber, Sumpter, Solback, Hughes, Hanger, and McIntire. One of the nine applications is a result of the one on one contact list from the assessment results in Lynn Creek. Most of the others responded to the Berryton meeting follow up post card or at the meeting. There is a mix of cropland and livestock management with some suburban interests. Three

## Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

owners requested full farm assessments and the Kansas Rural Center is working with them. The Sumpter channel stabilization does not meet the Conservation District priorities for cost share and involves a power line. Huntzinger will contact Westar about sharing the costs.

**Owner/Operator one on one contacts-** Dave Dennon, Shawnee County Conservation District, has contacted all tier 1 owners and one has expressed an interest in working with WRAPS. This owner is proceeding with a proposal at this time. Douglas County has not worked their list at this time and no progress has been made with the Corps of Engineers. One on one contacts with tier 1 livestock owners did not result in any project interest. One on one contacts in Osage County were postponed until all other one on one contacts are made as all Osage County tracts in Burys (Berrys) Creek are upstream from a large watershed dam that traps sediment and contaminants.

**Natural Resources Inventory-** A draft work plan was discussed with the Leadership Team by Barry Beagle, Shawnee County Planning, and Tom Huntzinger. The KU/Haskell Team that will be doing the work has been updated and are currently obtaining commitments from graduate students to work on the project. University professors in ecology, geography have committed to this effort which will be directed out of the Indigenous People Studies Department at KU. All requested funding requested by the Upper Wakarusa was allocated. Additional funds, should they be needed, would come from Shawnee County. The NRI will include the entire County not just the Upper Wakarusa watershed.

**Briefing on Horizon 2020-** Drafting of the Environmental Chapter is progressing slowly. A manuscript for the Water Section is under discussion by the Douglas County Planning Commission Committee. It is projected to be a couple months before it is ready for public comment. Huntzinger has been participating in the Committee meetings. Huntzinger is scheduled to present a WRAPS briefing before the Douglas County Commission on June 15, 2009. He is working with Keith Whealy, Leadership Team member, to meet with the Lawrence Director of Public Utilities. Huntzinger has been invited to be a member of the Douglas County Local Environmental

Protection Committee. The next meeting is June 16, 2009.

**Public Relations and Promotional Opportunities for Watershed Projects-** A front page feature article about the WRAPS activities and a visit to the Cain site appeared in the Lawrence Journal World on May 27, 2009. The Leadership Team has requested that a newsletter be developed that will inform residents and officials about activities of the WRAPS program. The newsletter will be sent to public officials and residents of the watershed. Mailing and layout logistics will be worked out by Huntzinger and the Conservation Districts.

**No Till workshop-** A No Till workshop was hosted by the Conservation Districts on March 5 at the Stull Methodist Church. WRAPS provided the meal. About 40 landowners and tenants attended and about 10 program representatives also attended. A no till workshop was also conducted by the Osage County Conservation District and Lori Kuykendall attended that workshop. A follow up no till expo is scheduled for June 30 at the Hall farm near Holton. The expo is hosted by all WRAPS projects in northeast Kansas.

**Teachers workshops-** A teachers workshop was hosted by the Mid Kansas WRAPS in early May. Another was held in the Upper Wakarusa WRAPS on June 10, 2009 hosted by the Upper Wakarusa WRAPS. Huntzinger gave a presentation discussing the real world application of concepts learned at the workshop. Rain prevented a field trip to the Cain site.

**Wetland Inventory and Assessment-** KAWS is developing methods for defining wetland extent and characteristics. The Deer Creek, Lynn Creek and Bury (Berrys) Creek drainages are the location of the pilot study. On the ground assessments of selected sites are being used to confirm remote sensing parameters to use in a statewide inventory. A research team is contacting owners and doing field work.

**Partner Updates—** None

**Next meeting date and location-** The next quarterly meeting date is scheduled for September 2, 2009, 9:00am to noon at the Shawnee County Farm Bureau. An interim meeting will likely be needed to discuss and recommend several project applications. It will be scheduled as the applications progress.

## Upcoming WRAPS meetings, activities, and events

**NEXT WRAPS SLT meeting will be held September 2, 2009 at the Shawnee Co Farm Bureau Office from 9:00 am - Noon.**

***We would like to send special thanks out to the Shawnee County Farm Bureau Office for use of their meeting room.***