



WAKARUSA WRAPS

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Watershed Happenings

WEBSITE - WWW.KAWS.ORG

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September 2, 2009 Meeting Notes

Coordinator's Report

The meeting began at 9:00 am with Wayne Lukert, Lori Kuykendall, Richard Runnebaum, John Bond, Will Boyer, Judy Boltman, Debra Baker, David Dennon, SanDe Fishburn, Frank Norman and Tom Huntzinger attending. Meeting adjourned about noon.

Opening remarks and welcome - Wayne Lukert, Vice Chair, presided over the meeting. Tom Huntzinger gave a briefing of the last meeting and there were no comments. Huntzinger referred the Team to a summary of activities since the last meeting.

Status of demo projects- Current projects are all nearing completion. One is pending payment and one is pending construction. Eighteen landowners have expressed interest in projects. More than \$86,000 in project commitments and proposals are compared to the carry over demo funds of \$110,000 to \$132,000 available. More than \$130,000 in project commitments, proposals, and project interests are projected before April 2010. The extensive number of project proposals is a response to the Conservation District Buffer Coordinators and Managers as well as K-State Extension Specialist efforts to develop BMP's with landowners in targeted areas.

Recommendations for funding new demo projects- Six proposed demo projects were unanimously recommended for funding by the Leadership Team. A total of \$40,802 was requested and \$34,702 was recommended for funding. The recommendations will be considered for approval by KAWS in the coming weeks. McIntire was recommended for less than the requested amount. The Leadership Team considered the project to have erosion prevention aspects and requires an owner's response to a DWR enforcement complaint regarding gullies on adjacent property and dam structural hazards. However it has few direct WRAPS associated benefits. The Leadership Team hesitates to set a precedent for funding projects solely to address pond structural problems. Funding to address erosion aspects and acknowledge the DWR enforcement complaint was recommended. All others were recommended as proposed. Two of the project contacts were in response to the first tier contact list from the assessment results.

Natural Resources Inventory- A draft work plan was sent to KU for completing the approach and timeline sections. Two graduate students have been selected for the project and are ready to start work. One will be assigned initially and the other will be on standby depending on funding levels for the project. It is anticipated the project will require additional funding. Shawnee County has agreed to pursue opportunities for added funding. A meeting is

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scheduled by Huntzinger for September 4, 2009 with the assigned graduate students and KU project leaders to present the completed draft work plan and meet the students. The project will be a contract with KU Center for Research and KAWS. When the completed draft work plan is submitted and accepted a meeting with the Shawnee County Planning Department will be scheduled to address questions or concerns they may have prior to final agreement. It is expected that an agreement can be completed by the end of September.

Rainage and water quality sampling- A draft work plan was sent to KU for completing the approach and timeline sections. A graduate student has been selected for the project and is ready to start work. A meeting is scheduled by Huntzinger for September 4, 2009 with the assigned graduate students and KU project leaders to present the completed draft work plan and meet the students. The project will be a contract with KU Center for Research and KAWS. Work will start when a final work plan is accepted and a contractual agreement completed.

Corps of Engineers/KDWP cropland conservation practices initiative- Boyer, K-State Watershed Specialist, has prepared a location map and series of scaled photo maps of each crop field managed by KDWP on Corps property. Digital data for these maps were obtained from the KDWP manager at Clinton Lake. A meeting will be scheduled with the Corps office at Clinton Lake and KDWP to discuss a master plan for implementing BMP's on cropland adjacent to Clinton Lake on the lower reaches of Deer Creek, Rock Creek and Wakarusa River. All land is within the 100-year flood plain.

Public relations and promotional opportunities for watershed projects- A list of topics and subtopics was presented by Huntzinger for consideration. It was acknowledged there is no budget for this effort. At this time some effort will be made to find college students interested in preparing a series of newsletters. Opportunities for cost effective distribution of the newsletters will be sought.

Other topics of discussion-

December election of officers- Election of officers will be held at the next meeting in accordance with the meeting protocol. It will be an evening meeting and there will be a public announcement. Bruce Smith, as membership chair, will provide officer nominees and member representation.

Briefing on Horizon 2020- Drafting of the Environmental Chapter is progressing slowly. A completed draft of the Chapter is expected to be out for comment before the end of September. It will be shared with the Leadership Team and some plan for comment will be discussed.

Wetland inventory- Frank Norman discussed the progress on the wetland inventory work in the watershed. Initial field confirmation and standard wetland descriptions are underway as remote sensing calibration sites. An expansion of the effort has been funded with a new grant to complete a wetland inventory for the Upper Wakarusa watershed.

Design Technician- A vacancy announcement should be out soon for a technician to work on conservation practice design that is funded by WRAPS. The position would serve numerous WRAPS watersheds in the area including Upper Wakarusa. The position would be stationed in Shawnee County.

Partner Updates— Topeka and Lawrence have water festivals coming up. The Topeka Festival is Sept. 17 and Oct. 2 in Douglas County. A cover crop kickoff field day is Oct. 8 at the Douglas County office. A workshop is planned for landowners sponsored through Mid America Assn. of Conservation Districts in eastern Kansas and western Missouri. The workshop will focus on landownership on the urban fringe. It is scheduled for October 21 in Topeka. A no till and wetland workshop and tour is scheduled for Osage County in October. Contact Judy, SanDe, and Lori about details.

Next meeting date and location- The next quarterly meeting date is scheduled for December 2, 2009, 6:00 pm to 9:00pm 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 December 2, 2009 at the Shawnee Co Farm Bureau Office from 6:00 pm – 9pm. Please note an election of officers will be held at this meeting and dinner will be provided.

If you have questions contact Tom Huntzinger, WRAPS Coordinator, 785-766-6717.
A special thanks to the Shawnee County Farm Bureau for use of their meeting space.