Kansas Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Work Group January 24, 2012 Meeting Notes – 9:30 AM Azure Conference Room, 4th Floor, Curtis State Office Bldg, 10th & Jackson St, Topeka, KS Page 1 of 4

Meeting Notes

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions
 - a. Introductions and Work Group purpose: foster partnerships for implementing and administration of WRAPS work group. Meeting minutes now posted on website. Website page handed out.
- 2. Previous meeting notes
 - a. Comments: KSU 9b nutrient requirement value is not correct strike "value of 8".
 - b. Concurrence gained.
 - c. Continued discussion If a project drops a tier but has a Multi-Year funding commitment how is this rectified?
 - i. KDHE introduced a proposal if not a SIPS issue, 2 options: leave funding cap or reduce funding cap to reflect new tier
 - 1. discussion: KWO supportive of Option 2; KGS SIPS not a valid judge; EPA: matrix only running every few years – how do we balance that. KGS – looked at weighted performance every year? It is a gap to not evaluate performance every year – does the work group want an yearly performance evaluation?? Go with option two evaluate performance make some decisions for this funding round.
 - ii. Work Group gave concurrence
- 3. Poultry Litter Update KWO
 - a. Discussion at SWAK formally the subcabinet- lower Neosho and spring have identified poultry litter – everyone recognizes concern but no one knows what to do – at the last SWAK meeting it was decided next meeting dedicated to puoltry litter. One idea interested in discussing at the February 17, 2012 meeting is researching a timeline of concern based on other states experiences.
 - i. KSU farmers calling extension agents to find out where to get poultry litter.
 - ii. NRCS we want to have nutrient management plans and application rules.
 - iii. DOC having a coop would be a good idea for housing, application help and monitoring – offering soil testing to those counties to see what kind of application might be needed.
 - iv. KGS is anyone looking at the status of the problem? Do we see any water quality issues yet?? nothing yet, driving surveys and discussions with landowner to find out where it's going. Once it goes to the broker there is not any monitoring of where the litter goes.

- v. KDHE- Dan Sweeney is doing soil research have cost share through Middle Neosho but not a lot of interest should partner with DOC to complete some workshops in the area. NRCS asks KDHE how long it takes to see nps from litter. KDHE Can't pin down where the signal is coming from can see increased levels of P in water quality but hard to see location EPA suggests using a surrogate, like arsenic to follow the signal.
- 4. Eutrophication Status Meeting & Nutrient Framework KDHE Watershed Planning Section
 - a. EPA put together a report stats: drinking water supplies, algae blooms
 Memo to states recommending states to develop a nutrient framework –
 KDHE has drafted a framework.
 - i. KDHE issue came about because of algae blooms this summer human health and safety - Milford was poster child for severity of blooms – all meetings were regarding human health so they put together 2 bureaus - bringing in KDWP, KWO and BOW BEFS to look at nutrient issues as related to eutrophication and status of lakes and public water supply, recreation, almost every lake that had a bloom - already had a TMDL for eutro - so handing off to WRAPS why they are doing what they are doing. In lake treatments: Meade Lake floating veg mats to remove build up of nutrients already in water. Blooms happen when water has a long residence time in lake - can't release or receive little rain - memo was revisited and the team tried to decide how best to deal with nutrients without going so far as to set criteria. Politics, resources, set priorities-rank waters, apply applicable programs, and evaluation and reporting. State approach needs to mesh with EPA to show initiative to come up with solutions. Return on investment-positive benefit that is what is selling right now across the street, need to tie it that – not just losing storage but nutrient build up. Challenge is - regulations only reach so far this makes it a challenge – next week the team will work on laying a path to setting priorities and picking how we think we can show some success. How is this different than wraps? Wraps is tactics – this is strategic. WRAPS – nps – this will also include point sources.
 - 1. NRCS so you see this being narrowed down to more nutrients rather than other impairments re-shifting of priorities.
 - 2. KSU are nutrient levels getting worse KBS doing some core samples and seems the nutrients are increasing
 - a. KDHE doesn't think nutrients are getting worse.but some changes need to be made – need to uncouple nitrogen and phosphorus – need to look at relationship

- of aquatic life and nutrients –pinning down a number is feasible. Response to nutrients is getting bad not necessarily more nutrients.
- KBS clarification high level of nutrients is being found in sediment not in water column. – turbidity is a saving grace – when a dry year – sediment goes away and nutrients get to shine with the sun.
- 5. NPS Success Stories KDHE Watershed Management Section
 - a. 3 success stories submitted
 - i. Banner and Clark's Creek previously submitted and approved
 - ii. West Creek, Fall River above and Walnut Creek delisted for dissolved oxygen submitted to EPA under review
 - iii. Next few months be looking at our projects and see where most of work is occurring and then have WPS look at water quality data to see if improvements can be seen.
 - iv. Once approved these successes will be shared with work group
- 6. Updates KDHE Watershed Management Section:
 - a. Status of 9 Element WRAPS Plans 18 approved and submitted to EPA newest are Upper Wakarusa, Cedar Bluff and Waconda Grouse Silver Creek, Marion, El Dorado, Melvern, Twin Lakes, Prairie Dog, Missouri, Clarks Creek, and Upper Lower Smoky will be submitted to work group soon. 3 are currently submitted to the Work Group for review. Twin Lakes, Prairie Dog, Missouri, Clarks Upper Lower Smoky. In the next few months will have the bulk of our projects with approved plans
 - b. Budget 319 / SWP (KDHE Watershed Management Section / KWO)
 - i. Figures for 319 confirmed an additional 10 million cut in addition to last year 25 million dollar cut 18% cut for Kansas base funding I&E projects and staff time, etc. guidance says 18% cut is to come from base funding. This equates to a 30% cut for us big impact will try to keep WRAPS program budget (1.2 mil) usually contribute significantly more so that will be impacted.
 - ii. KWO comparison of KWA requested budget for 2013 and governor's recommendations. Some big changes for KWO – big request from governor to retire water rights. Memo shows governor recommendations for all KWA requested funding. 6 million not honored in governor's budget.
 - c. RFP
 - i. 106 handout showing which WRAPS received funds and bmps to be funded approx 180,000 to fund.
 - ii. WRAPS

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- iii. CWN-pot of funding we use for small grants for variety of projects small lake restoration plans, rain gardens –etc. KDHE quickly covered projects funded.
- iv. SRF briefly described project applications that were received. Jan 20 was the close of the RFP. 8 applications received, \$3.7 mil requested, \$2.6 mil available.
- 7. Subcommittee reports
 - a. Riparian Work Group
- 8. Guest Speaker Dr. Craig Smith (FHSU) and Professor Jeffery Williams (KSU) "The Economics of Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Strategies"
- 9. Announcements
 - a. Work Group Members
 - i. Sediment Baseline Study Group Meeting 1:30 KWO
 - b. NPS Conference (Previously WRAPS Conference) Fall 2012
 - c. Visitors
 - d. Future WRAPS WG meetings:
 - i. March 27, 2012- All Day
 - ii. May 22, 2012
 - iii. July 24, 2012
 - iv. September 25, 2012
 - v. November 27, 2012