

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: November 17, 2009
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Tracy Streater
SUBJECT: Kansas Water Plan Policy Issue - Enhanced Stream Corridor and Wetland Management to Address Reservoir Sedimentation

In January 2008, a new policy section of the *Kansas Water Plan* was approved by the Kansas Water Authority: *Enhanced Stream Corridor and Wetland Management to Address Reservoir Sedimentation*. Several implementation activities are ongoing. For example, the KWO has received two grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a wetland and riparian assessment methodology in priority reservoir watersheds.

Among the administrative activities remaining to be initiated are the following, as included in the policy.

- Explore the most effective use of tax incentives with additional public input to determine the highest probability of success of each proposed program and acceptance by both governmental agencies and private citizens.
- Initiate a regulatory outreach effort to begin public discussion of what level of increased regulation would be acceptable and likely to succeed.

Staff is now ready to begin work on these activities. We seek to interact with a broad group of Kansas citizens to evaluate the feasibility of the use of enhanced voluntary incentives and/or development of additional regulatory tools to protect wetland and riparian areas. Included with this memo is a proposed schedule for accomplishing this work. The schedule allows time for additional internal state discussion and input before broadening the outreach to the general public.

The draft implementation schedule is on the back of this memo.

The preliminary list following this memo details those organizations from whom input will be solicited.

Voluntary Incentive and Regulatory Outreach Task Proposed Schedule

Date	Activity	Purpose
September 25	KAWS meeting Great Bend	Heads up on policy and implementation plans
September 28	WRAPS conference Great Bend	Include in Land Trust presentation information about the policy and implementation plans
October 15 or 22, 2009	Sub-cabinet	Refresh knowledge about policy and distribute timeline. Solicit strategy input
October 27, 2009	WRAPS Work Group	Refresh knowledge about policy and distribute timeline. Solicit strategy input
November 17 -18, 2009	BAC Chairs KWA meeting	Strategy discussion
November 17 – 18, 2009	KWA meeting	Either include in Director's report or involve members in strategy discussion
November 22 – 24, 2009	KACD meeting - Wichita	Summary of KWA discussion and plans for policy implementation.
January 2010	KWA Meeting	Present final strategy. Target audience, timeline, etc.
Late January 2010	Convene interest groups; Invited participants statewide	Presentation: How we got here. Policy, Science, need for public input
February 2010	BAC meetings	Begin public input process
March 2010	Public forum – public input statewide – ½ day meeting	Informed public input
March – April 2010	Opportunistic meetings to gather public input*	Questionnaire Development
	Meet with AgStats	Finalize questionnaire
May 2010	Distribute questionnaire to target audience	Public input
June – July 2010	Evaluate questionnaire	Determine support for additional incentives or regulations
Summer, Fall 2010	Develop legislation & Program Rules for Incentives	Be ready for January session

* See draft list of interest groups

ENHANCED STREAM CORRIDOR AND WETLAND MANAGEMENT TO ADDRESS RESERVOIR SEDIMENTATION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Preliminary List of Organizations for Public Input Solicitation

Ark River Coalition
Audubon Society
Basin Advisory Committees
City and County Commissioners
County Conservation Districts
Department of Revenue
Ducks Unlimited and other conservation organizations
Friends of the Kaw
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Kansas Association of Counties
Kansas Association of County Planning and Zoning Officials
Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams
Kansas Association of State Floodplain Managers
Kansas Biological Survey
Kansas Corn/Sorghum/etc Associations
Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Farmers Union
Kansas Forest Service
Kansas Geological Survey
Kansas Grain and Feed Dealers Assn
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Riparian Work Group
Kansas Rural Center
Kansas State University Research and Extension
Kansas Wildlife Federation
Lake and River Recreational Interests: i.e. Yacht clubs
Land Trusts in the state
League of Kansas Municipalities and Individual Cities especially river communities
National Turkey Federation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
No-till on the Plains
Pheasants Forever
Playa Lakes Joint Venture
Resource Conservation and Development Councils
Scenic Byways
Sierra Club
Sport Fishing Associations
State Association of Kansas Watersheds
The Nature Conservancy
The Watershed Institute
Travel and Tourism agencies
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Groups

Recommendations for additional organizations are welcome.