# Lower Kansas RIVER WRAPS

The next Lower Kansas River WRAPS meeting will be held on

**Friday, June 12th from 9:30AM-12:30PM,**

9:35 am Welcome

- Introductions
- Kris Ethridge; NRCS overview of Soil Health aspects of the Regenerative Pilot Program
- LKR23 Grant Summary
- LKR26 Grant Award
  - Deliverables
    - i. Best Management Practices
    - ii. Outreach & Education
  - Budget Summary

WRAPS BMP Projects
Coordinator happenings
Past Events
Upcoming Events

Partner, SLT & Attendee Updates

11:10 AM Adjourn meeting


**Lower Kansas RIver WRAPS Stakeholder Leadership Team**

**Rodney Parsons**
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**Dawn Buehler**
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**Kourtney Parks**
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# Lower Kansas RIVER WRAPS

**Lower Kansas River WRAPS Meeting**

**Friday, April 10th, 2026**

**SLT Members**

Rodney Parsons
Adam Navinskey
Kaol Lohman
Dawn Buehler
Michelle Gundy ✓
Rick Reischman
(✓ = Present)

**Kourtney Parks- Lower Kansas River WRAPS Coordinator**
**Scott Satterthwaite- Interim KDHE WRAPS Project Officer**
**Will Boyer-KCare Watershed Extension Agent**

Meeting Opens at 9:30AM
Greetings & Introductions

9:35-10:15

Kris Ethridge; NRCS overview of Soil Health aspects of the Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) with Q &A. Program goal to address soil and water resource concerns, bundling practices and funding while funding remains. Soil health test suite at the begining and end of each contract is required, but more can be paid for by the land owner. This standardized process will provide uniform results that can be easily compared. Landowners experiencing ponding, or with infiltration concerns may be more likely to enroll, currently more qualified individuals & approved laboratories are needed to facilitate the Conservation Evaluation & Monitoring Activities (CEMA) for the RPP. To learn more about trainings and the program you can search CEMA 216 on the NRCS's Conservation Webinar portal.

**LKR23 Grant Summary:**

The Lower Kansas River WRAPS 2023-2025 grant cycle ended on December 31st, 2025. All reports were turned in and approved by Kansas Department of Health & Environment. In total 33 contracts were completed, with 3,101 first time BMP acres, and inputs from 2,433 livestock were reduced. WRAPS flexible funding and assistance comes in various shapes 7 sizes and continues on into the 2026 grant cyle.

**LKR26 Grant Summary:**

The new grant cycle began on January 1st 2026, and was fully funded across all strategies. Conversations with KDHE & LKR WRAPS coordinator are ongoing to ensure deliverables are understood and attainable as written in the awarded project implementation plan. Some minor spending has taken place but the budget is in good standing and LKR WRAPS is ready to sign up contracts.

Scholarships and sponsorships are also available for partners, students, and landowners who are interested in professional development events, workshops, or courses-just reach out!


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**Contract Updates:**

This quarter

- LO Site visits: 3-all NEW
  - 2 seem close to signing a contract while 1 seems unlikely-coordinator is continuing to reach out with support.
  - Highlighting WRAPS best management practices can sometimes allow for projects to not fall within the priority area, or not require the same level of scrutiny or commitment as other programs and can be a great introduction to conservation practices on working lands.
  - 1 more upcoming-also NEW
    - This landowner has experienced sloughing off of his cropland at the fenced off streambank, due to heavy winds taking out a large (suspected) Cottonwood with it's rootball. Fenceline was destroyed and the stream continues to cut into the field. The landowner is new to cover crops and interested in rotational grazing.
      - Discussion held with Tyler Warner, Aaron Deters, & Kris Ethridge to identify potential resources for LO. No perfect fit was determined, but Cedar Tree Revetment stood out above the Emergency Watershed Program, and Wetland Reserve Easement options mentioned. Suggestion for coordinator to reach out to Dean Krehbiel for his recommendation.

**Coordinator Happenings:**

Since our last meeting I have worked with KDHE to finalize the final and BMP reports, as well as prepare for the change of deliverables. I attended the Kansas Natural Resource Conference where Libby Albers was awarded the Conservation Champion Award (with a standing ovation!) hearing many updates from local experts through out Kansas. I spoke and had a table at the Leavenworth County Conservation District Annual Meeting, aiding Candy Thomas in demonstrating the soil health bucket. I also attended the Ducks Unlimited Great Plains Region (DU GPR) All Staff conference in Fort Collins Colorado, which was a great introduction to the organization as KAWS WRAPS Coordinators will be migrating to DU throughout the spring and summer. Additionally, I worked with Friends of the Kaw & the Kansas Association for Conservation Educators to partner on outreach & education activities in Johnson County, to expend an awarded $10,000 from the Johnson County Stormwater Management Program. During this time I also traveled to New Zealand, and was amazed at the conservation efforts on their rural land-those riparian buffers are incredible!

Before next meeting I will be tabling at the Wabunsee Earth Day, Atchison County Ag Day, and Remake Learning Day, to present and introduce the Watershed Game & WRAPS. On June 15th or 16th Kansas Grazing Lands Coallition will co-host with LKR WRAPS, Candy Thomas & Doug Peterson soil health and grazing management program. And a field day is being planned with Hillsdale WRAPS & other partners in Johnson County, to expend the mini award. On June 2nd I will be attending the Central Plains Drinking Water Quality and Rural Health Symposium in Lawrence. There is room on my calendar to host, co-host, or table for other WRAPS related outreach & education so reach out if there is anything I should be a part of!

**Partner Updates**

**Scott Satterthwaite- KDHE Interim Project Officer for LKR WRAPS:**

- Final reports all completed for WRAPS coordinators
- Interviews being conducted for vacant positions
- New Project Officer for LKR WRAPS will be announced soon, but he will ensure it is a smooth transition
- Will work with coordinator to confirm deliverables

**Will Boyer- KCARETechnical Service Provider:** Has attended site visits, created specification binders for complex projects in the LKR and continues to available for WRAPS although it is not his only focus.

Tyler Warner- Wildlife Biologist KDWP: Has been pulled in various directions, assisting landowners, collaring prairie chickens, and is ready to stack habitat first project dollars on upcoming LKR WRAPS project.

Michelle Gundy: The City of Lawrence has received funding from KDHE to create and maintain 3 Trash Traps, and is partnering with Friends of the Kaw to increase high school and middle school access to environmental education and has joined the Mid America Regional Council education committee.

Lindsay Morris-Kansas Association of Conservation Districts: Has been busing with EQIP Application, collaborating with KDWP, partnering with other organizations for soil health outreach and education, and led a training for in field soil health conservation planning.

Aaron Deters-Ducks Unlimited: Supporting the Kansans for Conservation HB 2063, which unfortunately did not make the cut this cycle but is in a good place for next. With 50 members more tours & relationship building with legislators & representatives is needed. Has been working with KDHE for offsite best management practice projects, constructed wetlands at Fort Leavenworth, working with the Army Corps of Engineers fo mitigation of levy setbacks in Smithville, and meeting with Johnson County Parks & Recreation to discuss fee for service opportunities.

Libby Albers-Kansas Alliance of Wetlands & Streams: Has been working with Ducks Unlimited and funders to ensure KAWS staff can move to Ducks Unlimited seamlessly. Planning has already begun for KNRC 2027. Staff board meeting is April 23 & 24th, and the Ark River Cleanup is the 25th in Wichita.