



# Kickapoo Wetlands Protection Program— 2020 - 2024

KICKAPOO'S ESTP PROGRESS ASSESSMENT  
ENHANCING STATE AND TRIBAL PROGRAM (ESTP)  
KICKAPOO ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE  
BY: NESTORIA L. WRIGHT

# Kickapoo Wetlands Protection Program

This presentation details a Conservation plan for the wetlands within the boundaries of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas Reservation.

- ▶ Historically the Kickapoo have been deeply connected with the Tribe's land and water resources.
- ▶ The Wetland Program's mission is to protect and improve Kickapoo Nation's water quality and increase wildlife habitat.
- ▶ Wetlands Project Plan has been in place since 1994 and has grown over the years through employee training, community outreach & education
- ▶ KTinK Wetlands is significantly unique because of the plant and animal diversity that can be used for medicinal and ceremonial purposes.
- ▶ Outside of being culturally significant wetlands also have major benefits affecting water quality and wildlife habitat that are also valuable to the Tribe.

# Kickapoo Wetlands Protection Program

## Overview

- ▶ Protecting Delaware River, streams, ponds, wetlands, and groundwater quality keeps these waters safe for a multitude of beneficial uses such as drinking water, fish habitat, recreation and irrigation.
- ▶ After being funded through grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, work has started on analyzing, reporting, and restoration of the tribe's wetlands.
- ▶ Most important of these are the water quality benefits, because the Tribe gathers its drinking water directly from the water flowing in the Delaware River.
- ▶ Our Wetlands Program Coordinator and has conducted the 2019 wetland field assessments using the National Wetlands Conditional Assessment methods
- ▶ Wetland program plan now addresses all 4 EPA Core Elements

# Relationship between Goals, Core Elements, and Key Approaches

## ► Goals

Protection and Restore Wetland Resources for the benefits of human and the Environment

## Core Element

Monitoring and Assessment

Restoration and Protection

Water Quality Standards

Regulation

## Important Approaches

Public/Private Partnership

Agency Coordination

Outreach and Education



# Frank Norman LLC and Staff Conducting Kickapoo Tribal Wetland Monitoring and Assessment 2019-2020



# Monitoring and Assessment Core Element:

## Following goals 1 and 4

Action (ESTP CEF Objective/Action)	Activities	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Possible Partners	Potential Funding
<b>Monitor Wetland resources as specified in strategy (Obj 2, Action b)</b>								
	Track selected monitoring sites	X	X	X	X	X	NEC	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC
	Update wetland inventory to monitor acreage and condition		X		X		COE, NRCS, HINU	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC
	Evaluate wetland function for BMP recommendations		X	X	X	X	NRCS, HINU, KDWPT, KFS, KWO	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC
	Evaluate monitoring and assessment strategies to ensure they meet long term wetland resource goals	X		X		X	NRCS, HINU, KDWPT, KFS, KWO	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC
<b>Track monitoring data in a system that is accessible, updated on a timely basis, and integrated with other state or tribal water quality data (Obj 2, Action b)</b>								
	Integrate NWCA data with other water quality data systems (e.g., state watershed planning databases)	X	X	X	X	X	KEO, AWQMS	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC



# Wetland Water Quality Standards **Core element:** Following Goal 3

Action (ESTP CEF Objective/Action)	Activities	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Possible Partners	Potential Funding
Compile wetland data to use as reference should the Tribe decide to develop wetland specific water quality standards (Obj 2, Action a)								
	Continually search for additional sites that can be used to gather more wetland water quality data	X	X	X	X	X	KEO	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC
	Continue to sample selected tribal wetlands	X	X	X	X	X	Other KEO programs	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC
	Create appropriate wetland water quality standards to better manage the Tribe's wetland resources	X	X	X	X	X	KEO, KWO, KDHE	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC

# Wetland Regulatory Core Element: Following Goal 5



Action (ESTP CEF Objective/Action)	Activities	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Possible Partners	Potential Funding
<b>Develop definitions and jurisdictional scope in case the Tribe decides to develop wetland specific regulatory program (Obj 1, Action a)</b>								
	Develop a working definition of what the Tribe considers a wetland	X					KDHE, KWO, region 7 tribes	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC
	Develop definitions involving Tribal waters	X					Other KTIK programs, region 7 tribes	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC
<b>Perform public education and outreach about wetland protection, regulated waters and activities, and authorization process (Obj 3, Action e)</b>								
	Distribute brochures, flyers etc. at community events	X	X	X	X	X	Local community	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC
	Present at local schools or community events on the importance and functions of wetlands	X	X	X	X	X	KNS, Local schools	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC
	Utilize the Kickapoo website to share information on wetlands and projects	X	X	X	X	X	KTIK	PPG, GAP, 319, 5 star, NLC



# Frank Norman LLC and Kickapoo



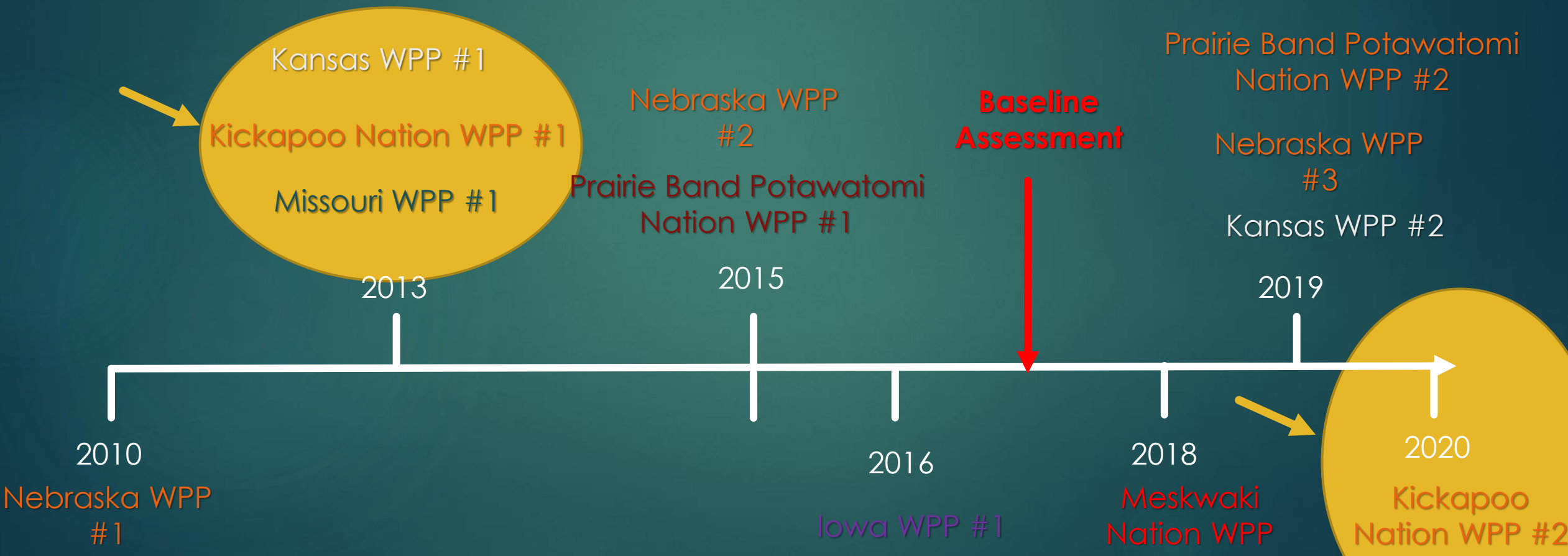
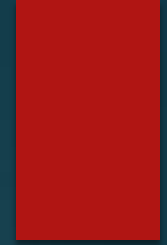
Wetland Program Coordinator



Kickapoo Tribe Environmental Office Wetland Program Coordinator Conducting soil and chlorophyll samples

# Region 7 ESTP/WPP History

By: Eliodora Chamberlain Ph.D



Thank you to Dr. Eliodora Chamberlain for sharing her slide presentation to Kickapoo Tribes in Kansas Environmental Wetland Program- Regional Science Liaison Region 7

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# List of Acronyms

- ▶ ASWM Association of State Wetland Managers
- ▶ AQWMS Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System
- ▶ BIA Bureau of Indian Affairs CD Conservation Districts
- ▶ COE Corps of Engineers DU Ducks Unlimited
- ▶ EPA Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ EQIP Environmental Quality Incentive Program
- ▶ NEC Norman Ecological Consulting
- ▶ HINU Haskell Indian Nation's University
- ▶ KAWS Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams
- ▶ KBS Kansas Biological Survey
- ▶ KDHE Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- ▶ KDWPT Kansas Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
- ▶ KEO Kickapoo Environmental Office
- ▶ KFS Kansas Forest Service KNS Kickapoo Nation School
- ▶ KWO Kansas Water Office NLC Network for Landscape Conservation
- ▶ NRCS Natural Resource Conservation Service PF Pheasants Forever
- ▶ WTI Wetland Training Institute Inc.
- ▶ WRAPS Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy