



# Buffalo Wallow Chapter

## Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

# Happenings

WEBSITE – [WWW.KSWETLANDS.ORG](http://WWW.KSWETLANDS.ORG)

### Our Purpose:

The Chapter serves as a clearinghouse for wetlands and riparian areas information and activities, promotes educational opportunities with a variety of targeted audiences, and facilitates project implementation for wetland and riparian area projects within the participating counties.

### Our Mission:

To ensure the future of wetlands, streams, and their adjacent riparian areas as an integral part of our Kansas heritage and landscape.

### Our Vision:

A public that is well informed and involved in activities that foster the protection, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands and riparian areas in Kansas.

### Steering Committee

**Kevin Nelson**

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Membership is free and open to any interested individual, organization or agency interested in wetland and riparian area conservation. For more information on KAWS and its activities please contact:

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## October 30, 2003 Meeting Review

### Chanter Business

Linda Hauder, KAWS Western Chapter Coordinator, opened the meeting with introductions and a welcome at the Lakin Public Library. Attending were Kevin Nelson, Debbie Ohman, Tom Norman, Jen Campbell, Mark Sexson, Bob Price, Julie Jones, Delores Eberle, Brenda Ford, Dan Baffa and Joline Heckman, Frazier Park Project, Ulysses.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented.

Bob Price and Julie Jones gave an update on the stream bank restoration project currently in process on Bob's land using three different stream bank technologies. The project is halfway to completion. On Tuesday, area landowners and county officials were out to visit the site and see the work that was being done. Two classes from the Deerfield High School were also out to tour the site on Wednesday. They have plans to research the history of the river channel and then follow the developments being made now and how it changes the structure of the river.

Hauder reviewed the current available grants and their criteria. The KWO EPA 319 Grant will fund up to \$20,000 per project and focuses on water quality or critical habitat issues. The KDHE Grant will fund up to \$10,000 per project and it focuses on water quality issues.

Hauder presented her coordinator's update (see attachment) and reviewed the projects she is currently working on in western Kansas.

Hauder gave an overview of the recent Fecal Coliform Task Force meeting held October 1<sup>st</sup> in Salina. Forty-five participants from various organizations and agencies from across the state were on hand to give their perspective and the direction they were taking in reference to FCB. The group worked to come to a consensus on how they plan to attack this water quality problem in Kansas. The group agreed to meet again after the first of the year to begin making plans for their next step.

Hauder reviewed the highlights from the KAWS Board of Directors meeting held in October. She will forward the minutes from the meeting once the final draft has been approved. She also gave an overview of the KAWS Fall Tour that followed the board meeting in October. This year's tour focused on three sites including the Jamestown renovation.

Kevin asked for member updates:

**Joline Heckman** reviewed the background and work being done on the Frazier Park project in Ulysses. They are hoping to use the water from the city's lagoon system to restore a part of the old Frazier Park Lake that has silted in, into a wetland system and recreational area.

**Mark Sexson** – Next Wednesday, Channel 6 News will be airing an interview with Mark on the Playa Lakes and the Clean Water Act.

Mark gave an update on the Circle K Ranch meeting that was held the night before in Kinsley. Hayden is trying to put together a sustained used program

## Coordinator's Report

Since August, Linda Hauder, Chapter Coordinator has been involved in many activities with chapters throughout western Kansas. The include the following:

- Meeting with the Comanche Pool Resource Foundation and receiving their support for the invasive species control project, which is directed to the issue of salt cedar along the Cimarron River.
- Reviewing a stream bank stabilization project in Ellsworth County with landowner, Alan Pflughoeft and Phil Chegwidan, NRCS.
- Visiting the Smoky Hill Audubon Society's marsh along I-70 with a need for spillway repair.
- Attended the SCC Water Quality Workshop in Cimarron.
- Toured the Grinnell Playa site with Matt Smith, KDWP, on the potential project and engineering.
- Worked on the completion of the Price Stream Bank Restoration project.
- Attended the Prairie Wetlands Chapter meeting.
- Attended the KACD meeting in Wichita with the KAWS booth.
- Secured information for the invasive species control funding through US FWS.
- Gave a presentation at the Smoky Hills RC&D meeting.
- Started work on the three new chapters for KAWS, which will include the Cimarron Chapter, the Smoky Hill-Saline Chapter and the Solomon Chapter.
- Traveled to Iowa with a KAWS group of volunteers and staff to look at the Rathbun Lake project site to investigate their work with the Corp of Engineers to see how we might be able to accomplish the same types of projects along the Smoky Hill-Saline Basin and the Cimarron Basin.

The following Project Profiles have been submitted to the chapters for funding approval:

- Plughoeft Stream Bank Stabilization, Ellsworth Co.
- Wilkens Wetland Enhancement
- Dinkel Wetland Enhancement - **APPROVED**
- Fischer Riparian Buffer, Howell - **APPROVED**
- Lincoln County Riparian Development

## Chapter Business (continued from page 1)

and to do that they are going to have to put 41,000 acre-feet of water into retirement. The KDWP can buy land for public hunting and also retire those water rights to help make this happen. Overall the meeting went very well and didn't meet with much local resistance. The next meeting will be in December at Kinsley. The Circle K Ranch will be a long process before it will be resolved, but the governor has made this a high priority project.

**Dan Baffa** announced that Lee Richardson Zoo has just signed a contract with KDWP for \$75,000 in grant monies to help fund their Kansas Water Display. The Friends of the Zoo also raised an additional \$245,000 to help make this display a reality. The construction for this project will start this next year.

Dan also reported that the Garden City Commission is still working on their feasibility study on Eco-Restoration project on the Arkansas River. They have identified \$30 million in projects on the river for eco-restoration. A meeting is being planned with the Corp of Engineers, the City of Garden, and the County Commissioners to identify ten to twelve of the alternatives they might consider doing.

**Bob Price** talked about the proposal he had discussed with Dennis Haag on using the sheep run off area to create wetland cells. Bob is also interested in a salt cedar control project around his ponds and creating an outdoor learning site.

The Chapter members reviewed the Plan of Action from 2002-2003 and made revisions for 2003-2004. Those included updating the Chapter Fact Sheet, revising the chapter power point presentation to used by the chapter members; support the Garden City Water Festival, give a presentation on KAWS at a buffer coordinator's meeting, develop a wetland/riparian area landowner award for use by local conservation districts, and work to educate local and state representatives on chapter activities.

No new projects were presented by the membership.

The Chapter will meet again on December 17, in Garden City at the Lee Richardson Zoo Finnup Center beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned. Following lunch the chapter members toured the Price Project site and the work being done there.

## Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

### NEXT

**Buffalo Wallow Chapter meeting**

**December 17, 2003, 9:30 a.m.**

**At the Lee Richardson Zoo's Finnup Center, Garden City, Kansas**