



Buffalo Wallow Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

WEBSITE – 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- NRCS
Debbie Ohman-Gray County CD
Tom Norman-KDWP

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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December 6 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The meeting began at 9:30 am at the Lakin Public Library in Lakin, KS with four people in attendance. Tim Christian introduced Michael Peterson as the new Chapter Coordinator. Tim also introduced Eric Johnson as the new KAWS coordinator in Pratt, KS. Both Michael and Eric provided a brief background on themselves.

Reviewed minutes of last meeting- Tim provided a brief overview of the items that were covered in the last meeting held on October 4, in the Finnup Center at Lee Richardson Zoo Garden City.

KAWS update-

- Tim announced that the EPA Wetlands Development Grant, submitted in partnership with SCC, was recently approved and announced that we should expect to receive the funds (\$179,000) approximately January 1st.
- Tim announced that the KDHE 319 grant was also recently approved with \$174,000 available for demonstration projects statewide. This should also be available to KAWS at the first of the year.
- Tim also announced that KAWS has applied for a second grant through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to further salt cedar control projects.

Salt Cedar Update- The salt cedar control grant is being implemented currently on three of the four chosen sites. The projects seem to be gaining momentum with state and federal agencies. We hope to conduct tours of the Dunne Ranch and Arnold Ranch sometime in May or June to see the projects in action.

CRP CP23a- There were three CP23a kickoff meetings in the western part of the state in October. The turnout for these was excellent, and we would like to know if there is any interest in getting more organized. Locations included Lakin, Scott City and Colby.

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

CRP CP23a is the new practice that allows playas of any size to be enrolled in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. The practice was made available on October 1 and Kansas has an allotment of 11,000 acres to enroll of 250,000 in the playa lakes region. The practice was officially rolled out in Kansas on October 25 in Dodge City by the Farm Service Agency (for details go to the KAWS web site).

Chapter 2005 Plan of Action-A draft plan of action was sent out to Chapter members prior to the meeting for their review. Each goal and objective was reviewed and no changes were suggested. For members that were not present, please review and submit comments if none are received; this will become our Chapter plan of action for the year.

KAWS newsletter RESOURCES is now online!

Just go to www.kaws.org, move your cursor over publications, then resources newsletter and click on subscribe. The form is quick and easy and best of all it is online. The first edition should be out sometime in late December.

To all chapter members: If you have something that you want to see in the newsletter let us know we are always looking for new areas of interest.

KS Farm Bureau Wetland Conservation Award.

This award is available in every county in Kansas so if you know of someone that you feel should receive this award let us know. It is always fun to award a producer for their hard work in conservation. For more details, contact Mike.

Lee Richardson Zoo Exhibit is almost complete- signs need to be completed and installed and this exhibit should be ready to go. This exhibit is sure to be a great addition to the zoo and also very informative for the public. The Zoo applied to the Playa Lakes Joint Venture for funding for the signs

Chapter Business

as an educational project.

NEW Project Forms and Project Recruitment-

We encourage anyone who knows of a possible project to contact us. The new funding period is quickly approaching so let us know, and bring your project profiles as well as activity requests with you to the next meeting. Tim covered the new forms to be used for KAWS projects. They are available on the KAWS web site under Chapters, Project Forms, so you can download and use them.

Landowner Workshop 2005- The workshop agenda was put in rough draft form. We have selected March as a possible month so please check your calendars for dates to avoid. It will kick off at 9:30am and run until about 3:00pm so producers can fulfill daily chores and hopefully make it out.

We would like to put together a team to see that the details happen for this outreach event. If you have ideas or will serve on the team (won't take much time), let Mike Peterson know.

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The next BWC meeting is set for February 15 at 9:30 a.m. in Lakin at the library. **Mark your calendars now!**

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Buffalo Wallow Chapter meeting – February 15, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at the library in Lakin.

Salt Cedar Task Force Meeting- 12/15 Meade 1:00pm

KAWS Board Meeting- 12/22 Salina 9:30a.m.

Landowner Workshop-March 2005

PLJV Board Meeting- 2/22-24/05 Amarillo, TX