



Buffalo Wallow Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

WEBSITE – WWW.KAWS.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

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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February 2nd, Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The meeting began at 9:00AM at the Kearny County Library in Lakin, KS. Three members were in attendance.

Reviewed minutes of last meeting- Mike provided a brief overview of the items that were covered in the last meeting held on November 2, at the USDA Service Center in Garden City, KS.

Funding Updates

- **US FWS Invasive Species Grant** – Mike announced that we still have funding to do Salt Cedar Control projects left over from the initial \$25,000 grant. KAWS has also received an additional grant of \$20,000 to fund projects as well. Most of this money is already allocated, but some should be left over for a few more projects.
- **SCC/EPA Grant** – Mike announced that the State Conservation Commission has been awarded \$100,000 dollars for demonstrational projects through KAWS.
- **KDHE 319 Grant** – KAWS is still waiting for funding for this grant. We should receive approximately \$174,000 dollars from this grant for projects as well. We expect to find out more on this grant proposal within the next month or so.

KAWS website Updates- The website has recent updates covering news throughout the state. You can also access the most recent editions of *Resources*, which is our quarterly newsletter. Just go to www.kaws.org and click on publications, then *Resources* newsletter and click on the most current issue. Check the website often if you want to stay informed on what is happening in and around Kansas. **To all chapter members: If you have something that you want to see in the *Resources* newsletter let us know we are always looking for new ideas.**

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

GIS Mapping through DASC and KAWS – Mike gave a brief update on the progress that has been made on the mapping feature that will be added to www.kaws.org. This will allow members that do not have ArcView software to utilize several different overlays to create several different specialized maps. This feature should be up and running within a few months and will include over 20 different overlays when completed.

KAWS 2004 Annual Reports- We have several copies of this report left, if you would like one please email Mike. It highlights several of the projects throughout the state and is a good tool for members to reference if you are unsure how a specific project can be completed in your area.

Project Status- Mike explained that all of the current projects pending approval have been ranked and sent on to the statewide coordinator. Total funding needed for each chapter has been compiled and the projects should be sent out to the project management team and should be approved by the March 9th Board Meeting. Currently there are 6 projects pending for the chapter totaling \$16,279.45.

If you need blank project proposal forms or activity request forms please visit the website go to Chapters and then Project Forms.

CP23A Target Area Meetings- Mike discussed the format style for the meeting with the members and showed the chapter members all of the different materials that have been developed for these meetings. Meetings will be held in four “target counties” within SW KS including Gray, Finney, Seward, and Meade counties. Mike is currently coordinating with the local Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service offices to schedule these meetings.

Chapter Business

Upper Ark WRAPS Review- Mike provided a brief run down of what is currently being done with the WRAPS, since the initial stakeholder tour. Three Upper Ark WRAPS meetings have been planned. They will be held in Dodge City Feb. 23, Feb. 28 in Larned and March 2 in Garden City. All will be held at 6:30 p.m. with a free meal provided. Feel free to contact Mike for more information or call and RSVP for the meeting directly to Robert Frisbie the K-State Research and Extension Upper Arkansas Watershed specialist at 620-659-2149.

Playa Lakes Exhibit – The Playa Lakes Joint Venture playa lake exhibit is currently being displayed at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby through February 28th and will then be moved to the Sternberg Natural History Museum in Hays, KS. Stop by and check out this exhibit, it has something for everyone.

Playa Lake Placemats – Mike gave a brief discussion on the new placemats that have been designed by KDWP in conjunction with the USDA. He told the chapter members that the placemats were developed to be utilized in restaurants throughout the four targeted CP23a counties. The members had several suggestions for restaurants in Finney County, since this is the last county for distribution. These placemats will hopefully entice local producers to inquire about CP23a and boost enrollment for this much needed program.

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Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

1/23 – WRAPS Stakeholder Mtg. Dodge City	3/9 – KAWS BOD Mtg. Hays
1/23 – KWO Tamarisk Plan Meeting, Garden City	3/16 – TSI/Weed Control in New Tree Planting Workshop, Emporia
1/28 – WRAPS Stakeholder Mtg. Larned	
3/02 – WRAPS Stakeholder Mtg. Garden City	5/16-17 – KAWS Annual Meeting, Junction City