



Cimarron River 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

**To be decided at our
Next Meeting so plan
To Attend!!!**

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 15 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The meeting was kicked off at 10:00 am at the USDA Service Center in Meade, KS with 5 members in attendance. Tim Christian introduced Michael Peterson as the new South West Chapter Coordinator. Tim also introduced Eric Johnson as the new KAWS project coordinator based out of Pratt, KS. Both Michael and Eric provided a brief overview of themselves to the members in attendance.

Overview of KAWS- Tim provided a brief overview of KAWS, and talked about how we operate. The topics included grants and other funding updates; project status-recruiting new projects and the salt cedar project progress.

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 funding 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 Control Update- The salt cedar control grant is being implemented currently on three of the four project 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 these exciting projects in action. Tom Flowers and Jeff Ladner also provided first hand updates on current project status.

CRP CP23A-There were three CP23A kickoff meetings in the western

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

part of the state in October. The turnout for these meetings was excellent, and we would like to know if there is any interest in organizing more of these meetings. Locations for the previous meetings included Lakin, Scott City and Colby. There are also two more meetings slated for January 27th including a breakfast in Goodland and a dinner in Bird City. Feel free to contact Mike for more information about these meetings. CRP CP23A is the new practice that allows playas of 10 acres or more 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, which is part of the 250,000 acre allotment for the playa lakes region. The practice was officially rolled out in Kansas on October 25th in Dodge City by the Farm Service Agency (for details go to www.kaws.org).

Chapter 2005 Plan of Action-A draft plan of action will be created and sent out to Chapter members prior to the next meeting for your review. This will serve as a guide for the chapter including yearlong goals with information and communication, education, and chapter management and oversight. I will be working on the development of this so we can review it at the next meeting.

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 is now available so check it out!!!

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.

Chapter Business

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.

Cimarron River Chapter Organizes- At the previous meeting members decided that they would be called the Cimarron River Chapter. The Chapter Policy and Procedures was completed, and the chapter was organized. We will be deciding who is going to serve on the steering committee at the next meeting so plan to attend and take part of your local KAWS chapter. The more participation we have the better KAWS can serve your area.

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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Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Cimarron River Chapter Meeting – March 1st, 2005 in Ulysses the time and location is TBA.

CP23A workshops 1/27/05 Breakfast-Goodland/Dinner-Bird City Landowner Workshop-March 2005
PLJV Board Meeting 2/22-24/05 Amarillo, TX
Salt Cedar Task Force Meeting-TBA, Ulysses