



# Dakota Hills 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:

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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## May 19 Meeting Review

### KAWS Report and Organizational Efforts

**Introduction** – Tim Christian, state coordinator, introduced himself and Jeff Ruckert, chapter coordinator. He asked everyone to introduce themselves as well. We had 15 people in attendance. He quickly reviewed the March 30 kick-off event in Ellsworth.

**KAWS Overview** – Tim gave an overview of KAWS, how it is funded, and how by the end of this year we will have 100% coverage of the entire state. He noted that KAWS has over \$550,000 for projects. He also outlined progress to date.

**What's our Name?** - Tim asked those in attendance to throw out some ideas for the chapter's new name. We had the following submitted.

Post Rock, Smoky Hills Saline, Dakota Hills, and Buffalo Range.

The group voted on these and **Dakota Hills** won.

**Steering Committee nominees-** We had a very eager group of volunteers for the S.C. the following were submitted to the chapter.

Patti Winters, Neil Jednoralski, Staci Minson, Matt Smith, Dan Hayes and Connie Cox-Dorf.

The group determined that they would like to have a total of 8 people to serve on the committee. Those not attending will be asked to see if they will serve.

**KWO EPA Wetlands Grant Update** – Tim indicated that all of the \$240,000 of project dollars has been allocated to projects. There are 29 projects averaging \$8,300 per project. These projects need to be completed before December 30. He noted that the Alan Pflughoeft project in Ellsworth County is a KWO-funded project, and that the construction phase is

## Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

completed.

Tim indicated that KWO would like to see the grant be used for projects above water supply reservoirs.

**KDHE Grant Update** – All projects have been approved for the \$210,000 in 319 funds. Currently, there are 67 projects with an average cost of \$3,100 per project. Projects will need to be completed, or at least under contract, by the first of July to meet the deadline for our grant cycle. New grant monies should be available sometime in September or October.

**SCC Wetland and Riparian program Update-** New guidelines are almost complete for the RWPP and should be out to all SCC offices prior to July 1. Until the new guidelines are distributed, call Rob or Jeff with questions or concerns. Rob can be reached at 785-296-3600 or by email at [rreschke@scc.state.ks.us](mailto:rreschke@scc.state.ks.us)

**Project Process** – Tim discussed how to get started with the project process. All projects will need a project profile that can be downloaded off the KAWS web page at [www.kswetlands.org](http://www.kswetlands.org). Next the project sponsor needs to talk to the conservation district manager and make sure they are kept in the loop as the project progresses. Once the project has cleared the CD manager it is then submitted to the chapter steering committee for review and then onto the chapter members for approval. If approved by the chapter, then it goes for approval by the KAWS PMT (project management team). Once approved by the PMT, the project is now ready to start the

## Chapter Business

contract, which is available at your CD manager's office. It will need to be downloaded from CSIMS through the RWPP. The landowner will need to sign it before you can start construction. Once the project is completed it can be paid out through CSIMS.

**The most important part of the project profile is to keep in touch with the CD manager!!!!**

### Projects from Attending Members

Marge Streckfus said that the Smoky Hills Audubon society is looking for additional funding for maintenance on their principal spillway for a long-term lease that they have on a wetland in Salina, Ks

Monty Breneman, DC in Lincoln Co., has a streambank stabilization project in the South end of the county. Jeff will help with project profile and submit it at the next chapter meeting.

There was discussion on the Pflughoeft project and a report by Neil who has been monitoring the site during construction.

**Next chapter meeting** will be held **July 22** in **Great Bend**. Jeff will notify everyone relative to the location, time and agenda.

We would like to thank the Staff in Lincoln for sponsoring this meeting. We hope to see everyone in July at Great Bend.

**You are now officially the -  
Dakota Hills Chapter!**

## Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

**NEXT** Dakota Hills Chapter Hills meeting will July 22 in Great Bend, Ks at 10:00 am  
Solomon River Basin group kick-off, June 17, 2004, Smith Center  
KAWS Board meeting, August 10, 2004, Topeka