



Dakota Hills 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

Stacie Minson- KSU
Patti Winters- District Mng
Neil Jednoralski- Smoky Hill
Saline BAC
Matt Smith- 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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January 11th Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The meeting began at 10:00am at the American Legion in Wakeeney with 5 people in attendance.

Website and Documents – www.KAWS.org

- KAWS website is changing daily be sure to check it often for new information and calendar events. If you would like to have something added to the calendar of events on the website just email the information to Chris.

KAWS Updates

- **Long Range Funding** – Chris gave a brief overview of the KAWS Long Term Funding and provided the individual member level brochures for those in attendance. If you would like a copy of this brochure or would like to discuss the other member levels please contact Chris and he will get that information out to you. Chris asked the group if they knew of any local companies, conservation districts, or individuals that might be interested in donating to the Long Range Funding of KAWS. A few names were given and forwarded to KAWS state coordinator for consideration. Chris discussed how several conservation districts have contributed at different levels.
- KAWS also applied for a deer permit from KDWP through the special non-profit organization drawing. If awarded the sell of the tag to the highest bidder will bring additional money to the Long Range Funding program. Since the meeting, KDWP draw has been conducted and KAWS was not successful in the drawing.
- **KAWS BOD retreat update-**
 - Long Range Funding – additional materials were provided that will be included in the packets delivered to potential founding benefactor contributors.
 - CPRII – Partners meeting discussed on day 3 of the conference will be held in conjunction with the KAWS BOD meeting on May 16th and 17th.
- **KAWS 2004 Annual Reports** – copies of this report are still available. Contact Chris if you would like a copy.

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

Grant Updates

- **SCC/EPA and KDHE** – The \$280,000 allocated for project dollars should be available for projects sometime in March 2006. These project dollars are designed to help fund demonstration projects. If you have a project proposal that you need to submit please get those to me as soon as possible so we can get them on the list to be approved by PMT.
- **RGI** – Chris reported that Rick Davis is working on finalizing out the RGI grant. "Save Time and Money" brochure can be downloaded from the KAWS website under publications. Stacie Minson asked that I email a copy of the brochure out to the conservation districts however, the publication file will be too large for most email systems so please download a version by clicking [here](#).
- **Other Grants** – other grants that KAWS have or will be applying for were discussed. More information will be available at the next chapter meeting.

Project Profiles – All forms are available at the KAWS website. To access those forms click [here](#).

Projects – Current and Potential Projects were discussed

- Carol Blocksom discussed a potential wetland project in Ellsworth County on KSU land. Several ideas on types of water sources were discussed and Carol will look at the options available and continue working on the project.
- Mike Grogan provided an update on the Nilhas project. Most of the project has been completed. Mike discussed some extra items that needed to be added to the project and asked about ways of getting that funding from other sources. Several ideas were passed along to Mike on possible sources for help on the additions.

- **EQIP Stream Projects** – The Ney Streambank Project was discussed. DHC will be partnering to help this project receive ranking points needed to qualify for EQIP funding. The application for EQIP has been sent in and will be notified sometime in March if approved.
- **Project Ranking** – Chris stated that the BOD decided to allocate each of the 12 chapters \$16,500 to spend for this round of funding. This funding should be utilized on projects in counties that currently have none first, then to new project types in a county, with those in the high priority areas ranking the highest. Currently the projects are ranked in the following order: Ney SS project, Moeder Barton Co. wetland, Tieman SS Lincoln Co., and Schenewerk SS in Saline County. After March 2006 any remaining money not used by a chapter will be allocated to projects in other chapter areas following the ranking guidelines.

Misc. Meeting Items

- **Smoky Hill WRAPS** – Stacie discussed many things that were going to be done towards education and demonstrations through the WRAPS plan for each county. Many tours and educational meetings are being planned.
- **Stumps Trust** – This trust provides cost share money for wetland projects. In the past the money was limited to Ellsworth and Rice Counties. The Trust has now opened the funding to be eligible for counties adjacent to Ellsworth and Rice. A meeting with DHC, Lower Ark Chapter, and Stumps Trust is being planned for late Feb. or early March. Chris will notify everyone of the meeting date when it gets scheduled.
- **Playa Lake Exhibit** - PLJV has provided the use of an interactive exhibit on playa lakes that will be open for viewing at the Sternberg from March – May 2006. This exhibit and playa lakes located in the Dakota Hills Chapter were discussed. Many playa lake brochures were handed

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

KAWS BOD meeting March 9, Hays. Sternberg
KGLC kickoff Feb. 7 Salina National Guard Armory.
March 16, Water and the Future of Kansas Workshop.
April 7 Water Festival will be held in Russell. April 21 Water Festival will be held in Hays.
For more events or activities please visit the KAWS website Calendar

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 2)

- **Playa Lake Exhibit cont...** - out of which KAWS produced under a PLJV capacity grant. Many of the playa lakes publications are located on the KAWS website if interested click [here](#). If anyone is interested in putting a news release for the playa lake exhibit in their conservation district newsletter or local newspaper Chris can provide one to you. Also if you would like more information about the exhibit please contact Chris.
- **Wet Walnut Watershed** – Chris has been notified by a watershed representative about some possible mitigation funds that might be coming available; these funds may be used towards different projects within that watershed boundary. Chris will continue to work with the watershed representative and see how this might work in helping with cost share for additional projects within the Wet Walnut Watershed.

NEXT DAKOTA HILL MEETING: USDA SERVICE CENTER HAYS

Playa Lake Exhibit tour at the Sternberg will follow the chapter meeting.

Special thanks to Mike Grogan and Judy Kreutzer for providing the meeting location and snacks.