



Eastern I 70 Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

Website—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

Jeff Bunch—Tetra Tech EMI
Jamie Ziesenis—KDHE
Debbie Sumner—NRCS
Laurie Brown—Patti Banks Assoc.
Julie Elfving—EPA Region 7
Cathy Doll—City of Overland Park
Deke Hobbick—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 14 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Review minutes of last meeting – John went over the minutes from the last meeting held in November to bring everyone up to date and insure that the action items had been taken care of. All action items had been completed.

KWO EPA Wetlands Grant – John explained that the current grant was going as planned. All projects should be completed by this summer. We have been in correspondence with EPA on the new grant application and provided the necessary paperwork and were waiting for their response back. We should know something further in the next month. This grant would supply an additional \$122,000 for projects and would allow us to hire a couple more chapter coordinators to try and cover the rest of the state.

As part of the grant, a statewide conference will be held sometime during the first part of August 2003. A committee will be organized to work out the details. John listed the current topics that he had received for the meeting and asked for further suggestions to provide to the committee.

The KDHE TMDL/KDWP Biological priority map was passed out and discussed. A draft copy of the this map had been sent out to all partners for review. This map will be utilized in the Kansas Water Plan to focus limited dollars and manpower. After input is incorporated, a meeting will be called with all federal agencies to get their input and hopefully their support for the priority areas.

Action needed: Everyone will need to review the KDHE/KDWP draft map to insure all priority areas are covered. Input will need to be supplied to John in the next couple of weeks.

KDHE Grant Update - There is currently **\$50,000** available for projects with another **\$300,000** becoming available after the first of the year. KAWS has submitted a list of projects to complete with the \$50,000 and is awaiting approval from KDHE. The top two projects on the I70 list (St Paul and Garfield Park Projects) were submitted for \$10,000 each and the KCPL Prairie Wetland project for \$2,500.

Rob Bielfuss, with KDHE, stated that all future KDHE projects will require the use of load reduction models when reporting on 319 grants. They are hoping that something similar can be used on all projects statewide.

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

New SCC EPA Grant Application—KAWS has submitted a new application for the WPP EPA grant in cooperation with the SCC. The primary objectives of the grant will be to hire more staff to assist with their Wetland and Riparian program, produce more additions of their River and Stream Corridor Management Guide, finish the KDWP Biological templates for the rest of the state and provide another \$129,000 for projects. This will be an expansion of the KWO EPA grant currently underway with funds being available by next fall, should we be successful.

New USFWS grants—John covered two new grants that are available from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They are the Landowner Incentives Program (LIP), which will be administered through the Ks. Dept. of Wildlife and Parks, and the Private Stewardship Grants Program (PSGP). These grants will focus on T&E species as well as those in need of conservation. KAWS is working with KDWP to assist with meeting the total dollar figure available for the state through the LIP program (1.74 million).

KAWS has made an individual application for the PSGP which has about 1.4 million for the USFWS Region that Kansas is in. KAWS applied for \$250,000 to primarily complete streambank restoration projects in the target areas that SCC is unable to fund.

Update on KAWS activities – Upcoming meetings were discussed and are placed under the meeting section at the end of this document.

Two new chapters are currently underway. A kickoff meeting was held in El Dorado on October 2 with a follow up meeting held on November 20. Another kickoff meeting was held in Hutchinson on November 4 for the south-central area.

KAWS continues to work on the obligations of the agreement signed with NRCS. Tim has met with several landowners and completed video for a WRP production. We will be working with all partners to conduct Regional meetings with NRCS on the new Farm Bill.

John provided an update on Eco-restoration efforts in the Walnut and Kansas Basins with the COE. The Walnut Basin is completing a study to determine needs and management strategies.

Stream Assessment Protocol - Scott Schulte with Tetra Tech and Laurie Brown from Patti Banks Assoc., provided a presentation on rapid watershed assessment that they have been utilizing to determine the current condition of the streams within a watershed. This info is then used to make recommendations on what needs to be done to protect or improve the streams. This allows agencies, communities or organizations make better planning decisions on what is needed to improve the overall quality of the watershed.

Jeff Bunch, also with Tetra Tech, then provided a quick explanation of the tools used to assess the streams and how the info was recorded. Other info or answers to questions can be obtained by calling Scott or Jeff at 913-495-3903 or Laurie at 816-756-5690.

Eco-restoration Potential—John Grothaus with the COE Civil Works section provided a presentation on the current funding assistance programs that were available through their Continuing Authorities Program. Several options are available through this program which include Planning Assistance to States, Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Small Flood Control Projects, Clearing and Snagging Projects, Floodplain Management Services, Small Ecosystem Restoration and Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration. Each are funded on different levels and cost shares.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT I 70 Chapter meeting—March 11

Executive Committee meeting — February 4

Executive Committee meeting—April 8

Water and the Future of Kansas meeting—March 11

State Assoc of Watersheds meeting—Jan 23 and 24 , Topeka

All Bird meeting—March 5 and 6, Salina

KAWS Spring meeting and tour—May 6-7

Water Summit—Feb 11, Topeka

John then covered in detail the processes involved in initiating a project. He also explained in detail the two ecosystem restoration projects (1135 and 206) that were available under the Continuing Authorities Program. He also explained that unlimited funding authority could be acquired through Congressional approval and how that process took place. He said that these programs could be integrated under a long term planning process.

After the presentation the group discussed the potential for usage within the Chapter area. The group chose to proceed by conducting a workshop in which alternatives could be discussed and a direction chosen.

All questions or requests for more information should be directed to John Grothaus by email at john.j.grothaus@usace.army.mil or by phone at 816-983-3110.

Action needed: Everyone needs to take this info back to their agency, group or organization and discuss. John will discuss this with the Executive Committee and make plans to set up the workshop with the COE if approval is received.

The Partners would like to thank Tetra Tech EMI for assisting us with the meeting arrangements. We would like to send a special thanks to Scott, Laurie, Jeff and John for providing presentations. Also a big thanks goes out to Dennis Haag for buying lunch for everyone in attendance.

Chapter Business

There were a lot of upcoming meetings and workshops brought up by attending members. Several of these are listed below.

1. Stormwater Phase II workshop—Sponsored by the Hillsdale Water Quality Project on Feb. 19th. Register on line at www.hwqp.org
2. Clean Streams 2003—Sponsored by the Blue River Watershed Assoc. on April 11. Details can be found on their web site www.brwa.net
3. Kansas Water Environment Assoc. Meeting—April 8-10, The Watershed day is April 9 in Topeka. Get details from Mark Green at 785-368-3851
4. Grownative.org—training on native establishment in Jefferson City, MO. On Feb. 28-29, Contact Laurie Brown for details at 816-756-5690
5. Wyandotte County Water Festival—April 22, Contact Beth for additional details at 913-334-6329
6. Lenexa Water Festival—April 9, Talk with Laura Turnbull for more details at 913-477-7658
7. Sediment Erosion Control—Sponsored by MARC on Feb 6. Look at their web site at www.marc.org for more details

Members need to provide specifics on these meetings so that John can pass them on to other partners.

The next meeting dates for the year have been scheduled. They are March 11, May 13, July 8, Sept 9 and Nov. 18. Please place these on your calendars. The location of the next meeting will be determined based on the group moving forward with the workshop in conjunction with the COE.

The next Executive meeting will be held on Feb. 4 in Manhattan. Mark Green agreed to attend the meeting to represent the Chapter.