



# Eastern I 70 Chapter

## Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

# Happenings

July 2002

### **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.

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### Steering Committee

Jeff Bunce—Tetra Tech EMI  
Jamie Ziesenis—KDHE  
Debbie Sumner—NRCS  
Laurie Brown—Patti Banks Assoc.  
Julie Elfving—EPA Region 7  
Clyde Mermis—NRCS

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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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## July 9 Meeting Review

### KAWS Coordinator's Report

**Review minutes of last meeting** – John went over the minutes from the last meeting held in March 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 three new projects were forwarded to the Project Management Team (PMT) and received final approval. Those projects included the Southeast Kansas Chapter Project, a 60 acre bottomland farm ground restoration which is currently under construction. The other two would be in Butler County, one of which is a small wetland and the other a streambank stabilization project next to El Dorado Lake. These two would be used for tour sites on the kickoff meeting for a new chapter organizing in that area

John also explained that the Elk Creek project for this Chapter was under construction and should be completed by the end of summer. The Krainbill project for the 3 Rivers Chapter, along the Little Blue River, is also currently under construction. The Glacial Hills Chapter has chosen a wetland project near the Sac and Fox Casino. It will be used as a demo for running tertiary wastewater through a wetland system.

**Action Needed: The group needs to put more project profiles together and get them on the list for prioritization.**

**KDWP Stream Survey Information** - A final copy of the KDWP biological summary, which is also part of the KWO/EPA Wetlands grant, was passed out and discussed. This information is available to anyone who wants a copy. He explained that they were working with KDWP and KDHE to get a statewide map that would prioritize HUCS based on biological information as well as TMDL. This will hopefully be completed this fall.

**Action Needed: Members wanting a hard copy of the Biological Summary completed for the KWO/EPA Grant target areas, should contact the Kansas Water Office at 785-296-3185. John will work with Tim to get this document put on KAWS website at kswetlands.org.**

**Melvern Watershed Project**— Paul Ingle provided a great presentation which provided background to the project. He discussed strategies that were being utilized to address water quality problems within the watershed. Since 80% of the drainage is rangeland, the focus was on management strategies to

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

get the cattle out of the streams. New techniques of watering are being utilized instead of fencing, which is much more cost effective. **For more info, contact Paul at 785-828-3458.**

**New Long Range Funding Plan**— The plan was emailed out to members prior to the meeting for review. Discussions revolved around the expansion statewide, funds needed and staff requirements to accomplish the goals and objectives of KAWS. John explained that the biggest challenge would be to come up with the matching dollars for grants acquired. He said that KAWS plans to have the Grant Coordinator on board by August.

**Action Needed: Everyone needs to look at their non-federal expenditures to see if they can be utilized for matching dollars for grants that will be acquired to fund chapter projects. If you have any ideas on this, contact Tim or John.**

**Conference on Wetland and Riparian Areas**— John explained that discussion is underway to hold a large conference in 2003 to focus on urban and rural wetland and riparian areas. Several ideas for presentations were discussed and John will pass on to the planning committee.

**Action Needed: Members with good ideas for conference topics or good presenters should let John know soon.**

**Plan of Action Update** – Due to a time shortage, the group chose to review the document and supply ideas before the next meeting.

**Action Needed: John will take comments and make a draft for the next meeting.**

### **Kaws Statewide meeting in Pleasanton –**

After the Executive Committee meeting, a secondary meeting was held to discuss natural resource education. Presentations were provided by KACEE and Streamlink to bring everyone up to speed on their programs, costs and potential expansion plans. KAWS will be partnering with them to spread their programs

statewide.

**Update on KWRAA activities** – John discussed a new format for Chapter minutes that Tim was using and had put on the website. John will put the next meeting minutes on the Chapter website. The latest Resources newsletter was also discussed and John made extra copies available.

**Afternoon tour** – The afternoon tour was cancelled due to the heat. Alaine Hudlin provided a brief background on the Prairie Center and provided an update of current activities. Some members were interested in their training sessions and Alaine agreed to supply notices through John. **We would like to thank Alaine for her hospitality and use of the Prairie Center for our meeting.**

## Chapter Business

1. Scott Paszkiewicz, with MARC, discussed a revision to the stormwater design standards that was being put together with the American Public Works Assoc. They are looking for an additional \$25,000 to complete the revision and produce copies of the document. Contact Scott for further info or funds to help make this possible. 816-474-4240
2. A discussion evolved around the need to get a standard buffer design in place. It was felt that this was something that KAWS could do. John will take this idea to the next Exec. Meeting.
3. The September 10 meeting date was changed to September 17th due John being out of state. The remaining meetings for the year will be Nov. 12 and Jan. 14, 2003.
4. A WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy) Conference was discussed. It is a planning document being put together to target many of the water issues in the Marais Des Cygnes Watershed. The conference is to be held on September 18 and 19 with more details coming soon.

## Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

### **NEXT I 70 Chapter meeting—September 17**

Three Rivers Chapter meeting — 7/18, Riley Co. CD office  
Executive Committee meeting — 8/1  
Lenexa Water Festival—8/24

WRAPS Conference— September 18 and 19, Ottawa  
Water Festival at Cedar Lake in Olathe—Sept. 21  
WOW—Week of Water—October 14-18 brwa.net