



Eastern I70 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

Jeff Bunch—Tetra Tech EMI
Debbie Sumner—NRCS
Chris Lecuyer—KDWP
Andy Sauer - Johnson Co.
Stormwater Management
Lisa Cox - City of Overland Park
Jaime Gaggero - KDHE

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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March 20 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Review minutes of the last meeting - The meeting convened at Shawnee County Farm Bureau Office in Topeka with 12 people in attendance. John briefly discussed the minutes from the last meeting that was held on January 9 in Lawrence. All action items had been taken care of.

WRAPS update — A statewide WRAPS conference was held on January 17-18 in Wichita. Several members reported on presentations they provided or attended. A Coordinator's Workshop is scheduled for May 3 in McPherson. Also, a new website for WRAPS is up and running, please check it out at www.kswraps.org

John provided a brief update of where the statewide process is. KDHE has met with WRAPS sponsors to discuss approved funding and action plans. KAWS had \$150,000 for projects last year, but received a \$75,000 reduction in statewide 319 funds, so we will have around \$75,000 statewide for projects sometime after June 1.

Rick Davis provided an update on the Middle Kansas WRAPS and passed out maps detailing the area covered. The Middle Ks has been approved at \$75,000 and we hope to use about \$20,000 for demo projects in the watershed. The WRAPS area has been expanded to include the entire source water protection area for the Topeka water intake. He discussed the current goals and objectives and asked for further input.

The Lower Ks was funded at \$60,000 and we expect to use \$10,000 for demo projects in that area. These funds should be available by June 1. John asked that if anyone was interested in coordinating this WRAPS, they should contact him because they will be looking to contract someone soon.

Action Needed: If you have projects in either of these

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

WRAPS areas, send proposals to John so they can be approved by the stakeholders. Also, anyone interested in being the Lower Ks WRAPS Coordinator should contact John.

Natural Resource Workshop – John passed out a draft agenda and discussed the Workshop, which will be held as part of the KAWS Spring meeting on May 15 and 16 in Topeka. He covered each of the topics and asked for input. The group thought that it was a good list of topics and liked the workshop idea.

Action Needed: John will finalize the Workshop agenda and get it out to everyone.

Waterers and Watering Handbook – Will Boyer provided a presentation on the handbook that was developed by KSU Research and Extension. He also passed around a copy for the group to review and provided everyone with a CD version of the Handbook. Most thought that it was an excellent document and requested that the link to the document be supplied along with the meeting minutes.

Action Needed: John will supply the link as part of the minutes when they are distributed

Chapter projects – John discussed the current projects on the chapter spreadsheet. The Wak-n-duk wetland and Lenexa stream restoration projects that were brought to the last meeting were added and ranked. The Lenexa project has been approved by the PMT and has a contract in place. It is needed to help KAWS meet their grant match

requirements. The wetland project was approved by the Steering Committee and is now ranked as our first priority project. It was approved by the PMT and will be funded as soon as new project dollars are acquired.

The 3 Kendall stream projects that are on the chapter list have been sent in for EQIP as one project. KAWS has agreed to supply \$1000 toward the cost of the project through its funds or partner dollars. This will help the project rank out higher and hopefully get it approved.

Update on Upland Bird Initiative (UBI) and Habitat Teams – Brochures were provided for both initiatives. A brief update for the UBI was supplied by Scott Thomasson and the Habitat Team was covered by John. The two programs have been working very well together in the 3 Rivers Chapter area. Gary Satter and John met with KDWP staff in Topeka and discussed the potential to use the UBI dollars as match for a grant to acquire funds for expansion of the UBI as well as starting up a new Habitat Team. KDWP is willing to allow the RC&D to submit an application for their review. It may be possible to utilize this team in portions of our chapter area.

At the last meeting, the group chose to put a Habitat Leadership Team together to discuss the potential of starting a team in this chapter area. We will try to pull the group together sometime in June.

Action Needed: John will organize a meeting to discuss a Habitat Team in this area in June.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT 170 Chapter meeting – July 10, 2007 in Lenexa

Burning Workshop – March 30 in Lyndon
KAWS Spring meeting – May 15-16
Range School – August 14-16 and 21-23

WRAPS Coordinators meeting – May 3
KLR BAC meeting – May 17

Update on Current grants and project dollars – John discussed the current WPDG with EPA and the new direction that KAWS has had to take with demonstration projects. The projects must be new to a large regional area and a monitoring component must be utilized. Also, as part of this grant, KAWS will be pulling together a team of partners to develop a Wetland and Riparian Plan (WARP) for the state. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please let John know.

Will Boyer updated the group on the Watershed Improvement Grant (WIG) that the RC&D has contracted with KAWS to complete. The Saving Time and Money document should be back from the press in the next week or so. Plans are to hold educational meetings throughout the Delaware watershed over the next several months.

Farm Bill – There are some significant reductions planned in their staff by 2008, which involve combining offices across the state. This will lead to an even greater need for technical assistance for new projects. We will be working with NRCS and other partners to try and provide more technical assistance in the field as well as education on stream stabilization techniques.

John provided a briefing on the changes being recommended on the new farm bill. There are plans to combine many of the programs and try to simplify the processes. There is a new site where you can keep track of the farm bill as it progresses. (www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome)

Update on KAWS activities – The LIP Coordinator /KAWS project coordinator has been filled by Murray Laubhan. Statewide project coordination responsibilities have been transferred to him. He has a good

background in project development from his past work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. His email is murrayl@wp.state.ks.us

John discussed a funding meeting that was held by a KAWS Committee to discuss other options to fund the organization as well as projects. These include pursuing other grants, pursuing more large partners and other options for staff to combine or seek work that will provide additional income.

Partner Updates – There will be a controlled burn workshop held in Osage county on March 30 at 8am. If you are interested in attending, you can contact the Farm Services Center in Lyndon for details.

Next meeting dates – The Chapter has chosen to be involved in the Natural Resource Workshop on May 16 as opposed to having a regular meeting. The remaining chapter meetings for 2007 have been set, and they are **July 10, September 11 and November 13.**

Action needed: Rob Beilfuss will try to line up the next meeting in Lenexa along with a potential tour of the recently funded stream restoration project.

We would like to send special thanks out to the Shawnee County Farm Bureau and Conservation District for hosting the meeting.