



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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November 12 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Review minutes of last meeting – John went over the minutes from the last meeting held in September 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 there were currently 7 educational projects underway. Five projects have been completed except for native plantings that will be done in the spring. A youth educational program was completed on Oct. 15 with Streamlink known as the Stream Steward program. They were contracted to coordinate an educational program at the Elk Creek Wetland project at Clinton Wildlife area. The concept is to bring students and teachers to the site for environmental educational and hopefully encourage them to return each year to provide the same program without needing help from agencies or organizations.

Two meetings were held with Raju, EPA grant coordinator, to tour existing projects and discuss the progress of the existing grant as well as the new application. The meeting was very positive and helped improve communication between the partners. Modifications are currently being made to the new grant and will be submitted soon. The request of \$200,000 more dollars for demo projects is being considered by EPA. Success of the grant should be known in the next couple of months.

A meeting with KAWS, KDHE, KDWP and KWO occurred on September 24 at the KDHE office in Topeka to discuss a statewide target area map. The goal was to combine the KDWP biological info with the TMDL information compiled by KDHE. A draft TMDL map was developed by KDHE to discuss at the meeting. Everyone felt that it was an excellent map and that the KDWP info could be added. KDHE will provide an electronic copy of the map to KDWP to add the biological info to it.

Action needed: John will try to get an electronic copy out to all members

KDHE Grant Update - KDHE has approved \$50,000 for projects with more funds coming after the first of the year. We are currently working with them to decide what types of projects will be approved and the funding limit for each project.

Long Range Funding Plan— John gave a quick overview of the plan and

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

told everyone that Drue Durst had been hired as our Administrative/Marketing person who would be coordinating our grants and assisting Tim with other duties. Plans are to hire another Chapter Coordinator as soon as possible to take over the existing western chapters and one more in the early spring to take over the southeast chapters.

A Cooperative Agreement with the NRCS has been signed and KAWS is in the process of developing a brochure and video for the WRP program in Kansas. We will also be lining up regional meetings to help provide educational programs on the farm bill to the public. These will take place as soon as all the guidelines are more definite.

An application to Upper Miss. Great Lakes Joint Venture has been submitted. The request was for \$50,000 to help fund education on the JV expansion as well as fund \$25,000 in projects.

KAWS is in the process of applying for the new USFWS grants which provide incentives for projects on private land. The projects must be tied with T&E or SINC species. We will be meeting with them to discuss on November 15th.

Wetland and Riparian Conference—A multi-state conference is being planned for sometime next summer. It is growing to be a 3 day conference with one day being planned to meet the requirements of the KWO/EPA grant, one day of congruent sessions for urban and rural , and one final day of sessions with possible tours. The group provided suggestions for speakers and topics.

Action needed: Everyone needs to supply topics or speaker ideas right away.

Update on KAWS activities—Two new chapters are underway, one in the Flinthills Region of southeast Kansas and one in the Wichita/Hutchinson area.

John also updated the group on the fall meeting and tour held in Topeka.

Presentations on KAWS have been provided to the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance in Topeka as well as the Wetlands 2002 Conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Chapter Business

1. Julie Elving reminded everyone that the EPA Watershed Initiative was underway and that the deadline was November 21.
2. Scott brought everyone up to speed on the MARC activities which was quite a list. For further info look on their website at marc.org.
3. Discussion on a new representative for the chapter at the Executive Committee meetings took place. Since Ryan had been our representative, they felt his replacement Deke would be the likely candidate. John will make sure it is alright with Deke when he gets back from law enforcement training.
4. A detailed discussion took place concerning the COE Eco-restoration program that is available for cost share funding. The group decided that a project might be put together in the chapter along the Kansas watershed from Topeka to Kansas City. It would take a lot of partnering from the different communities. It was decided to try and get the COE to our next scheduled meeting on January 14th. John will try and work out the details.
5. Discussion evolved around some bio-assessments that were being completed for certain metro areas. The group felt that this would be a good topic for the next meeting as well. Jeff and Laurie will put together a presentation.
6. Meeting dates were set for the year 2003 with those being Jan. 14, March 11, May 13, July 8, September 9 and November 18. The group wanted to have them in advance so everyone could get them on their calendars.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT I 70 Chapter meeting—January 14 in Lenexa, Tetra Tech EMI Office

Nat. Res. Legacy Alliance meeting—11-18, Chanute
Executive Committee meeting—April 8
KACD meeting— November 23-25, Wichita

Executive Committee meeting — February 4
KAWS Spring meeting and tour—May 6-7