



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:

Tim Christian

KAWS State Coordinator
P.O. Box 236
McPherson, KS 67460-0236
(620) 241-6921, (620) 245-9618 (fax)
tchristian@kaws.org

John Bond

KAWS Chapter Coordinator
2157 10th Road
Clay Center, Ks 67432
785-463-5804
jbond@kaws.org

November 14 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Review minutes of the last meeting – The meeting convened at 9 am at the KDWP Regional office in Topeka with 14 people in attendance. They briefly discussed the minutes from the last meeting that was held on September 19. All action items had been taken care of.

WRAPS update — John provided a brief update of where the statewide process is. There have been over 6 million dollars worth of applications for the 2 million available. KAWS applied for demonstration project dollars in 14 different WRAPS areas through coordination with the WRAPS sponsors. Any funds acquired through the WRAPS will not be available until sometime next spring. A statewide WRAPS conference is planned for January 17-18 in Wichita and everyone is invited to attend.

Rick Davis provided an update on the Middle Kansas WRAPS and passed out maps detailing the areas covered. Rick has been hired as the coordinator for the Middle Ks with the first two kickoff meetings held on September 20 and 27. The first stakeholder meeting was held on October 26 with the next one scheduled for November 28 in Rossville. Everyone is invited to attend and provide input. If you are interested in attending, just let John know.

John provided an update on the Wakarusa and Lower Kansas WRAPS. Ryan Neises updated us on the activities underway in the Marais Des Cygnes WRAPS.

Web Service Update – An update on the KAWS web based mapping service was provided. Training classes were held in July in Lawrence and Great Bend. Additional training is planned on December 14 in Hutchinson and January 4 in Fort Scott. There is limited space but anyone is welcome to

attend as long as there is an opening.

Action Needed: Let John know if any changes or additions need to take place to the site, or if you are interested in attending the upcoming training

Chapter projects - The top 3 projects on the list, the Rumford and Dunbar alternate feeding sites and the Kim Dale project have been approved and are underway. Scott Thomasson discussed a new wetland project in Douglas County. The group felt it was a good project and should be submitted to the steering committee for approval and ranking.

A new contract is being worked on between KAWS and The Watershed Institute (TWI). They are requesting an increase, which is a maximum of \$6100 per project. At the new increased rates, KAWS will only be doing stream projects that are pre-approved. At this time, they will only be approved if there is a special need for it to be a demo in a new county or area. Stream projects are eligible for EQIP if they meet the farm use requirements. KAWS can help them rank out higher by putting in partner dollars. Due to the shortage of technical assistance dollars for stream projects, only a very limited number will be completed. Everyone is encouraged to seek this funding through EQIP if possible.

Update on current grants and project dollars – No new project dollars have been acquired at this time for projects. KAWS did receive a Watershed Improvement Grant from the EPA to expand on the work done under the RGI grant. The Saving Money and

Time publication will be printed for partners to use and special educational workshops will be held in the Delaware and Fall River watersheds. Jeff Davidson has been contracted to carry out the Fall River one and Tim is working with the Glacial Hills RC&D to do the Delaware Watershed.

Farm Bill – There are some significant reductions planned in their staff by 2008, which involves combining offices across the state. This will lead to an even greater need for technical assistance for new projects. We will be working on an MOU with NRCS to try and provide more technical assistance education as well as staff in the field to help take up the slack. We are going to try and acquire 4 positions, one of which would work with Phil to learn stream stabilization techniques. The other positions would be utilized to provide technical assistance on KAWS, WRAPS and EQIP projects.

Action Needed: The EQIP deadline is December 15 so if you would like to have partner dollars for stream projects, let John know right away.

Update on KAWS activities – John discussed staff changes that have taken place in the last few months. Drue Durst has taken a new position, leaving KAWS with a marketing coordinator position open. Lujana Howell from Stockton has been hired to fill that position and hopefully will make it to a future meeting so everyone can meet her. She has many good skills and should be very beneficial to the organization. Also Eric Johnson, part-time project coordinator for KAWS and LIP coordinator with KDWP, has taken a new job. That position will hopefully be filled in December

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT 170 Chapter meeting – January 9, 2006 in Lawrence

Middle Ks WRAPS meeting – Rossville Nov 28
KAWS Board meeting – December 18 in Salina
Statewide WRAPS Conference – January 17-18

WRAPS Capacity Building meeting – Nov 30
KGLC meeting – December 20

by Murray Laudben, with John covering in the meantime.

The new KAWS online cost share system is being set up so that other groups and organizations can utilize it. Plans are to have it provide the necessary reports for grants to include project expenditures and load reduction information. A presentation on the system will be provided at the January WRAPS conference in Wichita.

Action Needed: If you are interested in utilizing the new online system for your group or organization, let John know.

Next meeting dates – The chapter meetings for 2007 have been set so please get them placed on your calendar. ***They are January 9, March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11 and November 13.***

We would like to send special thanks out to Scott and the KDWP Region 2 Office for hosting the meeting.