



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 Bunce—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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September 17 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 went over each of the seven projects currently underway with the grant. He explained that a meeting had been planned with the EPA where this grant and additional funds will be discussed. Plans are to tour the Pheasants Forever project at Perry as well as the Kranebill project with Phil Balch.

John also discussed the KDWP biological assessment that had been completed. He said that it was available through the KAWS web site at kswetlands.org. Folks could also call the KWO office at 785-296-3185 for a hard copy. A meeting with KDHE will occur on September 25th to discuss the potential of making a statewide priority map and placing all the info on an easy to use web page.

KDHE Grant Update - John discussed the current funding plan that had been provided by KDHE. If all goes as planned, there should be \$50,000 available for projects sometime in September. The remaining projects dollars should come after the first of the year.

Long Range Funding Plan— John gave a quick overview of the plan and 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. Hopefully KAWS will be able to hire another chapter coordinator next spring when the new KDHE funds become available.

A meeting with Harold Klaege, state conservationist for NRCS, had taken place in July with discussions evolving around how KAWS could assist with implementation of the new Farm Bill. Currently, they are looking for someone to assist with the education of the new programs. KAWS submitted a proposal, in conjunction with Streamlink, to provide educational products for WRP, WHIP and EQIP. KAWS will be receiving \$75,000 to complete many of these products over the next several months.

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

Several of the items in the funding plan will be discussed at the KAWS fall meeting to be held in Topeka on October 14 and 15. The meeting will include a tour of urban projects on the 14th followed by the Executive and Steering Committee get together on the 15th. Discussions will include a large wetland and riparian conference next year and how we can help match urban dollars for projects.

Action Needed: Everyone needs to plan to attend the October 14th presentation and tour being provided by Mark Green of Topeka.

Chapter Page on web site— A copy of the publication used for the minutes was shown and discussed. John explained the web site and future plans. He asked that everyone look at the site to see if it needed further additions or changes to make it more effective.

Action Needed: Everyone needs to check out the web site at kswetlands.org and provide comments to John or Tim.

Plan of Action—A final draft was discussed and only a couple of minor changes were added.

Action Needed: John will make the changes and provide the final copy before the next meeting.

Update on KWRAA activities – John discussed the new chapter kickoff taking place in El Dorado on October 2 at the Community College. Tim is making arrangements to do something similar in the Wichita area. Upcoming meetings were discussed and are placed under the meeting section at the end of this document.

He also provided a brief update on some items that KAWS is involved with including the Natural Resources Legacy Alliance, that had been formed out of legislation, as well as the WRAPS conference being held this week. KAWS will also be providing a presentation in October at the Wetlands 2002 confer-

ence in Indiana.

Afternoon tour – The afternoon tour was provided by Tim Schaid, Hillsdale Wildlife Area Manager. The tour consisted of looking at a bottomland area that Tim was planning to develop wetlands on. A series of alternatives were provided by the partners. Mike McFadden will work with Tim to complete a survey and design of the site.

We would like to thank Tim for hosting the meeting at Hillsdale and look forward to helping him with his project when the design is complete.

Chapter Business

1. The Midwest US Fish and Wildlife meeting will take place in Kansas on December of 2003. It was recommended that KAWS considering a meeting in conjunction with this event.
2. Vicky Richmond reminded everyone about the WOW (Week of Water) activities coming up on October 13-19. A flyer has been sent to all partners in the area.
3. Julie Elving reminded everyone that the EPA Watershed Initiative was underway and that the deadline was November 21.
4. Josh Lippold updated everyone on their Environmental engineering firm that was working to expand in the area. Details can be found on their website at AppliedECO.com
5. Jason Downs discussed the activities currently underway by the Hillsdale Water Quality Program. He discussed a modeling study that was underway comparing the Big Bull and Little Bull watersheds. He also spoke of a KRC Clean Water Farms meeting taking place in Spring Hill on November 4. Check out their website at hwqp.org for more details.
6. Buffers were discussed by several members. It was brought up that some excellent info could be obtained from the MARC website at marc.org and then click on regional initiatives.
7. **Make plans to attend the KAWS Fall meeting and tour in Topeka on Oct. 14 and 15.**

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT I 70 Chapter meeting—November 12 in Lawrence

WRAPS Conference— September 17- 19, Ottawa
Fall meeting and tour — October 14 and 15, Topeka
Flint Hills Kickoff meeting—October 2, El Dorado

Topeka Water Festival—September 27
Water Festival at Cedar Lake in Olathe—Sept. 21
WOW—Week of Water—October 13-19 brwa.net