



# Flint Hills Chapter

## Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

# Happenings

Website—[kswetlands.org](http://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.

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### Steering Committee

Not yet determined

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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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## January 29 Meeting Review

### KAWS Coordinator's Report

**Review minutes of last meeting** – John went over the minutes from the last meeting held in November 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 the current grant was going as planned. All projects should be completed by this summer. We have been in correspondence with EPA on the new grant application and provided the necessary paperwork and were waiting for their response back. We should know something further by the middle of Feb. This grant would supply an additional \$122,000 for projects and would allow us to hire a couple more chapter coordinators to try and cover the rest of the state.

As part of the grant, a statewide conference will be held sometime during the first part of August 2003. A committee will be organized to work out the details. John listed the current topics that he had received for the meeting and asked for further suggestions to provide to the committee.

The KDHE TMDL/KDWP Biological priority map was passed out and discussed. A draft copy of the this map had been sent out to all partners for review. This map will be utilized in the Kansas Water Plan to focus limited dollars and manpower. After input is incorporated, a meeting will be called with all federal agencies to get their input and hopefully their support for the priority areas.

**Action needed: Everyone will need to review the KDHE/KDWP draft map and supply input to John by Feb. 14**

**KDHE Grant Update** - There is currently **\$50,000** available for projects with another **\$300,000** scheduled to become available in the next couple of months. KAWS has submitted a list of projects to complete with the \$50,000 and is awaiting approval from KDHE. The Edgar, McLaren and Walenta projects were submitted for funding through this grant. **More projects are needed to match up to future funding.**

**New SCC EPA Grant Application**—KAWS has submitted a new application for the WPP EPA grant in cooperation with the SCC. The primary objectives of the grant will be to hire more staff to assist with their Wetland and Riparian program, produce more additions of their River and Stream Corri-

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

dor Management Guide, finish the KDWP Biological templates for the rest of the state and provide another \$129,000 for projects. This will be an expansion of the KWO EPA grant currently underway with funds being available by next fall, should we be successful.

**New USFWS grants**—John covered two new grants that are available from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They are the Landowner Incentives Program (LIP), which will be administered through the Ks. Dept. of Wildlife and Parks, and the Private Stewardship Grants Program (PSGP). These grants will focus on T&E species as well as those in need of conservation. KAWS is working with KDWP to assist with meeting the total dollar figure available for the state through the LIP program (1.74 million).

KAWS has made an individual application for the PSGP which has about 1.4 million for the USFWS Region that Kansas is in. KAWS applied for \$250,000 to primarily complete streambank restoration projects in the target areas that SCC is unable to fund.

**Stream Assessment Protocol** - John explained rapid watershed assessment that is being utilized by Tetra Tech EMI to determine the current condition of a watershed. This info is then used to make recommendations on what needs to be done to protect or improve the streams. This allows agencies, communities or organizations make better planning decisions on what is needed to improve the overall quality of the watershed.

**Habitat Agreement**—John passed out a new Habitat Agreement that KAWS is working on to try and complement CRP. We are hoping to pick up areas that are not currently eligible for other programs.

**Action needed: Need to review the document and supply comments to John by Feb 14**

**Update on KAWS activities** – Upcoming meetings were discussed and are placed under the meeting section at the end of this document.

John provided an update on Eco-restoration efforts in the Walnut and Kansas Basins with the COE. The Walnut Basin is completing a study to determine needs and management strategies. The I70 Chapter is looking to put a workshop together to discuss options.

KAWS continues to work on the obligations of the agreement signed with NRCS. Tim has met with several landowners and completed video for a WRP production. We will be working with all partners to conduct Regional meetings with NRCS on the new Farm Bill in the next few months.

**Tour**—Bruce Wells supplied a tour of a restoration project that is currently in progress on the Cottonwood River adjacent to Cottonwood Falls.

## Chapter Business

1. **Bruce updated us on the tour project and will submit a project profile before the next meeting.**
2. **Paul Ingle updated the group on the progress of the Melvern Watershed Project and would be working with local landowners to put together some demo projects.**
3. **Brent Konen discussed a wetland project he is trying to complete on the Council Grove Wildlife Area. He will firm up the costs and submit a project profile for funding assistance**
4. **Toni Wesley updated the group on the five projects that have been submitted by the Butler County Conservation District. Two are complete except for spring plantings and one is to be funded under the SCC program. They will submit a replacement project.**
5. **Leroy Pritchard discussed a couple of projects he is aware of. He will pursue funding for them through the Chapter. Bruce will supply him a project profile form.**

## Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

**NEXT** Flint Hills meeting—April 17th in Alta Vista in conjunction with the Three Rivers Chapter

Executive Committee meeting — February 4  
KAWS Spring meeting and tour—May 6-7  
Walnut Basin Tech Comm meeting—Feb 5

All Bird meeting—March 5 and 6, Salina  
Water and the Future of Kansas meeting—March 11  
Water Summit—Feb 11, Topeka