



# 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.

---

### Steering Committee

Not yet determined

---

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)  
[tdchristian@cox.net](mailto:tdchristian@cox.net)

#### **John Bond**

KAWS Chapter Coordinator  
Box 414  
Wakefield, Ks 67487  
785-463-5804 (phone & fax)  
[johnloribond@yahoo.com](mailto:johnloribond@yahoo.com)

## November 20th Meeting Review

### **KAWS Coordinator's Report**

**Discuss and choose a name**—The name was discussed and the group chose to call themselves the Flint Hills Chapter.

**Policy and Procedures**—John discussed the draft Policy and Procedures that were sent out prior to the meeting. No one had problems with the draft. John said that if he received no comments by the next meeting, they would become final.

**Action Needed: Members need to supply any comments within the next couple of weeks.**

**Plan of Action**—The draft Plan of Action was discussed by item with the group having no further additions at this time. John stated that this document could be changed at any time by the group, so this draft will become the plan of operation for this chapter until the group determines changes are needed.

**Project Profile**—The project profile form had been sent out prior to the meeting. John explained that the project profiles are completed by chapter members and then submitted to him. They are then discussed at the next meeting and prioritize by the members. The projects would then be completed by priority as funds become available. Two projects have been completed in Butler county. Funds are currently available and more projects are needed. John will update the project profile to include the chapter name and ship it out with the meeting minutes.

**Action Needed: Partners need to submit projects right away if they would like to be considered for existing funds.**

**Steering Committee and local contact**—John explained the duties of the Steering Committee. They are mainly used to conduct business between meetings, which does not require much work on their part. The group chose to wait on picking steering comm. members until the group could organize better. Bruce Wells was kind enough to volunteer to have the Flint Hills RC&D be the contact point for the Chapter.

**KWO EPA Wetlands Grant Update**—A brief update on the grant projects was supplied. John also discussed a second grant that they were working on

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

that would supply another **\$120,000 for projects**. As part of this grant, KAWS is working with KDHE and KDWP to complete a statewide priorities map for restoration needs. The TMDL priority map that was produced by KDHE was reviewed and discussed. John sent out an email version to all members and ask that they review and provide any comments. **Action Needed: Members need to review the priority TMDL map and provide any input right away.**

**KDHE Grant Update** – There is currently **\$50,000** available for projects with another **\$300,000** becoming available after the first of the year. KAWS is currently working on a list of projects to complete with these funds.

**Long Range Funding Plan Update** – 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 working with USFWS and KDWP staff to apply for the new USFWS grants which provide incentives for projects on private land. The projects

must be tied with T&E or SINC species. The grant will include technical assistance for wetland and stream design and completion as well as **\$390,000 for projects**.

**Update on KAWS activities** – 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.

Upcoming meetings were discussed and are listed at the bottom of this page. John explained that a chapter page would be developed on the website at [kswetlands.org](http://kswetlands.org) and the minutes would be placed on it. Everyone should check out the website to see how it can be used for the chapter's benefit.

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

## Chapter Business

1. **Bruce has a project in progress that he would like for the group to see. The group agreed to try and have the next meeting in Chase county and review the project. Bruce will work on meeting room details.**
2. **A discussion evolved around the Walnut Basin Restoration study that the COE was working on with many assorted partners. They will be conducting public meetings on Dec. 3 in El Dorado, Dec. 5 in Augusta and Dec. 10 in Winfield.**
3. **In order to recruit more partners into the Chapter, the attendees will supply additional names and email addresses of potential partners in the area. Please let John know if you have any recommendations.**
4. **The group set meeting dates for the rest of the upcoming year. Those dates are January 29, April 30, July 30 and October 29. Please place these dates on your calendar.**

## Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

**NEXT Flint Hills meeting—January 29th in Chase county**

Walnut Basin Restoration meetings—Dec. 3, 5 and 10  
Executive Committee meeting—April 8  
KACD meeting— November 23-25, Wichita

Executive Committee meeting — February 4  
KAWS Spring meeting and tour—May 6-7  
Ks Coalition for Carbon Management—Dec. 18