



Flint Hills 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

Paul Engle-FH RC&D Melvern

Peggy Blackman-FH RC&D

Marion

Dale Kirkham-KRC

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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KAWS State Coordinator

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June 21, 2006 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Review minutes of last meeting- Tim Christian introduced Doug Blex, the new Chapter Coordinator to Flint Hills Chapter members. Tim asked if anyone had any changes on minutes of last meeting. Members did not have any changes.

Introductions- Doug gave chapter members a short background and work experience and chapter members gave their affiliation and work background. Doug indicated that he viewed his job to provide assistance to chapter members and KAWS projects. Contact him anytime. He will need a little time to get up to speed on all projects, but will find out if he does not know.

Update on Grant Status- Tim indicated that KDHE 319 grant project funds had been approved by the Project Management Team for \$150,000, \$35,000 less than the previous year. The SCC/EPA FY05 grant project funds is set for \$100,000 for a total of \$250,000 available for demonstration projects in 2006. Tim outlined the Salt Cedar, Playa Lakes & WRAPS applications would total over \$1.1 M if all grants are approved.

Project Application System- Tim indicated that a new KAWS online project cost-share system would be up and running within a month. Once a project is approved for funding by the PMT, the project originator can get online and enter data and information about a project (write the contract) and submit that information to KAWS. The project would be directed to the appropriate chapter coordinator. The chapter coordinator would review the project, sign it for approval, and the project would be entered into the system. This will allow everyone to track projects on line and should help eliminate confusion about a project's status.

Chapter Business- The Reed project is completed and paid. KAWS has allocated \$16,500 for each chapter for projects. This amount was later dropped to \$14,500 due to increased technical assistance costs. The PMT approved for the Cottonwood Falls Steam Stabilization Project in Chase County for \$9,422 and the

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)**Chapter Business**

Richard Sevina Project in Morris County for \$4,200.00. These projects will total \$13,622. As soon as these projects are entered online these projects can move forward. Tim discussed the need to formulate a new Plan of Action (POA) for FHC. Doug will place POA as a agenda item on the next meeting.

Tim and Doug reviewed the KAWS 10th Annual Meeting at Rock Springs and provided a quick overview of the partnering vision process that occurred. Chapters will be asked to participate in this visioning process.

Members Present- Sandy Koontz, Peggy Blackman, Ryan **Livengood**, Dale Kirkham, Paul Engle, Tim Christian, Brenda Nyberg

Upcoming Meetings/Training- WRAPS training on July 20, 2006 at Hunter's Hideout Lodge north of Emporia.

Stream Assessment Workshop in Florence August, 8 & 9, 2006.

No-Till Workshop, August 23, 2006 in Marion County.

Brush Mgmt. Workshop in Marion County, date and location TBA.

WRAPS Conference January 17 & 18, 2007.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

The Flint Hills Chapter will have their next meeting **September 26, 2006 in Emporia, NRCS conference room, 3020 W. 18th Suite B., at 10 a.m.** Paul Engle agreed to line up meeting location. Agenda and details will follow at a later date.