



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 Ingle, FH RC&D
Melvyn
Peggy Blackman,
WRAPS 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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September 26, 2006 Meeting

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Review minutes of last meeting- Doug reviewed minutes of the last Members did not have any changes.

FHC Project Review- Doug gave chapter members an update of the status of Flint Hills Chapter projects. The Cottonwood Falls Stream Stabilization project in Chase County and the Richard Sevina Stream Stabilization project in Morris County have gone out to bid. These two projects were bundled with other stream stabilization projects. TWI was the successful bidder. These projects should receive technical assistance to get them started in the near future.

Review of August BOD Meeting/New Fall BOD Meeting- Doug gave members a short overview of the August BOD meeting. The upcoming fall BOD meeting will be held in Great Bend on October 23 and a tour on October 24th. All chapter members are encouraged to attend these meetings and tour. A notice and agenda of the fall BOD meeting was recently sent out.

Project Ranking Criteria- Several chapter members had requested information on how KAWS ranked the projects for funding. A ranking sheet was passed out for members review and discussion. Members present felt like the system was good and requested no new changes.

Steering Committee- Discussion of current steering committee members and Doug asked the group if the chapter wanted more people on the steering committee. Everyone thought we could add one or two new steering chapter members, since FHC only has three. Most other chapters have five members. **Doug stressed the importance of the steering committee to make leadership decisions.**

Stream Stabilization Technical Service- KAWS is **working to secure** technical services for our stream bank projects. If a contract **cannot** be worked out these projects will be bid as a "package" to **reduce** individual bidding costs. The two FHC stream stabilization

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

Chapter Business

projects were handled that way. Once KAWS knows the average costs of TSP provider, we can better plan our allocated funds.

Plan of Action- Doug presented some ideas for a new plan of action for the chapter to consider. It was felt the old 2003 plan was too detailed and members wanted a more general plan for chapter function. Priorities are still education, demonstration projects, wetlands and riparian corridors. Doug will put together a new POA and send to members for review. Hopefully we can approve that POA at our next meeting.

Webmapper Training/Regional Chapter Meetings-Training on the new Webmapper is tentatively scheduled for December in Hutchinson and January in Ft. Scott. Doug felt we could combine a short, regional chapter meeting in conjunction with the Webmapper training. The Webmapper is an excellent tool for personal computers without purchasing expensive software. DASC is still adding layers and more layers will become available in the future. KAWS is working to get available information from different state and federal agencies to be available at one site. This will be a great and much needed "clearing house" for planning and project implementation.

Rock Channel Crossing Project- Chapter members and some invited guests from NRCS/USDA Area Office viewed the rock crossing CD. This project was a KELP project located on Big Creek, Middle Smoky Hill River watershed in Russell County.

Member Reports-Chapter members reported on activities and projects they were involved in. Meeting adjourned.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

KAWS Fall BOD Meeting and Fall Tour Oct 23rd & 24th in Great Bend

KACEE Meeting Nov 2&3 in Pittsburg

WRAPS Conference January 17&18, 2007, Wichita

Next chapter meeting will be announced when Webmapper training is locked in.