



# Glacial Hills Chapter

## Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

# Happenings

AUGUST 2002

### 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

Gary Satter, Glacial Hills RC&D  
Grey Wold, Potawatomi Nation  
Janice Eylar, NRCS  
Barb Oltjen, Wolf River Watershed  
Randy Whitaker, 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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## August 15 Meeting Review

### KAWS Coordinator's Report

**Review minutes of last meeting** – John went over the minutes from the last meeting held in June 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 soon to be available through the KAWS web site at [kswetlands.org](http://kswetlands.org). Folk could also call the KWO office at 785-296-3185 for a hard copy. A meeting with KDHE will occur on September 24th 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 last month in which discussions evolved 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. We should here the results on this soon.

Several of the items in the funding plan will be discussed at the KAWS fall

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

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 14th presentation and tour being provided by Mark Green.**

**Plan of Action Update** – A draft copy of a potential Plan of Action for 2002-2003 was sent out prior to the meeting. Comments from chapter members were included in the final draft. New additions were discussed and approved. If John doesn't here from anyone in the next two weeks, the document will be considered final. The group can chose to add or remove items as they see fit.

**Action Needed: Members need to let John know of any other changes to the plan in the next two weeks.**

**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](http://kswetlands.org) and provide comments to John or Tim.**

**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 coming up in September. KAWS will also be providing a presentation in October at the Wetlands 2002 conference in Indiana.

**Afternoon tour** – The afternoon tour was provided by Gary Radar and Susan Garrett of the Leavenworth County Conservation District. The group toured three urban sites within the urban area and discussed problems and concerns.

**We would like to thank Gary and Susan for organizing the meeting room and providing the tour.**

## Chapter Business

Each partner was allowed an opportunity to update the group on their activities. A couple of items that may be of interest to the other members included:

1. Barb discussed two new dams that the watershed district is trying to get underway this fall.
2. Gary updated the group on the new farm bill programs that are out. The EQIP program has over 11 million dollars available.
3. Farm Bureau has awards for natural resources and wetlands available for every county and encourages anyone to submit applications. They also have two rain simulators available to be checked out. They can be seen on their web site at [kfb.org/environmental](http://kfb.org/environmental) and look under environmental programs.
4. The next meeting will be held at Seneca with a tour of the Lake Nemaha wetland. The COE said that it is almost complete. John will work contact Eldon Schwant on a location.

## Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

### NEXT Glacial Hills Chapter meeting—October 24, Seneca

Nat. Res. Legacy Alliance meeting—8/24&8/25, Topeka  
Executive Committee meeting — 10/14 & 10/15, Topeka  
Flinthills Chapter Kickoff meeting — 10/2, El Darado

WRAPS meeting — 9/17 thru 9/19, Ottawa  
Topeka Water Festival—9/27, Topeka  
Wetlands 2002 Conference—10/7 thru 10/9, Indiana