



Glacial Hills Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

WEBSITE—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

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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December 19 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Review minutes of last meeting – John went over the minutes from the last meeting held in July 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 after the first of the year. 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 priority maps were passed out and discussed. A draft copy of the this map with the KDWP Biological priorities incorporated was also passed around and discussed. A second draft will be forwarded out to all partners for their input. 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 draft map to insure all priority areas are covered. John will get the map out by the first of the year.

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. There will also be staff dollars to help us meet the objectives of our long range plan.

The Ball Project submitted by Ron Briggs will be submitted for funding approval. More projects are needed right away from the Southeast Kansas Chapter if they are to be eligible for these funds.

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

Action needed: The group needs to actively seek out more projects and submit them to the group for 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 Corridor 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 will make an individual application for the PSGP which has about 1.4 million for the USFWS Region that Kansas is in. That averages out to about \$180,000 per state.

Update on KAWS activities – Upcoming meetings were discussed and are placed under the meeting section at the end of this document. The latest Resources newsletter was also discussed and John made extra copies available. A new issue should be out after the first of the year.

Two new chapters are currently underway. A kickoff meeting was held in El Dorado on October 2 with a

follow up meeting held on November 20. Another kickoff meeting was held in Hutchinson on November 4 for the south-central area.

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.

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 meeting with the COE on Jan. 14 to discuss a similar possibility within the Kansas Basin from Topeka to Kansas City.

We would like to thank Gary Satter for assisting us with the meeting location.

Chapter Business

1. Rick Davis with KDHE told the group that new regs were out on feedlots from EPA and could be found on their web site. He also explained that KDHE would be requiring the use of load reduction models when reporting on 319 grants. They are hoping that something similar can be used on all projects statewide.
2. Barb Oltjen told the group about the upcoming State Association of Kansas Watersheds meeting to be held in Topeka on January 23 and 24. She will provide the info to John and he will get it out to the rest of the group.
3. **The group chose to set the Chapter meeting dates for 2003. Those dates are February 18, May 20, August 19 and November 20. Please mark these dates on your calendar.**
4. The group would like to continue moving around to different counties within the chapter. John will contact the Atchison Conservation District to see if they will host our next meeting .

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Glacial Hills Chapter meeting—February 18

**Executive Committee meeting — February 4 and April 8
State Assoc of Watersheds meeting—Jan 23 and 24 , Topeka
Water and the Future of Kansas meeting—March 11**

**All Bird meeting—March 5 and 6, Salina
KAWS Spring meeting and tour—May 6-7
Water Summit—Feb 11, Topeka**