



Glacial 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

Gary Satter, Glacial Hills RC&D
Robertta Spencer, Jackson Co CD
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 12 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Review minutes of the last meeting – John provided a quick review of the items covered at the last meeting held September 14 at the Potawatomi Nation. All action items were completed.

WRAPS update — John provided a brief update of where the statewide process is. KAWS applied for demonstration project dollars in 14 different WRAPS areas through coordination with the WRAPS sponsors. A recommended funding amount has been supplied to the Natural Resources Sub-cabinet. If that level remains at the current reduced rate, KAWS will either have to eliminate planned projects or staff. A statewide WRAPS conference is planned for January 17-18 in Wichita and everyone is invited to attend.

Gary Satter provided an update on the Perry WRAPS process. Meetings have been held on a monthly basis around the watershed with a lot of good objectives being developed. They hope to have a draft plan out by February. No demo project funding is currently approved through WRAPS for the watershed.

John provided an update on the Middle and Lower Kansas WRAPS and passed out maps detailing the areas covered. Rick Davis has been hired as the coordinator for the Middle Ks with 4 meetings having been held to date. Both have been recommended for funding in 2007 at a reduced amount than was requested. More detailed information should be available at the next meeting once final offers have been made to KAWS.

Web Service Update – An update on the KAWS web based mapping service was provided. Additional training is planned on December 14 in Hutchinson and January 4 in Fort Scott.

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

There is limited space but anyone is welcome to attend as long as there is an opening.

The KDHE TMDL layer has been added as well as a new land cover layer and many of the Glacial Hills projects. A video helper is being added to help new users figure out how to utilize the site's tools.

Action Needed: Let John know if any changes or additions need to take place to the site, or if you are interested in attending the upcoming training

Chapter projects – All chapter projects were discussed. The Handlon Wetland, Askren, Messer and Brees projects are approved and underway. The Kehn and Roush projects have been cancelled and need to be removed from the chapter list. Other projects were discussed but not officially brought to the chapter at this time.

A new contract has been approved between KAWS and The Watershed Institute (TWI). They are requesting an increase, which is a maximum of \$6100 per project. At the new increased rates, KAWS will only be doing stream projects that are pre-approved. At this time, they will only be approved if there is a special need for it to be a demo in a new county or area. Stream projects are eligible for EQIP if they meet the farm use requirements. KAWS can help them rank out higher by putting in partner dollars. Do to the shortage of technical assistance dollars for stream projects, only a very limited number will be completed. Everyone is encouraged to seek this funding through EQIP if possible.

Chapter Business

Action Needed: John will update the project list and provide a copy with the minutes.

Watershed Improvement Grant (WIG) for the Delaware - KAWS received a Watershed Improvement Grant from the EPA to expand on the work done under the RGI grant. The Saving Money and Time publication will be printed for partners to use and special educational workshops will be held in the Delaware and Fall River watersheds. The Fecal Coliform Bacteria working group will be utilized to help lead the process. The Glacial Hills RC&D has signed a contract to carry out the required activities in the Delaware. Will Boyer will be hired to assist the RC&D with these activities. We ask that partners work with Gary and Will to help educate landowners in the watershed on these important management practices.

Action Needed: If you have workshops or meetings in the watershed, please contact Gary Satter for a presentation on the WIG grant

Habitat Team – John discussed the Habitat Team that has been formed in the 3 Rivers Chapter area. They recently formed a Habitat Improvement Team, which is comprised of representatives from local Pheasant and Quail Forever Chapters, Ks Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, Ks Department of Wildlife and Parks, Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, local Conservation Districts and Fort Riley. Habitat work will primarily be focused in Marshall, Washington, Clay, Riley, Geary, and Pottawatomie counties. The Habitat

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Glacial Hills Chapter meeting – March 8

Middle Ks WRAPS meeting – January 3
Flint Hills PF/QF banquet – January 26 in Manhattan
Statewide WRAPS Conference – January 17-18

Ks Graziers Assoc – January 20 in Assaria
KAWS Board meeting – March 6

Team will offer a variety of wildlife habitat improvement practices including strip disking, food plots, native grass planting, invasive species control, burning, and woody invasion control. Through programs such as EQIP, CRP mid-management practices, WHIP, and the Upland Bird Initiative these practices can be offered to landowners at very low or no cost.

The group had a lot of good discussion and felt that there were a couple of good options to pursue for this area. John Harrington, with Fort Leavenworth and local PF Chapter, will pursue an ORISE grant through the Fort similar to the one currently being utilized by Fort Riley. The Glacial Hills RC&D thought there might be potential to acquire a grant through other means as well.

Action Needed: John will hook John Harrington with proper staff at Fort Riley and help Gary research a potential grant to help fund a habitat team in this area.

Farm Bill – There are some significant reductions planned in their staff by 2008, which involves combining offices across the state. This will lead to an even greater need for technical assistance for new projects. We will be working on an MOU with NRCS to try and provide more technical assistance in the field as well as education on stream stabilization techniques. We are going to try and acquire 4 positions, one of which would work with Phil to learn the stream stabilization processes. The other positions would be utilized to provide technical assistance on KAWS, WRAPS and EQIP projects.

Update on KAWS activities – Lujeana Howell from Stockton has been hired to fill the marketing position and hopefully will make it to a future meeting so everyone can meet her. She has many good skills and should be very beneficial to the organization. Also Eric Johnson, part-time project

coordinator for KAWS and LIP coordinator with KDWP, has taken a new job. That position has been filled by Murray Laubhan. Project responsibilities will be transferred to him soon. His email is murrayl@wp.state.ks.us

The new KAWS online cost share system is being set up so that other groups and organizations can utilize it. Plans are to have it provide the necessary reports for grants to include project expenditures and load reduction information. A presentation on the system will be provided at the January WRAPS conference in Wichita.

Action Needed: If you are interested in utilizing the new online system for your group or organization, let John know.

Next meeting dates – The meeting dates have been set for the 2007. They are March 8, June 14, September 13 and December 13. Please place these on your calendar.

We would like to send out a special thanks to the Glacial Hills RC&D for hosting the meeting.