



# 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.

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### Steering Committee

Gary Satter, Glacial Hills RC&D  
Grey Wold, Potawatomi Nation  
Janice Eylar, NRCS  
Barb Oltjen, Wolf River  
Watershed  
Randy Whitaker, KDWP

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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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## February 14 Meeting Review

### KAWS Coordinator's Report

The meeting was held at the Kendall State Bank in Valley Falls. It began at 9 am with 7 people in attendance.

**Review minutes of the last meeting** – John provided a quick review of the items covered at the last meeting on September 16 held at the Leavenworth County Conservation District Office. All action items were completed.

**WRAPS update** — Gary Satter briefed the group on the Perry WRAPS process. They have interviewed for a coordinator and should have someone on board in the next couple of weeks. The kickoff meeting for the WRAPS was held in November of 2005 with a follow up meeting being held this afternoon. He hopes to compile a list of issues that need to be addressed within the watershed. Deb Baker will go over the Clinton WRAPS process and answer questions.

A map showing existing WRAPS projects was handed out and discussed. Then potential new WRAPS were discussed within the chapter area. The group felt like the Missouri Basin would be a good candidate for a WRAPS. Gary thought that the RC&D might be interested in pursuing it. He will discuss with the Board to see if they are interested. If not, KAWS may be able to sponsor the application.

**Action Needed: Gary and John will work together to try and ensure an application for a Missouri WRAPS is submitted this year.**

**GIS Mapping Potential for the Chapter Area** - John provided a briefing on the project. He covered the current GIS layers that would be involved in the process. A draft model should be out in the next couple of weeks or so for staff to review. A working draft should be out in March, we will kick it out for members to review before we finalize.

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

**Action Needed: John will get a draft out for members to review as soon as possible.**

**Chapter projects** – A list of current projects was passed out and discussed. The list had been sent out to the steering committee and prioritized.

John stated that the Board decided to allocate each of the 12 chapters \$16,500 to spend for this round of funding. This funding should be utilized on projects in counties that currently have none first, then to new project types in a county, with those in the high priority areas ranking the highest.

Since Mark Keehn and David Askren projects ranked the highest, they will go to the PMT for final approval. That left \$4900 for another project, but the next 3 projects on the list were over \$10,000 each. Roberta checked with the landowners to see if they were interested, but they were not. The next project on the list is Billy Skeet's stabilization project. Jerry will check to see if he will complete the project for the remaining dollars.

Two new projects were submitted and reviewed by the group. Roberta Spencer discussed the Roush fencing project and Jerry Wooley briefed us on the Bradford alternate waterer project.

**Action Needed: Jerry will check on the Skeet project and get back to John right away. If he is not interested, it will be offered to one of the new projects submitted today.**

**Chapter Business**

**Update on current grants and project dollars** – A briefing was supplied on all existing grants as well as new ones applied for. We should have about \$280,000 for projects next year. The plan is to distribute most of the dollars directly to chapters.

John also supplied a briefing on the RGI and the Upper Miss JV grants. The RGI grant closed at the end of October. The primary output was the Saving Time and Money booklet which can be found on the KAWS website under hot topics. A new grant application was submitted to the Upper Miss JV to develop a priority bird layer, which would be placed on the web service database along with the rest. That grant was not approved.

The first SCC/EPA grant is coming to a close and we need information to complete the final report. John will be sending out requests to sponsors that received funding to help provide this information soon.

John briefed everyone on all existing grants. The new SCC/EPA grant was approved this fall with \$100,000 provided for demonstration projects. The KDHE 319 grant will have about \$180,000 available for projects, but is not scheduled to be available until March. Since there is a large backlog of projects, many projects will not be funded until new funding can be found.

**New Plan of Action** – A draft Plan of Action reflecting the I70 Chapter goals and objectives was supplied and reviewed. The group was asked to review the draft and

**Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events**

**NEXT Glacial Hills Chapter meeting – May 9**

Water and the Future of KS – March 16  
Perry WRAPS meeting – March 14

KAWS Spring meeting – May 16-17

supply input by the first week of March. We will try to finalize a plan for this chapter at the next meeting.

**Action Needed: Members need to send input to John in the next couple of weeks.**

**Farm Bill** – John told the group that the Ks Technical Committee for EQIP recommended that the Smoky Hill and Kansas River be added into the priority area for stream stabilization. The Smoky Hill was added but the Kansas River was excluded for this year.

John provided a briefing on a workshop held in Geary County to focus on the Smoky Hill River. The workshop was held in November which resulted in 22 stream stab. projects to date. The group felt like it would be good to hold something similar in the Delaware.

A short briefing was also supplied on the CRP program and extension types that would be available. He also covered the new CSP areas for Kansas.

**Update on KAWS activities** – John passed out brochures and briefed everyone on the revolving fund that is being developed to expand our ability to go after larger grant sources and acquire more project dollars. Many of these grants require that the funds be spent first and then reimbursed. In order to do that, we will have to compile a large multi-million dollar funding source. He then explained the basics on how individuals, groups, agencies or organizations could assist. He stated that several conservation districts have contributed already and thanked them for their support.

He also discussed the KAWS Spring Meeting on May 16 and 17, which includes a partnering session. The session will be a follow up to the one held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the CPR Conference last fall. The objective will be to develop goals and objectives for the state on wetland and riparian issues. More

information on the meeting will be coming out soon.

**Next meeting dates** – The remaining meeting dates were set for 2006, they are May 9, August 8 and November 14. We will try to coordinate the next meeting in conjunction with a Perry WRAPS meeting. Please place these dates on your calendars.

**We would like to send out a special thanks to the Glacial Hills RC&D and the Kendall State Bank for hosting the meeting.**