



Glacial Hills Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

June 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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June 20 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Review minutes of last meeting – John went over the minutes from the last meeting held in April 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 three new projects were forwarded to the Project Management Team (PMT) and received final approval. Those projects included a 60 acre bottomland farm ground restoration (Southeast Kansas Chapter) in which portions would be put back into wetlands and the rest into native grass and trees. The other two would be in Butler County, one of which is a small wetland and the other a streambank stabilization project next to El Dorado Lake.

John also explained that the Elk Creek project for the I70 Chapter was under construction and should be completed by the end of summer. The Krainbill project for the 3 Rivers Chapter, along the Little Blue River, is scheduled for construction in July.

Mike McFadden provided an update of the Sac and Fox Project. He handed out the design and cost information. The total cost was a little over \$23,000 of which the Chapter is scheduled to fund \$15,000 through the grant.

Action Needed: Brad will take the design to the Tribal Council for approval and then provide their response to John. If approved, John will forward on to the PMT for their approval.

KDWP Stream Survey Information - A final copy of the KDWP biological summary was passed out and discussed. This information is available to anyone who wants a copy. He explained that they were working with KDWP and KDHE to get a statewide map that would prioritize HUCS based on biological information as well as TMDL. This will hopefully be completed this fall.

Action Needed: Members wanting a hard copy of the Biological Summary completed for the KWO/EPA Grant target areas, should contact the Kansas Water Office at 785-296-3185. John will work with Tim to get the document put on KAWS website at kswetlands.org.

Plan of Action Update – A draft copy of a potential Plan of Action for 2002-

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

2003 was passed out and discussed by item. Addition and changes were recorded.

Action Needed: John will make the changes to the document and send out to all members before the next meeting.

KAWS Statewide meeting in Pleasanton – The primary topic of discussion was the Long Range Plan for KAWS. The plan was emailed out to members prior to the meeting for review. Discussions revolved around the expansion statewide, funds needed and staff requirements to accomplish the goals and objectives of KAWS. John explained that the biggest challenge would be to come up with the matching dollars for grants acquired. He said that KAWS plans to have the Grant Coordinator on board by August.

After the Executive Committee meeting, a secondary meeting was held to discuss natural resource education. Presentations were provided by KACEE and Streamlink to bring everyone up to speed on their programs, costs and potential expansion plans. KAWS will be partnering with them to spread their programs statewide.

Action Needed: Everyone needs to look at their non-federal expenditures to see if they can be utilized for matching dollars for grants that will be acquired to fund chapter projects. If you have any ideas on this, contact Tim or John.

Update on KAWS activities – John explained a new grant application that had been submitted to EPA for consideration. It would supply an additional \$100,000 for projects and staff. Upcoming meetings were discussed and are placed under the meeting section at the end of this document. He also discussed a new format for Chapter minutes that Tim was using and had put on the website. The latest Resources newsletter was also discussed and John made extra copies available.

Afternoon tour – The afternoon tour began with a review of the Pheasants Forever project profile. Kelly Heisberger provided some background on the site and their future plans to use it for educational purposes. The group then toured the site which is located on the Rock Creek arm of Perry Lake. They are currently working to put in two small wetlands and associated trail with interpretive signage. The total cost is near \$50,000 of which they are asking KAWS to assist with \$12,000.

Action Needed: The project will be placed on the project list and John will begin looking for funding.

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. A position opening at Clinton Wildlife Area with KDWP. For more info, contact Ron Little at 785-273-6740.
2. Phase II of the Milford Wetlands Project is underway. Contracts have been put out to bid by the COE.
3. Pheasants Forever (PF) initiative. The PF initiative includes the hiring of Habitat teams which will be utilized to develop and maintain wildlife habitat. Contact Keith Brus with PF if you have questions concerning the habitat teams or know how you can partner with them on this great endeavor. **(785-468-0136)**

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Glacial Hills Chapter meeting—August 15

Southeast Kansas Chapter meeting — 6/27, Parsons
Flinthills Chapter Planning meeting — 7/2, El Darado
I70 Chapter meeting — 7/9, Prairie Center, Olathe

WRAPS meeting — 7/10, Topeka
Three Rivers Chapter meeting — 7/18, Riley Co. CD office
Executive Committee meeting — 8/1