



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
Roberta 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:

Tim Christian
KAWS State Coordinator
P.O. Box 236
McPherson, KS 67460-0236
(620) 241-6921, (620) 245-9618 (fax)
tdchristian@cox.net

John Bond
KAWS Chapter Coordinator
Box 414
Wakefield, Ks 67487
785-463-5804
johnloribond@yahoo.com

March 8 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 on December 12th in Valley Falls. All action items were completed.

WRAPS update — A statewide WRAPS conference was held on January 17-18 in Wichita. Several members reported on presentations they provided or attended. A new website for WRAPS is up and running, please check it out at www.kswraps.org

John provided a brief update of where the statewide process is at. KDHE is currently meeting with WRAPS sponsors to discuss approved funding and action plans. KAWS had \$150,000 for projects last year, but received a \$75,000 reduction in statewide 319 funds, so we will have around \$75,000 for projects sometime after June 1.

Gary Satter provided an update on the Perry WRAPS process. A draft of the WRAPS document has been developed and will be covered this afternoon at the Delaware WRAPS meeting. They plan to have a final document out in the next few weeks. 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. The Middle Ks has been approved at \$75,000 and we hope to use about \$20,000 for demo projects in the watershed. The Lower Ks was funded at \$60,000 and we expect to use \$10,000 for demo projects in that area. These funds should be available by June 1.

Action Needed: If you have projects in either of these WRAPS areas, send proposals to John so they can be

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

approval by the stakeholders.

Natural Resource Workshop – John passed out a draft agenda and discussed the workshop, which will be held as part of the KAWS Spring meeting on May 15 and 16. He covered each of the topics and asked for input. The group thought that it was a good list of topics and suggested that maybe we add in a topic covering new ethanol and energy opportunities for ag products.

Action Needed: John will finalize the Workshop agenda and get it out to everyone.

Waterers and Watering Handbook – John provided a presentation on the handbook that was supplied by Carol Blocksome. He also passed around a copy for the group to review. Most thought that it was an excellent document and requested that the link to the document be supplied along with the meeting minutes.

Action Needed: John will supply the link as part of the minutes when they are sent out

Update on Upland Bird Initiative (UBI) and Habitat Teams – Brochures were provided for both initiatives as well as a brief update. The two programs have been working very well together in the 3 Rivers Chapter Area. Gary Satter and John met with KDWP staff in Topeka and discussed the potential to use the UBI dollars as match for a grant to acquire funds for expansion of the UBI as well as starting up a new Habitat Team. KDWP is willing to allow the RC&D to put an application together for their

Chapter Business

review.

John Harrington at Fort Leavenworth has also been hooked up with Fort Riley staff and acquired a copy of the grant they received to hire staff for habitat work. They will be trying to apply for a similar grant to help accomplish habitat work in this area.

Action Needed: The RC&D will apply for a NFWF grant this spring, and if successful will apply for a Joint Venture grant this fall.

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 removed from the chapter list.

Dotti Harris had previously discussed the Hayworth project at the last meeting and sent a proposal, which John did not receive. So she will resend and John will get it out to the Steering Committee for approval and ranking.

Update on Current grants and project dollars – John discussed the current WPDG with EPA, and the new direction that KAWS has had to take with demonstration projects. The projects must be new to a large regional area and a monitoring component must be utilized. Also, as part of this grant, KAWS will be pulling together a team of partners to develop a Wetland and Riparian Plan (WARP) for the state. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please let John know.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Glacial Hills Chapter meeting – June 14

Missouri BAC meeting – March 16
KAWS Spring meeting – May 15-16
Range School – August 14-16 and 21-23

WRAPS Coordinators meeting – May 3
KLR BAC meeting – May 17

Gary Satter updated the group on the Watershed Improvement Grant (WIG) that the RC&D has contracted with KAWS to complete. The Saving Time and Money document should be back from the press in the next week or so. Plans are to hold educational meetings throughout the Delaware watershed over the next several months.

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

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 with NRCS and other partners to try and provide more technical assistance in the field, as well as education on stream stabilization techniques.

John provided a briefing on the changes being recommended for the new farm bill. There are plans to combine many of the programs and try to simplify the processes. There is a new site where you can keep track of the farm bill as it progresses (www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome)

Update on KAWS activities – 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 was provided at the January WRAPS conference in Wichita

The KAWS Spring meeting is scheduled for May 15-16 in Topeka. Please place the date on your calendar and plan to join us. The Board meeting will be held on the 15th with the Natural Resource Workshop on the 16th.

More details will be coming soon!

Next meeting dates – The meeting dates have been set for 2007. They are June 14, September 13 and December 13. The group would like to begin having the meetings in conjunction with the Delaware WRAPS meetings. Please place these dates on your calendar.

Action Needed: John will try to coordinate the next meeting with the Delaware WRAPS meeting.