



Glacial Hills Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

October 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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October 24 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Project Overview—The meeting began with an update of the local golf course wetland project from Dave Hollis. The group felt that it would make a good community demo project. Dave will supply the group a firm cost estimate for the project so they can add it to the project list and prioritize.

Review minutes of last meeting – John went over the minutes from the last meeting held in August 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 there were currently 7 educational projects underway. Five projects have been completed except for native plantings that will be done in the spring. A youth educational program is underway with Streamlink known as the Stream Steward program. They were contracted to coordinate an educational program at the Elk Creek Wetland project at Clinton Wildlife area. The concept is to bring students and teachers to the site for environmental educational and hopefully encourage them to return each year to provide the same program without needing help from agencies or organizations.

Two meetings were held with Raju, EPA grant coordinator, to tour existing projects and discuss the progress of the existing grant as well as the new application. The meeting was very positive and helped improve communication between the partners. Modifications are currently being made to the new grant and will be submitted soon. The request of \$200,000 more dollars for demo projects is being considered by EPA. Success of the grant should be known in the next couple of months.

A meeting with KAWS, KDHE, KDWP and KWO occurred on September 24 at the KDHE office in Topeka to discuss a statewide target area map. The goal was to combine the KDWP biological info with the TMDL information compiled by KDHE. A draft TMDL map was developed by KDHE to discuss at the meeting. Everyone felt that it was an excellent map and that the KDWP info could be added. KDHE will provide an electronic copy of the map to KDWP to add the biological info to it. A draft should be completed in the next month. The draft will be circulated to all partners for their review before it is finalized.

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

KDHE Grant Update - John discussed the current funding plan that had been provided by KDHE. If all goes as planned, there should be \$50,000 available for projects sometime in November. The remaining projects dollars should come after the first of the year.

Long Range Funding Plan— John gave a quick overview of the plan and told everyone that Drue Durst had been hired as our Administrative/Marketing person who would be coordinating our grants and assisting Tim with other duties. Plans are to hire another Chapter Coordinator this fall to take over the existing western chapters and one more in the early spring to take over the southeast chapters.

An application to Upper Miss. Great Lakes Joint Venture has been submitted. The request was for \$50,000 to help fund education on the JV expansion as well as fund \$25,000 in projects.

A meeting with Harold Klaege, state conservationist for NRCS, had taken place in July with discussions evolving around how KAWS could assist with implementation of the new Farm Bill. KAWS submitted a proposal, in conjunction with Streamlink, to provide educational products for WRP, WHIP and EQIP. KAWS signed an agreement for \$75,000 to complete a publication and video for WRP and coordinate education meetings on the farm bill around the state.

Plan of Action—Due to time limitations, this discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

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.

Two new chapters are underway, one in the Flinthills

Region of southeast Kansas and one in the Wichita/Hutchinson area. John also updated the group on the fall meeting and tour held in Topeka.

Presentations on KAWS have been provided to the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance in Topeka as well as the Wetlands 2002 Conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Tour of Nemaha Wetland Project—Valorie Hanson with the COE supplied a brief overview of the project prior to lunch. She also updated everyone on the existing COE programs which supply project funding. The group stopped at several sites around the project after lunch and discussed development strategies. Everyone agreed it was an excellent project and would provide many benefits in the future.

We would like to thank Eldon Schwant for assisting with the meeting location and tour. We would also like to thank Anita Hieman and Val Hanson for providing insight into the Nemaha project.

Chapter Business

1. The two new grant programs coming through the US Fish and Wildlife Service were discussed and John explained that KAWS would be working with KDWP to acquire some grant funds.
2. The new farm bill was discussed with potential for Kansas. John explained that the Harold Klaege would like to work as partners with everyone to get the most out of the farm bill for Kansas. Everyone felt that technical assistance should be a number one priority. They also felt that stream-bank stabilization should be one of the primary focuses. There is a big back log of these types of projects. KAWS will maintain an open Cooperative Agreement with NRCS to assist where possible.
3. The next meeting will be held at Valley Falls with discussions to include a large area-wide meeting to attract new participants.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Glacial Hills Chapter meeting—December 19

Nat. Res. Legacy Alliance meeting—11-18, Chanute
Lower Ark Chapter Kickoff meeting — 11/4, Hutchinson
KACEE Annual meeting—November 1-2, Atchinson

Executive Committee meeting — February
KAWS Spring meeting and tour—May 6-7
KACD meeting— November 23-24, Wichita