



# 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  
Roberta Spencer, Jackson Co CD  
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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## September 14 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 May 9 held at the Kendall State Bank. All action items were completed.

**WRAPS update** — John provided a brief update of where the statewide process is at. There have been over 6 million dollars worth of applications for the 2 million available. KAWS applied for demonstration project dollars in 14 different WRAPS areas through coordination with the WRAPS sponsors. In the Glacial Hills area, KAWS applied for \$25,000 in project dollars and \$25,000 in technical assistance dollars for Perry, \$50,000 for the Middle Kansas and \$50,000 for the Lower Kansas. We will hopefully know if we were approved in the next several months. Funds will not be available until sometime next spring. A statewide WRAPS conference is planned for January 17-18 in Wichita and everyone is invited to attend.

Marlene Bosworth and 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 the end of this year.

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 the first two stakeholder meetings to be held on September 20 and 27. The first one will be held in Topeka and the second in Wamego. Everyone is invited to attend and provide input.

**Web Service Update** – An update on the KAWS web based

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

mapping service was provided. Training classes were held in July in Lawrence and Great Bend. Addition training is planned this fall.

**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** - The top 3 projects on the list, Keehn and Askren alternate water sites, and the Roush fence project have been approved. The Roush fence project was cancelled as well as two older projects, the McNulty and Douglas. The group chose to use those dollars to fund the Rickel alternate water project. If the Rickel project does not come through, then the Jackson Co CD will decide between the Messer or Brees projects. Randy Whitaker briefly discussed a wetland project he was working on and he will get a project proposal in right away.

A new contract is being worked on between KAWS and The Watershed Institute (TWI). They are requesting an increase, which is about double that of past years. 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

**KAWS Online Contract System** - Since the SCC will no longer run KAWS projects through their CSIMS system, KAWS has developed a similar system that is developed and being utilized. Handouts were provided showing existing contracts and payments that had been completed through the system. The 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.

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

**Update on current grants and project dollars** – No new project dollars have been acquired at this time for projects. KAWS did receive 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.

**Action Needed: If you know of anyone who might be interested in working under this grant, please let us know.**

**Farm Bill** – John provided an update on the EQIP stream projects that were approved for last year as well as this year. The SCC will now focus their Wetland and Riparian dollars on these projects to try and

## Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

### **NEXT Glacial Hills Chapter meeting – To be held in conjunction with a Perry WRAPS meeting**

National Hunting and Fishing Day – Sept 23  
Fall Forestry Field Day – October 12  
KAWS Fall Meeting and Tour – October 23-24

Middle Ks WRAPS meeting – Wamego on Sept 27  
Bradley Ranch Field Day – October 19  
Statewide WRAPS Conference – January 17-18

keep the landowners share to a minimum. Stream projects should go through EQIP if they are eligible. It is the best deal for the landowner at this time, especially for the larger projects.

John also discussed a meeting that was held between NRCS state staff and KAWS. 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 education as well as staff in the field to help take up the slack.

**New Plan of Action** – A revised draft Plan of Action was reviewed by the group. If no further comments are received in the next couple of weeks, it will be considered final.

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

**Steering Committee** – Since Greg Wold has left, the group decided to add a new steering committee member. Roberta Spencer was nominated and has received approval from the District Board.

**Action Needed: John will add Roberta to the Steering Committee list.**

**Update on KAWS activities** – John discussed staff changes that have taken place in the last few months. Doug Blex had been recently hired to take Jeff Ruckert's position in Southeast Kansas. Drue Durst has taken a new position, leaving KAWS with a marketing coordinator position open. Lujeana Howell from Stockton has been hired to fill that 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 will hopefully

be filled in October, with John covering in the meantime.

**Next meeting dates** – Since we had to reschedule this meeting, the next chapter meeting will be held in conjunction with a Perry WRAPS meeting. The group would like for the Chapter to consider holding chapter meetings in conjunction with all WRAPS meetings once the plan development process is over and the stakeholder team is meeting periodically.

**Action Needed: John will coordinate the meeting place and location with Marlene and let everyone know**

**We would like to send out a special thanks to Carl Matousek and the Potawatomie Nation for hosting the meeting.**