



Lower Ark Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

LAC 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 Cramer, K-State
RE**

**Vaughn Weaver, City of
Wichita**

**Ron Graber,
Watershed Spec.**

**Brenda Peters,
McPherson CD**

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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KAWS State Coordinator
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September 19, 2006 Meeting

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Review Minutes of Last Meeting- Doug reviewed the minutes of the last meeting. Members did not have any changes. The chapter meeting was held at the Sedgwick County Extension Building in Wichita. Tim Christian, KAWS State Coordinator attended this meeting.

Lower Ark Project Review- Doug gave chapter members an update of the status of the LAC projects. They are as follows: Fisher Wetland, Rice County, construct two wetlands for a KAWS cost share of \$2,816.00; Sanders Wetland, Reno County to install a pipeline to enhance flow to a seasonal wetland and provide fencing to exclude livestock for a KAWS cost share of \$5,842.00; Thompson Wetland, Reno County will provide a water control structure and dikes for a 7.2 acre wetland for a KAWS cost share of \$5,842.00. The Sanders and Thompson projects have been approved by the PMT, but the project originator is working with program costs with the producers. The Fisher project is completed and is ready for final payment.

Review of August BOD Meeting/Upcoming Fall DOB- Chapter member were given a short overview of the August 10 BOD meeting. The upcoming fall BOD meeting and tour will be held in Great Bend on October 23rd and a tour on October 24th. All chapter members are invited to attend these meetings and tour. Agenda and details will be sent out.

Project Ranking Criteria- Several chapter members had requested information on how KAWS ranked projects for funding. A ranking sheet was passed out for members review and discussion. Members felt like the system was good and requested no new changes. Chapter members felt like they wanted to see more detail on project applications for selecting projects. This should include BMPs and overall conservation benefits.

Membership Issues- Gary Cramer indicated that he would like to see KAWS find a specific niche to specialize in. Discussions around the table indicated that streambank stabilization projects seem to have the

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greatest need for KAWS expertise; however our overall goals and mission include many other areas. Gary indicated he would like to see more attendance at meetings. Urban issues and projects may be an avenue to increase awareness for KAWS partnerships.

KAWS Online Project Application System- The new KAWS online project cost share is now up and running. Once a project is approved for funding by the chapter and PMT, the project originator can enter data and information about a project online (write a contract) and submit that information to KAWS. The project will be directed to the appropriate chapter coordinator. The chapter coordinator will review the project; sign for approval and the project will be entered into the system. This will allow everyone to track projects online and help eliminate any confusion about a project's status. Fisher, Sanders and Thompson projects have been entered into the new system.

KAWS Online Payment System- A new KAWS system allows for a project to be submitted for payment through the new online system. Original receipts and landowner signatures (contract) are required. Before the project is complete or a partial payment requested, the project originator submits to the chapter coordinator for pre-approval. Once the project is pre-approved, the project originator sends in the original receipts and signed contract for final approval and payment.

Webmapper Training-Webmapper training will be offered in Hutchinson in mid-December, an exact date has not yet been established. DASC is adding new layers that will be accessible through the personal computer without the need to purchase any expensive software.

Chapter Business

KWO Basin Advisory Nominations- Chapter members were encouraged to submit names for serving on the various basin advisory committees in their chapter areas. Nominations need to be in by October 15 for the first round.

Member Reports- A round table discussion of what was happening with each of the members and the affiliate agencies was presented. Time did not permit the viewing of the Livestock Rock Crossing CD. Meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

Next Lower Ark Chapter Meeting to be set with Webmapper Training in mid-December.