



LOWER ARK CHAPTER

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

WEBSITE – WWW.KSWETLANDS.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

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 26, 2007

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The Lower Ark Chapter held the quarterly meeting at USDA Service Center in McPherson, KS on September 26, 2007. Big thanks to Brenda Peters for hosting this meeting and taking the minutes.

Doug reviewed the minutes of the last meeting on June 19, 2007; no changes were made to the minutes.

Lower Ark Project Review- The Sam Sanders Project is complete and payment has been processed. The Thompson Project for a wetland, water control structures, and dikes is almost complete. A new project request has come in for a water well, solar pump, tank and fencing that would help control E.coli and sediment in Anthony City Lake. This project would remove cattle from a creek pool that is back water from Anthony Lake. KAWS would partner in this project with Harper County CD, Sunflower RC&D and the City of Anthony. Funding request from KAWS is \$1,756.25. This project will include some Stream Team project monitoring from upper level biology students from Chaparral High School. The group will provide a before project sample and sample report for the two years following project completion. Gary Cramer raised several questions about the length of fencing, monitoring protocol, and overall benefits. Doug will take the project back to Terry Hodgson for more clarification. Overall the steering committee felt like it was a good project to be a partner in. Doug will put out revised project to steering committee and then take this project to PMT for approval at the November board meeting.

Review of BOD and CPR III Conference- Doug noted that the KAWS BOD may expand from 9 to 11 members. KAWS BOD is currently advertising for an Executive Director position to be filled by January 1, 2008. Doug covered the CPR III conference agenda. Deb Baker remarked at the excellent quality of speakers at the CPR III conference.

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

Chapter Business

KAWS Chapter Structure/WRAPS Funding-

The group spent considerable time discussing how the LAC would function under the new funding guidelines of going through individual WRAPS. The group talked about options of aligning chapter boundaries along watersheds and trying to fund projects outside local WRAPS boundaries. In FY08 any funding for projects must come through the local WRAPS groups, if we have a project outside the WRAPS watershed, the project would not be eligible for funding. Several members felt KAWS should try to secure funding from other sources, such as private monies to be able to partner in those areas not funded or covered by a WRAPS group. The group also discussed the value of the KAWS chapters and steering committee if all projects must go through the local WRAPS. Chapter meetings were also discussed and whether we should try two chapter meetings per year or tag along with local WRAPS meetings. The problem seems to be the WRAPS watershed boundaries just do not fit very well into the KAWS chapter/county boundaries. It was the consensus of the group that KAWS should focus on streambank, riparian areas and wetlands. The group also discussed whether KAWS should focus on I&E projects only or be a partner in funding implementation projects. Most everyone felt that funding the projects opens more opportunity for partners. As a final issue, the group felt that KAWS should maintain the status quo for the next 8 months or so until they see if they are going to be funded.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

Next Meeting Date- January 16, 2008, 10 AM at the Water Center in Wichita, KS. Ed Miller Threatened and Endangered Species Biologist from Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will be presenting an outstanding program on fresh water mussels in Kansas. If you have not seen Ed Miller's program, you are in for a treat!! Don't miss this one!!