



Mid-Plains Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

AUGUST 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

Greg Henderson, NRCS, Kinsley
Craig Curtis, KDWP, Dodge City

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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May 7 Meeting Review

Artificial Wetland Treatment Systems Lauded

Dan Curtis, Central Prairie RC&D coordinator, Great Bend, delivered a slide presentation on artificial wetland systems he has helped with in his work in Alabama and other states. He noted numerous successes for systems designed to cover households as well as municipal and industrial applications. These systems hold great promise for use in a wide range of applications. Curtis discussed the design considerations, installation, maintenance, and costs of these systems. He noted a demonstration application the RC&D is sponsoring to showcase the technology. He has hopes that this innovative and environmentally-friendly technology can be widely used to remedy waste water issues. For more information, contact Curtis at 620.792.6224 or e-mail dan.curtis@ks.usda.gov.

The **State Conservation Commission** sponsored stream training held June 4-7, Manhattan, and June 10-11, Kingman. Several nationally known experts presented and the last two days were a demonstration of a continuous berm machine used to make sand-filled bendway weirs in Kingman County on the South Fork Ninnescah River. See photos on page 2.

KAWS Coordinator's Report

**Next
Mid-Plains
Chapter meeting
September 5,
9:30 a.m., USDA Conf.
Room, 900 W. Front St.,
Dodge City.**

Tim Christian, KAWS state coordinator, provided an update on activities noting the upcoming KAWS annual meeting May 15-16 in Pleasanton. He covered the funding situation for KAWS highlighting the Kansas Water Office/EPA Wetlands Protection Program grant where \$160,000 has been earmarked for demonstration projects in 8 of the 12 river basins in the state. He noted that 3 projects had been approved by the Project Management Team to date and that at least 2 more

will be considered at the annual meeting. Tim would like for the MPC to identify a suitable project for consideration. Each demo is being funded up to \$15-20,000. He noted that several of the previously listed projects could be potentials.

Tim covered the upcoming Year-Three budget for the KS Department of Health and Environment 319 Incremental Grant. If fully funded, it will provide \$300,000 for projects and will add a staff person or two. He noted other potential funding sources through EPA's WQCA and the Playa Lakes Joint Venture as well as a second phase of the KWO/EPA grant for another \$175,000 in demonstration projects. The discussion expanded to cover the long-term funding for KAWS and its activities. Tim indicated the Executive Committee will be approving a long-term funding plan in Pleasanton.

Administratively, Tim asked about the new Chapter newsletter, **Happenings**, and its effectiveness – in the mailing and on the web site. He handed out the mailing list for editing. The group determined that each county conservation district would see that the meeting summaries and other correspondence are provided to interested individuals, agencies, and organizations. Tim will continue mailing to Extension, County Commissions, City Commissions, and other key contacts. Administratively. He noted that he had not updated the Chapter project profile and activity forms yet, but will do so. He handed out the chapter member forms for consideration.

Tim said that the Lee Richardson Zoo has prepared a project request for submittal to the Playa Lakes Joint Venture for \$25,000 to complete some display planning on their new "Waters of Kansas" exhibit. He has worked with Kathy Sexson to complete the application. PLJV Board meets in June to conduct business. This is the first project submittal for the Buffalo Wallow Chapter.



The continuous berm machine creates a magnetic field (not really) for those helping with the demonstration in Kingman County in June.

SCC photos

Once filled and stapled closed, the bag is placed in the stream. Bags are layered to form a weir. This system may work quite well for sandy-bottom stream systems common to western Kansas.



Bob Mosier, Greensburg, welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the history of the community and its natural resource issues prior to moving into Chapter business.



After lunch, several people toured the Greensburg City Lake after lunch with Bob Mosier, center, to discuss potential for wetland and riparian projects. The KDWP public lands staff will see what enhancements might be considered.

Greg Henderson asked for member updates:

Ron Tema, NRCS, reviewed the status of the storm-water runoff project north of Dodge City that the group toured in late 2001. He thinks the City is interested in pursuing the project for funding and will have a project request at the next meeting. He also discussed the interest of a small feedlot operator in doing wetland cell work as he re-applies for his permit.

Bob Frisbie, K-State RE, indicated that Bob Price, Deerfield, is working with him on a wetland cell to treat a sheep lot on his property. He also covered the interest expressed by a small truck wash as well as drainage ditches along US 400 Highway.

Scotty Baugh, KDWP, covered TMDL issues for Ford Co. above Ford County Lake and packer punch material water. Discussion ensued.

Greg Henderson, NRCS, discussed interest from Soil and Water Conservation Society Chapter in helping install willow stake treatments along the Arkansas River in Edwards County. These sites were toured in March 2002.

Other issues needing attention at a future meeting – Playa Lakes Joint Venture educational materials (trunk resources), new PLJV staff, and further updating the mail list.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Mid-Plains Chapter meeting— September 5, USDA Conference Room, 900 W. Front St., Dodge City, KS.

Buffalo Wallow Chapter , August 28, Garden City
StreamLink Blue Tie Social, September 13, Emporia
Flint Hills One-Day Seminar, October 2, El Dorado

KAWS Fall Tour/Executive Committee, October 14-15, Topeka
Lower/Little Ark One-Day Seminar, late October, TBA
KACEE Annual Meeting, November 1-2, Atchison