



Mid Plains 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

Greg Henderson

Greg.Henderson@ks.usda.gov

Craig Curtis

craigc@wp.state.ks.us

Ron Temaats

Ron.temaats@ks.usda.gov

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:

Tim Christian

KAWS State Coordinator
P.O. Box 236

McPherson, KS 67460-0236
(620) 241-6921, (620) 245-9618 (fax)
tdchristian@cox.net

Linda Hauder

KAWS Chapter Coordinator
304 Anne Street
Larned, KS 67550
(620) 285-6896

Linda_Hauder@myvine.com

August 27, 2003 Meeting Review

Chapter Business

The MPC met at the USDA Service Center in Dodge City on August 27, 2003. Greg Henderson opened the meeting with introductions and a welcome. Present were Henderson, Lonnie Fehrenbacher, Stacy Neilson, Linda Hauder, Ron Temaats, Scotty Baugh, Craig Curtis, guest from KDWP, and Tim Christian.

Tim provided a KAWS update and introduced Linda Hauder as the new western chapter coordinator. She officially starts September 1, but she is traveling with Tim the next three days to meet with chapters.

Linda took a few moments to introduce herself to the group. With an extensive background in non-profit work and marketing, Linda came to the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams after working as a Health Initiatives Specialist with the American Heart Association. Linda is very excited by the opportunities and challenges that lie before her as a Chapter Coordinator for KAWS.

Greg asked for member updates.

Craig Curtis, KDWP – provided an update on the Playa Lakes Easement Program (PLEP) indicating that the funds for this year had been split between the NW and SW KDWP regions. Matt Bain, biologist in Colby, has all his funds committed enrolling several playas with one landowner. Craig has committed all his funds for the year, too. He noted that KDWP is looking to expand the PLEP through a number of options.

Ron Temaats, NRCS – noted that the Herron Playa project construction work is completed. He said that 148 acre-feet of water can be pumped from a well converted from agriculture to recreation to ensure that the basin will have water. Craig noted that he and others are meeting with Secretary Mike Hayden to review the Herron project next week. He asked if still photos are available to use in that presentation. Tim will provide photos for him from video shot.

Scotty Baugh, KDWP – noted that the Department is applying for US FWS Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) funds to provide additional money for the PLEP. Staff is meeting to discuss soon.

There was a lengthy discussion on the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program and its potential in the region noting some programmatic issues that local staffs are facing.

Project profiles:

Ron Temaats presented a project for funding back in April that the

Coordinator's Report

Much has happened since March when we last met. The Board met in April and May, then again in July. We have made numerous decisions and are moving forward rapidly to cover the state with chapters. We hope to have that goal completed by late spring 2004.

The Board determined to adopt the statewide priority map after discussion with all our federal and state partners at the April 8 meeting. The map is the TMDL and Priority Habitat (layers) made up from KDHE and KDWP information. It will become part of the State Water Plan to help direct wetland and stream activities. The Board also approached KWO about managing the conference required as part of their EPA grant. KWO completed a sole source provider contract for KAWS to complete the conference on their behalf. The conference was planned and put on August 5-7 in Overland Park.

The Board re-structured and added two new members at the May meeting. They also revamped the Advisory Committee. We are incorporating and filing for IRS not-for-profit status. We had an interesting annual meeting in Great Bend with a good tour of The Nature Conservancy property adjacent to Cheyenne Bottoms.

In July, the Board approved hiring two new chapter coordinators – one for western KS and one for southeast and south central KS. We have moved forward on placing two new staff – the new western KS coordinator, and the new southeast/south central coordinator.

The KWO EPA grant required the completion of a statewide implementation plan for wetlands and riparian areas. The draft was completed for public input and used at the August conference.

Our conference was held with over 100 average attendance per day. The speakers and Tuesday's tour were all excellent. Local projects were featured on day 2 with wetland and stream experts speaking in day 3.

We completed shooting video on the Wetlands Reserve Program show we are producing for NRCS and we plan to produce it in early September. We are also working on a print publication and several other pieces on WRP.

We have collected video for our Playa Lakes Joint Venture product, too. We need to finish it by later this fall.

Financially, we are situated currently with over \$700,000 in project funds and staffing five positions.

Grants: Project dollars shown

USFWS Private Stewardship Grant Program \$250,000 (declined)

KWO WPP '00 - \$155,000 about \$20,000 not spent but committed

KWO WPP 02 - \$180,000 (approved and KAWS sole source)

\$90,000 additional through SCC and KWO

SCC WPP 03 - \$129,000 (declined)

US FWS CCI - \$75,000 (approved)

PLJV educational grant \$7,750 for PLEP promotion

KDHE 319 Incremental Year 3 (a) - about \$30,000 spent

KDHE 319 Incremental Year 3 (b) – over \$200,000 (available now)

EQIP EA funds – for on-going education

PLJV coordination funds - \$20,000 spent for CY 2003, \$20,000 requested

FMC Habitat Project - \$150,000 (requested to match KDHE grant)

Chapter Business (cont. from page 1)

Chapter acted on. It is the Fischer riparian protection project at Howell. He provided an overview of the project costs and outcomes. This project will establish a grass buffer along the north side of the Arkansas River near the Howell elevator. Work includes permanent fencing (2.5 miles) and grass seeding (15 ac.), plus redesigning three center pivot irrigation systems to prevent them from encroaching on the River. Costs are \$21,250 with KAWS picking up \$7,625. The Chapter approved it and prioritized it for new KDHE funds that KAWS has available.

Tim reviewed the current grants and asked that projects be identified and brought to the Chapter soon for consideration. He noted that the \$200,000 in KDHE 319 funds has to be spent by June 30, 2004, so the work needs to start by early spring at the latest to meet the deadline. He reviewed the guidelines for each fund source.

Tim discussed new funding ideas and strategies that KAWS is considering. He provided an overview of the US Army Corps of Engineers 206, 1335 and Congressional authority projects noting interest in the Kansas-Lower Republican basin and the Smoky Hill River to apply for these funds. He also noted changes at the Kansas Water Office and the plans to fund work that protects public water supply reservoirs and other public water supply sources. He covered several other grant op's that KAWS is looking at for potential project funds. Tim passed around a draft KAWS cooperative agreement that the Board is reviewing for use. It allows for KAWS to enter into easements with landowners to enhance existing programs such as CCRP or PLEP, or to provide a stand-alone easement for riparian or wetland protection. The concept is approved by KDHE for limited use and Tim encouraged the group to look for a good candidate to enroll in the next few months. Overall, the concept is not funded but KAWS will shop it around to find funds.

The group set the next meeting date for October 21 in Dodge City and they will tour a couple of potential project sites.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT:

Mid Plains Chapter Meeting

October 21, 9:30 a.m.

USDA Service Center, 900 West Frontview, Dodge City KS

