



Mid-Plains Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

December 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:

Tim Christian

KAWS State Coordinator
P.O. Box 236
McPherson, KS 67460-0236
(620) 241-6921, (620) 245-9618 (fax)
tdchristian@cox.net

John Bond

KAWS Chapter Coordinator
P.O. Box 414
Wakefield, KS 67487
(785) 485-2617 phone and fax
johnloribond@yahoo.com

November 6 Meeting Results

Member Update—Chapter Business

Greg Henderson – The local SWCS chapter will be completing several stream bank stabilization projects this spring on the Arkansas River (after consulting with Phil Balch, SCC, at an earlier chapter tour). He needs to line out the details and publicize the workday. He noted that he had scheduled an interview with Larry Leith for Tim to discuss the playa easement program across he recently enrolled. He covered several details on the Coon Creek watershed project which was to be the focus of the day's meeting.

Ron Tema – The City of Dodge City is interested in pursuing several storm water-related projects. Dennis Haag, TTEMI, will be scheduled to discuss those when he is out looking at Coon Creek. He noted another potential project near the Nazarene Church in Dodge City. And, he noted that he had several interested landowners for the playa easement program.

Scotty Baugh – The Herron Playa project is still in limbo as the water right application needs to be re-filed. Discussion ensued with Ron and others on the others on the guidelines under the Conservation Reserve Program for practice installation. Scotty indicated that he would take any help offered to see this project move forward. He also noted that there

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Next Mid-Plains Chapter meeting

January 7 at 9:30 a.m.
Bucklin National Bank,
Bucklin, KS

KAWS Fall Tour

Over 40 people attended the Fall Tour held in Topeka on October 14. The tour was hosted by Mark Green, City of Topeka. The group viewed several innovative projects designed to help treat stormwater.

KAWS Executive/Steering Committee meeting highlights held October 15

Steve Swaffar, KFB, discussed the Farm Bureau's award programs noting the Natural Resource Award winners. He asked for KAWS to help with ideas for expanding the Wetlands Conservation Award noting that only two counties have used the award over the past two years.

Swaffar provided an overview of the work of the KS Natural Resources Legacy Alliance. **Barth Crouch**, PF, discussed the status of the PF Habitat Teams and the need for funding to get started in Kansas. The Teams will serve to help landowners put practices on the ground

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

including grass and tree plantings, fencing, and the like. Barth also covered the Playa Lakes Joint Venture draft Super CREP plan which is designed to protect 10 percent of the playas in the affected states amounting to about 100,000 acres. **Joe Kramer**, KDWP, discussed deer management issues, chronic wasting disease concerns, and other Department priorities. He outlined the playa easement program status. KDWP has enrolled a total of 87 acres containing 49 acres in playa lakes in 5 separate playas in 3 counties in western Kansas. There is a total of 44 acres of buffer strips scheduled for establishment to protect the playas. Additional contracts are pending and there are additional applications to consider. The additional applications total nearly 300 acres of playas and buffers with a potential dollar value over the 10-year life of the contracts of \$120,000.00. **Don Snetten**, KDHE Watershed Management, provided an update on water quality and KDHE efforts. He noted that the federal fiscal year 2002 funds from EPA Region 7 for the 319 Incremental NPS Pollution Control Program have \$461,000 earmarked for KAWS per our request. The funds should be accessible after they are awarded from EPA in early 2003 calendar year. He discussed the details of the EPA Watershed Initiative noting that several are being formulated for the Governor's review. They are the Marais des Cygnes in KS/MO, Cheney Lake/Wichita, Blue River in KS/MO, and the Blue River in KS/NE. **Damien Miller**, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program State Coordinator, reviewed the Partners program in Kansas covering staffing, funding and challenges. **Rod Egbarts**, NRCS Programs Staff, provided an overview of several USDA programs including WHIP, Farmland Protection Program (FPP), and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). A quick summary includes WRP for 2002 - \$370,000 committed in 9 contracts covering 830 acres; WHIP totals 265 contracts on 47,000 acres committing \$1.1 million and FPP which is new for KS has one easement held by the Nature Conser-

vancy in Butler County. Rod discussed how KAWS can help promote these programs through active education and noted our CO-OP agreement to provide educational materials on WRP.

The Flint Hills seminar was held with 40-plus attendees on October 2 with a follow up meeting soon, and the Lower/Little Ark seminar was held on November 4 with 48 people attending. A follow up meeting will be set for December. KAWS will have nine chapters covering close to 75 percent of the state once these groups form.

Chapter Business *(continued from page 1)*

there are six sites in process in Scott and Clark Counties as well as Edwards County for the playa easement program.

Lonnie Fehrenbacher – Pawnee County has several recent CCRP enrollments including shallow water areas and marginal pasture. He has a riparian buffer on cropland and he noted that he has a candidate for the playa easement program. There are several projects pending and he described the need for a tree planting team as a number of the projects involve thousands of trees.

Marsha Bagby – The updated FEMA flood plain maps have recently been completed under contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers. She mentioned that the City is determining the course of action on a diversion project that has been in the works for some time.

The group determined that a meeting will be set with Dennis Haag, TTEMI, at 1:00 p.m. on November 12. Tim discussed the need to identify and get any projects approved under the KWO/EPA Wetland Protection Program grant. Tim also noted the new KDHE 319 Incremental grant funds received by KAWS included \$50,000 for projects and that members should be looking for projects needing funding under this grant as well. Details on application and limits should be available in January.

Discussion ensued on the western Kansas KAWS workshop to be held in late February or early March. Topics and speakers were reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Mid-Plains Chapter meeting— January 7, 9:30 a.m., Bucklin National Bank, Bucklin, KS

Buffalo Wallow Chapter , January 8, Lakin
Prairie Wetlands Chapter meeting, January 13, Colby
Playa Lakes Joint Venture Board meeting, January 14-17, Littleton, CO

Lower/Little Ark Group meeting, January 29, Maize
Executive Committee, February 4, KFB, Manhattan
Western KS KAWS Conference, February 18, Cimarron