



Mid-Plains Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

October 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 67460-4401
(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

September 5 Meeting Review

New Grant Funds to be Available for Projects

As a part of his update on KAWS activities to the Mid-Plains Chapter, Tim Christian described the use for the year-three funds received through the **KDHE 319 Incremental Grant**. Funds will support KAWS activities and it adds \$50,000 to complete wetland and stream projects on private lands. Drue Durst, KAWS marketing coordinator, will be working on developing the criteria and simple paperwork needed to implement the project portion of the grant. Conceptually, the projects approved would be up to \$5,000 with a 40 percent match (total project cost up to about \$8,400) required from the landowner. The match can be cash, other non-federal funds, labor, or other in-kind. The criteria will be provided to chapters before year's end so they can solicit and prioritize projects. Additionally, Christian explained that these funds, plus another grant application (yet to be approved) should provide the resources to hire a KAWS chapter coordinator for western Kansas to serve the three chapters and to help cultivate any new chapters. He noted that a limiting factor in soliciting and recruiting new projects is not having a person on the ground to help chapter members complete the needed contacts and follow up. Christian encouraged members to submit projects for consideration under the **Kansas Water Office/EPA Wetlands Protection Program Grant** as those funds are currently available. The intent is to provide demonstration projects for educational use, so that is a stipulation with the landowner. These projects can range up to \$15,000-\$20,000 and must be approved through the Grant Project Management Team.

KAWS Coordinator's Report

Next Mid-Plains Chapter meeting

November 6 at 10 a.m.
City Hall, 721 S. Marsh,
Kinsley, KS

Tim Christian provided an update on KAWS activities noting **Drue Durst** has been hired as of August 1 to serve as marketing coordinator. KAWS is also looking at adding other chapter coordinators and project coordinators to help get projects completed. The Long-Range Funding Plan approved by the Executive Committee in May 2002 calls for a minimum of five chapter coordinators and three project coordinators by 2005. He emphasized that KAWS is not trying to usurp any agency or organization's work, but to help out in areas

where little expertise exists now – wetlands and stream projects, or as he said, "adding another set of hands and feet to get the work done."

He outlined the second Wetlands Protection Program Grant that the Kansas Water Office has applied for using KAWS staff to implement. This grant will provide at least \$175,000 for demonstration projects in targeted watersheds on the same order as the current grant provides \$159,000 within those same watersheds. This second grant provides for the additional money to secure two half-

time positions...completing the needed funding for the western chapter coordinator. Approval is expected by October or early November.

Christian covered the new NRCS cooperative agreement recently signed. KAWS will provide a number of print and video products to NRCS to help promote the Wetlands Reserve Program. Additionally, KAWS will hold five regional farm bill meetings directed at landowners over the next few months.

Durst provided an overview of recent marketing projects including updates on the web site. He is working on the summer issue of **Resources** and is always looking for good articles and photos. He is learning the grant opportunities and will be coordinating the grant reports, expenditures, and other grant details. He is the prime contact for funding questions and grant opportunities. Durst offices with Christian in McPherson and his contact information is 620.241.3636 and e-mail ddurst@cox.net. The website has all current information so check it out at www.kswetlands.org.



Hundreds of sites along the Arkansas River are in need of stabilization as depicted in these two photos taken near Garden City. Even though the River does not maintain continual flows at this point, when water does run the erosive forces move the sandy material quickly causing unstable slopes and encroaching cuts that threaten crop fields, power lines, roads and other infrastructure, not to mention the sediment and nutrient loading that calculates into thousands of tons and hundreds of pounds of nitrogen, phosphorous, and other degrading elements.

Photos by Tim Christian

In the absence of Greg Henderson, Christian asked for member updates.

Scotty Baugh, KDWP, indicated that they were working through the needed permitting, hopefully, to begin construction on the Herron Playa within a few months. He described some of the particulars in filing their application for water rights with the Division of Water Resources.

Bob Frisbie, K-State RE, talked about barriers getting more acres enrolled in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). He noted cropping history, marginal pasture, and other issues that keep many acres from being enrolled. He also noted that he is finding KDHE reluctant to approve certain livestock waste treatment plans. In his working with area feeders and ranchers, he is finding great interest in using constructed wetland cells as an integral part of a management plan, but KDHE is not too excited to approve them.

Ron Tema, NRCS, described continued interest on the part of the City and the landowner to pursue a stormwater treatment project in the northeast corner of Dodge City. He hopes to have the project profile completed by late fall, but has been quite busy with farm bill work. He covered three potential projects - a feeder needing to expand his treatment system, a 5,000-head feed yard needing a sediment basin and dewatering, and a truck wash facility needing more treatment. He will follow up as time allows and secure project profiles, if appropriate.

C.E. Molitor, County Commissioner, discussed the potential for working with a composting site that handles paunch water and perhaps using a wetland treatment cell. Discussion ensued.

Tim reviewed the chapter identity materials and provided copies. He covered the plan of action briefly, suggesting that it be included on the next meeting agenda. He discussed the idea floated by the Buffalo Wallow Chapter of having seminar in late February or March 2003 to cover a variety of topics including urban wetland and riparian applications, Playa Lakes Joint Venture opportunities, and stream bank treatment. The group concurred and will help the BWC plan the event.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT Mid-Plains Chapter meeting— November 6, 10:00 a.m., City Hall, 721 S. Marsh, Kinsley, KS

Buffalo Wallow Chapter , November 7, Lakin
Lower/Little Ark One-Day Seminar, November 4, Hutchinson
KACEE Annual Meeting, November 1-2, Atchison