



NW KAWS Chapters

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Happenings

WEBSITE – WWW.KAWS.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.

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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October NW Chapters Meeting Review

NW KAWS Coordinator's Report

Website and Documents – www.kaws.org

KAWS website is regularly updated. Please visit the website to view these recent additions that were discussed at the chapter meetings. Click on title to view the web page.

KAWS Organizational Updates

KAWS BOD meeting Update – The KAWS Board of Directors meeting was held on August 10th KFS office in Manhattan. Jeff Gross was welcomed as advisory committee representing NRCS. The board and KAWS representative are working on a technical service contract for stream and wetland projects with The Watershed Institute that should be finalized soon.

KAWS Staff changes- Lujana Howell, KAWS' new marketing coordinator attended the Chapter meetings and provided and update on KAWS current and upcoming grants. We would like to welcome Lujana to KAWS and thank her for attending the meetings.

WRAPS Update – Chris also briefed the group on the KAWS statewide application with project and technical assistance dollars requested for several of the WRAPS areas. There have been over 6 million dollars worth of applications for the 2 million available. Overall KAWS applied for demonstration project dollars in 14 different WRAPS through coordination with the WRAPS sponsors. The dollar amounts requested for demo projects in the NW/NC Chapters include \$30,000 for the (Prairie Dog), \$25,000 for the Smoky Hill (above Cedar Bluff), \$25,000 for the Solomon (above Waconda) Watersheds. We anticipate some word on approval in January 2007 and if funded those funds will be available until next spring.

A statewide WRAPS conference is planned for January 17-18 in Wichita and everyone is invited to attend.

**Dakota Hills Chapter
Steering Committee**

Stacie Minson- KSU
Patti Winters- District Mng
Neil Jednoralski- Smoky Hill Saline BAC
Matt Smith- KDWP

**Prairie Wetlands Chapter
Steering Committee**

Duane Cheney – Western Prairie RC&D
Andy Burr – NRCS
Ross Sloan - FSA
Matt Smith- KDWP

**Solomon Valley Chapter
Steering Committee**

Terri Nuzum – District Mng.
Tonya Pruett- District Mng.
Darla Juhl – Solomon Valley RC&D
2 position open at this time

**FOR QUICK ACCESS TO YOUR
CHAPTER'S INFORMATION**

Dakota Hills Minutes pg. 3

Solomon Valley Minutes pg. 4

Prairie Wetlands Minutes pg. 5

Please consider reading each chapter's minutes to see what is going on in the surrounding chapters.

**Upcoming Chapter
meetings, activities, and
events**

UPCOMING EVENTS

[KAWS Calendar of Activities](#)

November 13-15 Kansas Clean Sweep in
Ellis County Ag Chemical Collection

WRAPS Town Hall Meetings
Dec. 11, 2006 11:30 am Colby
6:00 pm Hill City
Dec. 12, 2006 11:30 am Lenora
6:00 pm Osborne
Dec. 18, 2006 11:30 am Sharon Springs
6:00 pm Healy
Dec. 19, 2006 11:30 am Oakley
6:00 pm Wakeeney.

NW Chapters Coordinator Report (cont. from page 1)

PMT Project Approval – a short list of chapter-approved projects were submitted for final approval. All projects received PMT approval and project sponsors will be notified if your project is funded. If you have submitted a project and haven't received word please feel free to contact Chris about the status of your project. There is still some funding available for project so if you have a potential project you would like to submit a proposal for funding contact Chris.

GIS Web Map – KAWS web map program is up and running and is being demonstrated at several locations throughout the state. New layers that have been added include KAWS project layer that will show all projects that have received funding from KAWS in the past. The KAWS project layer will be updated until all projects have been added. This can be a valuable tool to help with those wetland and stream projects. Click [here](http://maps.kansasgis.org/kaws.map.cfm) to check it out for yourself or copy and paste this link in to your web browser.

<http://maps.kansasgis.org/kaws.map.cfm>

KAWS Grants – Current status and grant applications.

KDHE – grant funding was approved and project dollars have been divided to chapters. Each chapter's separate page will have a list of the projects that have received funding.

WIG – KAWS did receive a Watershed Improvement Grant from EPA to expand on the work that was done under the RGI grant. The "Save Time and Money" publication will be printed for partners to use and special educational workshops will be held in the Delaware and Fall River watersheds. KAWS is using the Fecal Coliform Bacteria working group to help lead the process. To see the "Save Time and Money" publication click [here](#). We will have printed copies for partners outside those targeted watersheds.

KAWS Project Application/Cost Share Contract System

KAWS has built an online cost share system similar to SCC's CSIMS system to provide contracts and payments for KAWS projects. Chris discussed that those that have used the system have stated it is easy to use and is working good. This system is being set up so that other groups and organizations can utilize it for their projects. Plans are to have the system provide the necessary information for grant reports including project expenditures and load reduction information. If you are interested in using this online cost share system for your group or organization please contact Chris

Long Range Funding – This program has been implemented to build a revolving fund that will be used toward matching grant dollars to complete demonstration projects, educational materials, and administrative cost. Visit the KAWS website for more information.

DAKOTA HILLS CHAPTER

The meeting was held USDA Service Center in Hays, 12 people in attendance.

KELP – Carol Blocksome provided information on the KELP program and the projects that were part of the KELP program this past year. One KELP group produced the “Plugging Abandoned Wells Tool Kit” and revived the “Well Plugging Guide”. Another group produced a DVD “Water Testing Curriculum” to be used in water quality education. For more information on these two project contact KELP or Carol Blocksome for more information.

Rock Crossing Slideshow – The rock crossing slide show was shown during the meeting with Carol Blocksome and John Stannard presenting it to the group. The rock crossing was another project funded during the KELP program and included many partners to get the project completed. The project was used as a demonstration site during the KLA/KSU Range Field Day in Russell County with over 100 people in attendance. Look for more information and a web link to this slideshow to be put on the KAWS homepage coming soon.

Livestock Waterer Handbook – Carol Blocksome also briefed the group on a handbook she is developing and hopes to have completed by end of Dec. The handbook will be a valuable tool to producers who are looking for an alternate water source project. The handbook will be added to the Kansas Grassland Water Quality website when it is completed. For more information on this handbook please contact Carol.

WRAPS

Smoky Hill/Big Creek WRAPS has applied for funding for several demonstration projects to be completed within the watershed. As part of the WRAPS educational plan the WRAPS and several other partners will be hosting a Hays Water Festival Oct. 21 at The Mall in Hays, and Kansas Clean Sweep Ag Chemical Collection Day in Ellis County on Nov. 13-15. For more information contact Stacie Minson.

Smoky Hill River above Cedar Bluff. – Carolyn was unable to attend due to illness however she provided an update for group via email. Carolyn is also giving presentations to Conservation District Boards in most counties and other local

SMOKY HILL WRAPS CONT...

organizations meetings to get the word out about WRAPS. Town hall meetings are being scheduled for December for several locations, these meetings will provide an opportunity for local people to voice resource concerns and discuss possible solutions. See calendar on Page 2 for those dates and locations. For more information on these meetings or these watersheds contact Carolyn at the Osborne Co. Conservation District 785-346-2324

Projects Receiving Funding – Projects that will now receive funding through the chapter.

KSU Foundation has submitted a proposal to fence out an existing pond and provide an alt. water source for livestock. A well with a solar pump will need to be developed on the site to provide water to the alt. water tank. Project sponsor has been notified that the project is being funded and will develop KAWS contract as soon as possible.

Bradford – spring development, wetland fencing, and alternate water supply project in Ellsworth County. (Approved by PMT on Oct. 23.)

Project Updates Discussed

Nuss Streambank – this project will stabilize a portion of the Smoky Hill River in Russell County. Chris will contact Phil Balch for more information on what is needed for DWR permit and get back with project sponsors on next steps.

Feldkamp – this alternate water supply project will fence out an existing pond and provide an alternate water supply in Lincoln County. Fencing has been completed however the gravity feed water supply will not work and landowner is looking at other pond supply options.

South Bend Gun Club – Wetland creation project is completed. This wetland will be part of the KAWS Fall Tour in Barton County

NEXT DAKOTA HILLS CHAPTER MEETING

Jan. 11th Ellsworth.

If there is a conflict with this date please let me know as soon as possible.

SOLOMON VALLEY CHAPTER

The meeting was held at the Court House in Smith Center with 7 people in attendance.

WRAPS

Solomon River above Waconda & Smoky Hill River above Cedar Bluff. – Carolyn was unable to attend due to illness however she provided an update for group via email. Carolyn is also giving presentations to Conservation District Boards in most counties and other local organizations meetings to get the word out about WRAPS. Town hall meetings are being scheduled for December for several locations, these meetings will provide an opportunity for local people to voice resource concerns and discuss possible solutions. See calendar on Page 2 for those dates and locations. For more information on these meetings or these watersheds contact Carolyn at the Osborne Co. Conservation District 785-346-2324

Prairie Dog WRAPS – Christa Mulder, PD WRAPS coordinator, updated the group on the Prairie Dog WRAPS. Driving assessment tours were conducted in all the counties, to identify resource concerns for each county. Christa will also be holding producer meetings throughout the watershed. Look for meeting information under the calendar on page 2. If you would like additional information on the Prairie Dog WRAPS please contact Christa at the Norton County Conservation District 785-877-2623.

Playa Lake Video – “The Playas: Reflections of Life on the Plains” video were provided during the chapter meeting. For anyone that would like a copy of the video contact Chris and he will send one out to you.

Rock Crossing Slideshow – Chris provided the Rock Crossing Slideshow to the chapter members attending. The rock crossing was a project funded during the KERP program and included many partners to get the project completed. The project was used as a demonstration site during the KLA/KSU Range Field Day in Russell County with over 100 people in attendance. Look for more information and a web link to this slideshow to be put on the KAWS homepage coming soon.

JAMESTOWN NAWCA PHASE I – the Phase I NAWCA for the Jamestown Wildlife Area has been approved. Second half of restoration under this phase started this summer and will continue throughout the fall. Plans for PHASE II NAWCA are in the works and KDWP and DU will be requesting KAWS partnership dollars again this year.

Projects Status

Projects In Contract with KAWS

Houghton
Shamburg

Projects needing Contract for cost share -

Jansonius
Jones

Potential Project Discussed

Smith County representative discussed a possible project for KAWS dealing with a confined feeding area that is located along the stream. The streambank is eroding causing problems for the landowner and his facility. After discussion by the group we decided it was best to have KDHE come look at the site for evaluation on what needs to be done. Chris will contact KDHE and have them work with Smith County on the next steps needed.

Livestock Waterer Handbook – Chris briefly showed the group a handbook Carol Blocksom is developing and hopes to have completed by end of Dec. The handbook will be a valuable tool to producers who are looking for an alternate water source project. The handbook will be added to the Kansas Grassland Water Quality website when it is completed. For more information on this handbook please contact Carol.

NEXT SOLOMON VALLEY MEETING

Jan. 10th Phillipsburg USDA Service Center.

Prairie Wetlands Chapter

The meeting was held at the Thomas County Office Complex in Colby with seven people in attendance.

WRAPS

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Thomas County Conservation District is on the web. To see their website visit.
www.thcoconservation.org

Coffee Shop Talks – Western Prairie RC&D will again be holding coffee shop talks this year. Topics to be discussed will include: Drought Management, Agritourism, Grass Management, KGLC, and several other topics. For more information contact Duane at the Western Prairie RC&D in Colby 785-462-2602.

20th Anniversary of CRP Tour – A NW KS District CRP Tour was held in Thomas County on Aug. 29th with over 70 people attending. The tour highlighted several conservation program practices including two practices that work with playa lakes. Mike Carter with the Playa Lakes Joint Venture provided a talk during lunch on the benefits to protecting playa lakes, aquifer recharge, and CP23a.

Prairie Wetlands Chapter Projects

WRP Project – Cheyenne County project to restore a playa lake and establish a native grass buffer is almost complete. The fencing, restoration, and cover crop have been completed with grass seed planting to complete the entire project.

We currently have some remaining funding available for projects in the Prairie Wetlands Chapter. The chapter has funding remaining for projects and two new projects were discussed at the meeting.

Blaesi Shallow Water Area – This project will provide a shallow water area for wildlife in Wallace County. The project will partner with the One-Shot Antelope Foundation and the landowner. The project has received chapter approval. (*PMT Approved Oct. 23) Project will receive funding from the chapter allotment.

Lamb Trust Playa – This project will provide KAWS buffer easement as an incentive to the landowner to enroll in CP23a. The landowner can enroll 126.5 acres in CP23a leaving 30 acres to be put in to the KAWS buffer easement. Funding of this project will be dependent on the landowner receiving a CP23a contract. The project received chapter approval. (*PMT Approved Oct. 23) Project will receive funding from the chapter allotment.

NEXT PRAIRIE WETLANDS CHAPTER MEETING

January 9, 2007 at Colby USDA Service Center