



Three Rivers Chapter

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.

Steering Committee

Linda Stewart—Geary County CD
Charlie Barden—KSU Ext. Forestry
Susan Blackford—USF&WS
Jeff Neel - K-State R&E
Tom Meek—Clay County CD

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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August 9 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The meeting began at 9:30 am at the Geary County Conservation District Office with 12 people in attendance.

Review minutes of the last meeting – John provided a quick review of the items covered at the last meeting on February 8th at Geary County CD Office. All action items had been completed.

WRAPS update – John discussed the new KDHE online application and the changes that he understood as far as statewide service providers. If statewide service providers want funding, they will need to work through each of the WRAPS sponsors to be included in their application. Additional training sessions were held in Hays, Wichita and Topeka on August 1-3. Details from the meeting should be available on their new website for WRAPS, please check it out at www.kswraps.org

John provided a brief update of where the statewide process is at. KAWS had \$150,000 for projects last year, but received a \$75,000 reduction in statewide 319 funds, so we will have around \$70,000 for projects sometime after August 1. Our plan is focus most of these projects in WRAPS areas across the state.

There is also \$821,000 new dollars available as of July 1 for implementation through the SCC. Projects will go through the conservation district offices, but the applications must go through the WRAPS sponsors. Also, buffer coordinators will need to apply for WRAPS dollars through the same process. All new applications are due on August 31.

Rick Davis provided an update on the Middle Kansas WRAPS. A final draft of the Development Plan was passed

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around and discussed. He also discussed the development of a leadership team and its planned structure. The next phase will involve some assessment and development of the Implementation Plan. The Middle Ks has been approved at \$75,000 and we hope to use about \$20,000 for demo projects in the watershed. The next meeting is scheduled for August 29th in Manhattan.

The Little/Big Blue River WRAPS is still progressing forward. KAWS submitted a proposal in partnership with the Crossroads RC&D for \$75,000 in stream stabilization funds. Gary Satter stated that the RC&D had also put in for funds to complete livestock projects. A similar request was made through the Milford WRAPS as well, which should be kicking off soon.

Update on the Ks River study – Deb Baker with the Ks Water Office provided an update of the study that has been underway on the Kansas River. It is looking at the impacts of riverbed degradation, sand dredging and reservoirs. Land Plan Engineering is conducting the study. Some results of the study should be available next year.

Update on WIG grant activities - Saving Time and Money brochures and CD's were passed out to members. Gary Satter provided a short briefing on activities that they had completed in the Delaware watershed.

Update on Upland Bird Initiative and Habitat Teams – John provided a list of

accomplishments to date by the Habitat Team. They now have a bobcat and the USFWS has purchased a tree saw for them. They have also acquired a contract on the Tuttle Creek Wildlife area for noxious weed control and tree removal.

There is still about \$4000 in UBI dollars available. Clint said that he has completed 39 contracts to date. Right now they would like to focus on fall disking of CRP and invasive species control. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please have them call Clint Thornton at 785-461-5402.

Action Needed: The Habitat Specialists are ready to start lining up more projects, so send all potential landowners to Rocky Fahey (785-313-2571) or Ryan Jones (979-218-3074).

Chapter projects – The chapter currently has 15 projects on their list with 13 being stream stabilization projects. The Meek wetland has been completed and the Riverbend project is underway. Bob Lienemann discussed the Hargrave and Newkirk stream projects that were submitted under EQIP with the chapter committing to some matching funds. The projects have been approved.

Update on current grants and project dollars – John discussed the current WPDG with EPA and the new direction that KAWS has had to take with demonstration projects. The projects must be new to a large regional area and a monitoring component must be utilized. Also, as part of this grant, KAWS has pulled together a team of partners to develop a Wetland and Riparian Plan (WARP) for the state. A draft outline of the

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT 3 Rivers Chapter meeting – November 8 in Clay Center

Middle Ks WRAPS meeting – August 29
KAWS CRP III Conference – Sept 20-22
KAWS Board Meeting – November 5

Flint Hills PF meeting – September 6
Fall Forestry Field Day – October 5
Range school – August 21-23

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plan was discussed. The chapters will be kept in the loop for input as it develops. A new grant was submitted through the SCC to finish full development of the plan for Kansas, but was denied.

Farm Bill – There are some significant reductions planned in their staff by 2008, which involves combining offices across the state. John listed the counties that would be combining offices in northeast Kansas. Plans are to still keep the Conservation District offices open in those counties losing NRCS staff, with plans for them to visit the offices periodically.

John provided a briefing on the changes being recommended on the new farm bill. There are plans to combine many of the programs and try to simplify the processes. There is a new site where you can keep track of the farm bill as it progresses (www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome)

Update on other KAWS activities – The CPR III Conference is scheduled for September 20-22 in Overland Park. The banquet and auction will be held on the evening of the 20th. A team of folks have developed an agenda for the conference which should come out soon. Brochures of the raffle items were passed around and included an over/under shotgun as well as a 90 cc ATV.

The KDWP LIP coordinators that had been assisting with project coordination and chapter activities will no longer be available. They received a tier II grant and will be working to get those dollars on the ground. John will take over project coordination, Tim will take Southwest Chapters and Lujana will take the Northwest ones.

John discussed a couple of meetings that focused on the sedimentation of federal

reservoirs. They will lead to a summit in October to discuss restoration and protection options with the major stakeholders as well as key legislators.

Partner updates – There will be a Fall Forestry Field Day on October 5 in Fulton Kansas. Registration is only \$5 and more info can be found by calling 785-532-3300 or on their website at www.kansasforests.org

Next meeting date and location – Plans are to hold the next meeting on November 8th in Clay Center. Tom Meek has offered to sponsor it with a tour of his new wetland being supplied after lunch.

Optional tour of Smoky Hill Stream projects – Angela Beavers supplied a tour of 5 of the stream projects on the Smoky Hill River. The projects had been subjected to record flooding, but held together with only a few spots needing repair. Other bends in the river that had not been stabilized had lost up to 20 or more feet of bank.

We would like to send a special thanks out to the Geary County CD for hosting the meeting and tour.