



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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February 16 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

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

Review minutes of the last meeting – John provided a quick review of the items covered at the last meeting on December 15 held in Manhattan. All action items had been completed.

WRAPS update – The WRAPS proposal submitted by KSU for the Tuttle Creek Watershed was officially approved. Plans to pull local stakeholders together for an initial meeting have been delayed until sometime in March or April.

There are currently no plans for the Milford WRAPS, they are still working out the details. If you have questions on either WRAPS, please contact Robert Wilson (rwilson@agecon.ksu.edu) or Mike Christian (mchristi@oznet.ksu.edu) for further information.
Action Needed: If you are interested in being involved in either of these WRAPS processes, please let me know and I will ensure you are on the list.

Multi-state Watershed grant approved above Tuttle Creek Reservoir - A large watershed grant has also been approved for the Tuttle Creek Watershed that involves both Kansas and Nebraska. John provided a handout and covered the goals and objectives of the grant. A kickoff meeting is planned in the near future.

Action Needed: John will provide updated info on the meeting for those interested in attending

Web Service Update – John provided an update on the project. He covered the current GIS layers that would be involved in the process. A draft model should be out in the

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next couple of weeks or so for staff to review. A working draft should be out in March, we will kick it out for members to review before we finalize.

Action Needed: John will get a draft out for members to review as soon as possible.

Chapter projects – John stated that each chapter should have \$16,500 to spend for this round of funding. This funding should be utilized on projects in counties that currently have none first, then to new project types in a county, with those in the high priority areas ranking the highest. The group chose to fund the Fort Riley wetland, Weidhass stream stab and provide \$1500 for 4 of the top priority Smoky Hill projects. The \$6000 for the Smoky Hill projects was spread to 6 projects at \$1000 each. The SCC has agreed to cover \$1000 on each of the remaining projects. All have been submitted for EQIP.

Another project was submitted and discussed by Bob Lienemann. It is a stream stabilization project on Louis Hargrave and Son. The group thought it was a good project and should be added to the list. Angela Beavers asked that the Roeser stream project be upgraded from 300 to 900 feet after a review with TWI. Project costs also went up to \$32,000 with a request for \$20,000 in assistance.

Action Needed: John will add the Hargrave project to the list and upgrade the Roeser project information.

Update on current grants and project dollars

- John briefed everyone on all existing grants. The new SCC/EPA grant was approved this fall with \$100,000 provided for demonstration projects. The KDHE 319 grant should have about \$180,000 available for projects, but is not scheduled to be available until March. Since there is a large backlog of projects, many projects will not be funded until new funding can be found.

John also supplied a briefing on the RGI and the Upper Miss JV grants. The RGI grant closed at the end of October. The primary output was the Saving Time and Money booklet which can be found on the KAWS website under hot topics. A new grant application has been submitted to the Upper Miss JV to develop a priority bird layer, which would be placed on the web service database along with the rest. This one was denied but we are looking for other sources to get it completed.

The first SCC/EPA grant has ended and we need info to complete the final report. John will be sending out requests to sponsors that received funding to help provide this information soon.

Farm Bill – John told the group that the KS Technical Committee for EQIP recommended that the Smoky Hill and Kansas River be added into the priority area for stream stabilization. The Smoky Hill was added but the Kansas River was excluded for this year.

John provided a briefing on a workshop held in Geary County to focus on the Smoky Hill

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT 3 Rivers Chapter meeting – May 18

Tallgrass Legacy Allinace meeting – March 9
Perry WRAPS meeting – March 14

Water and the Future of KS – March 16
KAWS Spring meeting – May 16-17

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River. The workshop was held in November, which resulted in 22 stream stab. projects to date. The group felt like it would be good to hold something similar in Dickinson County or along the Black Vermillion.

A short briefing was also supplied on the CRP program and contract extension types that would be available. He also covered the new CSP areas for Kansas as well as the changes expected in the WRP program.

New Plan of Action – A draft Plan of Action reflecting the I70 Chapter goals and objectives was supplied and reviewed. The group was asked to review the draft and supply input by the first week of March. We will try to finalize a plan for this chapter at the next meeting.

Action Needed: Members need to send input to John in the next couple of weeks.

Update on KAWS activities – John provided a short briefing on the revolving fund that is being developed to expand our ability to go after larger grant sources and acquire more project dollars. Many of these grants require that the funds be spent first and then reimbursed. In order to do that, we will have to compile a large multi-million dollar funding source. He asked that everyone consider contributing to the fund so that more project dollars could be acquired.

He also discussed the KAWS Spring Meeting on May 16 and 17, which includes a partnering session. The session will be a follow up to the one held on the 3rd day of the CPR Conference last fall. The objective will be to develop goals and objectives for the state on wetland and riparian issues. More information on the meeting will be coming out soon.

Partner Updates – The Ks Biological Survey is looking for wetlands in Kansas that are in a relatively natural state. They should be close to 10 acres in size or better. They will be used to study wetland benefits. If you know of any please let John know right away.

John passed out a handout on the Water Plan Projects Initiative Phase II. The new objectives were briefly discussed. For further information, contact the Kansas Water Office.

A new program called Quail Forever is being pursued in Kansas by Pheasants Forever. It will mimic Pheasants Forever but will have a quail focus with proceeds going to local projects. For more info contact Barth Crouch at 785-823-0240.

Next meeting date and location – The remaining meeting dates for the year have been set by the group. Those dates are May 18, August 17 and November 16. Please place those on your calendars. We will try to coincide some of these with the WRAPS meetings to make the most efficient use of time and travel.

We would like to send a special thanks out to the Geary County Conservation District for hosting the meeting.