



# Three Rivers Chapter

## Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

# Happenings

Web site—[kswetlands.org](http://kswetlands.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  
Carol Meurisse—Riley County CD  
Tom Meek—WCCD/MCCD

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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## January 16 Meeting Review

### KAWS Coordinator's Report

**Review minutes of last meeting** – John went over the minutes from the last meeting held in November to bring everyone up to date and insure that the action items had been taken care of. All action items had been completed.

**KWO EPA Wetlands Grant** – John explained that the current grant was going as planned. All projects should be completed by this summer including the Fausnet project which has been funded with \$11,000 from this grant. We have been in correspondence with EPA on the new grant application and provided the necessary paperwork and were waiting for their response back. We should know something further in the next month. This grant would supply an additional \$122,000 for projects and would allow us to hire a couple more chapter coordinators to try and cover the rest of the state.

As part of the grant, a statewide conference will be held sometime during the first part of August 2003. A committee will be organized to work out the details. John listed the current topics that he had received for the meeting and asked for further suggestions to provide to the committee.

The KDHE TMDL/KDWP Biological priority map was passed out and discussed. A draft copy of the this map had been sent out to all partners for review. This map will be utilized in the Kansas Water Plan to focus limited dollars and manpower. After input is incorporated, a meeting will be called with all federal agencies to get their input and hopefully their support for the priority areas.

**Action needed: Everyone will need to review the KDHE/KDWP draft map to insure all priority areas are covered. Input will need to be supplied to John prior to Feb. 4th.**

**KDHE Grant Update** - There is currently **\$50,000** available for projects with another **\$300,000** scheduled to become available in the next couple of months. KAWS has submitted a list of projects to complete with the \$50,000 and is awaiting approval from KDHE. The Bigelow Township project was submitted for funding through this grant. **More projects are needed to match up to future funding.**

John stated that all future KDHE projects will require the use of load reduction models when reporting on 319 grants. They are hoping that something

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

similar can be used on all projects statewide.

**New SCC EPA Grant Application**—KAWS has submitted a new application for the WPP EPA grant in cooperation with the SCC. The primary objectives of the grant will be to hire more staff to assist with their Wetland and Riparian program, produce more additions of their River and Stream Corridor Management Guide, finish the KDWP Biological templates for the rest of the state and provide another \$129,000 for projects. This will be an expansion of the KWO EPA grant currently underway with funds being available by next fall, should we be successful.

**New USFWS grants**—John covered two new grants that are available from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They are the Landowner Incentives Program (LIP), which will be administered through the Ks. Dept. of Wildlife and Parks, and the Private Stewardship Grants Program (PSGP). These grants will focus on T&E species as well as those in need of conservation. KAWS is working with KDWP to assist with meeting the total dollar figure available for the state through the LIP program (1.74 million).

KAWS has made an individual application for the PSGP which has about 1.4 million for the USFWS Region that Kansas is in. KAWS applied for \$250,000 to primarily complete streambank restoration projects in the target areas that SCC is unable to fund.

**Stream Assessment Protocol** - John explained rapid watershed assessment that is being utilized by Tetra Tech EMI to determine the current condition of a watershed. This info is then used to make recommendations on what needs to be done to protect or improve the streams. This allows agencies, communities or organizations make better planning decisions on what is needed to improve the overall quality of the watershed.

**Eco-restoration projects** -John provided an update

on Eco-restoration efforts in the Walnut and Kansas Basins with the COE. The Walnut Basin is completing a study to determine needs and management strategies. The I70 Chapter is looking to put a workshop together to discuss options.

**Update on KAWS activities** – Upcoming meetings were discussed and are placed under the meeting section at the end of this document.

Two new chapters are currently underway. A kickoff meeting was held in El Dorado on October 2 with a follow up meeting held on November 20. Another kickoff meeting was held in Hutchinson on November 4 for the south-central area.

KAWS continues to work on the obligations of the agreement signed with NRCS. Tim has met with several landowners and completed video for a WRP production. We will be working with all partners to conduct Regional meetings with NRCS on the new Farm Bill.

## Chapter Business

1. The new farm bill was discussed at length and it was agreed that all partners will need to assist with its implementation if it is to be fully successful. KAWS will continue to work with NRCS to help where possible.
2. The Fausnett wetland project was funded with \$11,000 from the KWO/EPA grant and is currently under construction.
3. Charlie updated the group on the Heartland Water Quality Initiative which was put together to share info between states. (Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri)
4. The Geary County Conservation District will have its annual meeting on February 6.
5. The meetings for 2003 were set. They are April 17, July 17 and October 16. Please place these on your calendars.
6. Charlie will line up the next meeting in April and provide a tour of a buffer project that him and Hilary have been involved with.

## Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

**NEXT** Three Rivers Chapter meeting—April 17

Executive Committee meeting — February 4  
KAWS Spring meeting and tour—May 6-7  
State Assoc of Watersheds meeting—Jan 23 and 24 , Topeka

All Bird meeting—March 5 and 6, Salina  
Water and the Future of Kansas meeting—March 11  
Water Summit—Feb 11, Topeka