



# Three Rivers 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

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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## October 17 Meeting Review

### KAWS Coordinator's Report

**Review minutes of last meeting** – John went over the minutes from the last meeting held in July 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 there were currently 7 educational projects underway. Five projects have been completed except for native plantings that will be done in the spring. A youth educational program is underway with Streamlink known as the Stream Steward program. They were contracted to coordinate an educational program at the Elk Creek Wetland project at Clinton Wildlife area. The concept is to bring students and teachers to the site for environmental educational and hopefully encourage them to return each year to provide the same program without needing help from agencies or organizations.

Two meetings were held with Raju, EPA grant coordinator, to tour existing projects and discuss the progress of the existing grant as well as the new application. The meeting was very positive and helped improve communication between the partners. Modifications are currently being made to the new grant and will be submitted soon. The request of \$200,000 more dollars for demo projects is being considered by EPA. Success of the grant should be known in the next couple of months.

A meeting with KAWS, KDHE, KDWP and KWO occurred on September 24 at the KDHE office in Topeka to discuss a statewide target area map. The goal was to combine the KDWP biological info with the TMDL information compiled by KDHE. A draft TMDL map was developed by KDHE to discuss at the meeting. Everyone felt that it was an excellent map and that the KDWP info could be added. KDHE will provide an electronic copy of the map to KDWP to add the biological info to it. A draft should be completed in the next month. The draft will be circulated to all partners for their review before it is finalized.

**KDHE Grant Update** - John discussed the current funding plan that had been provided by KDHE. If all goes as planned, there should be \$50,000 available for projects sometime in November. The remaining projects dollars should come after the first of the year.

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

**Long Range Funding Plan**— John gave a quick overview of the plan and told everyone that Drue Durst had been hired as our Administrative/Marketing person who would be coordinating our grants and assisting Tim with other duties. Plans are to hire another Chapter Coordinator this fall to take over the existing western chapters and one more in the early spring to take over the southeast chapters.

An application to Upper Miss. Great Lakes Joint Venture has been submitted. The request was for \$50,000 to help fund education on the JV expansion as well as fund \$25,000 in projects.

A meeting with Harold Klaege, state conservationist for NRCS, had taken place in July with discussions evolving around how KAWS could assist with implementation of the new Farm Bill. KAWS submitted a proposal, in conjunction with Streamlink, to provide educational products for WRP, WHIP and EQIP. KAWS signed an agreement for \$75,000 to complete a publication and video for WRP and coordinate education meetings on the farm bill around the state.

**Plan of Action Update** – All items were discussed with the group with no additional changes. The final copy will be sent to all members.

**Chapter Page on web site**— A copy of the publication used for the minutes was shown and discussed. John explained the web site and future plans. He asked that everyone look at the site to see if it needed further additions or changes to make it more effective.

**Action Needed: Everyone needs to check out the web site at [kswetlands.org](http://kswetlands.org) and provide comments.**

**Update on KWRAA activities** – Upcoming meetings were discussed and are placed under the meeting section at the end of this document. The latest Resources newsletter was also discussed and John made extra copies available.

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

A presentation was provided to the Natural Resource Legacy Alliance. They will be traveling the state looking for input on a plan that will be drafted by May. Another presentation was provided by Tim and John at the Wetlands 2002 Conference in Indiana.

The WRAPS (Watershed Retoration and Protection Strategy) planning session was discussed. It was determined that it would be a good template to be used on other basins.

An afternoon tour involved a demo by Phil Balch which showed the use of his new “sausage stuffer” to make artificial weirs in the river to stabilize the bank.

## Chapter Business

Each partner was allowed an opportunity to update the group on their activities. A couple of items that may be of interest to the other members included:

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.
2. If \$5,000 should be available for existing projects through the KDHE 319 grant, the funds will be offered toward the Fausnet wetland project. The second choice will be to do Bigelow project.
3. A youth upland bird hunt has been scheduled by the local PF chapter in Clay Center on the first Saturday in Sept. If interested, contact Shawn Straton at 785-632-6741.
4. A review of a rangeland project was provided by Charlie Barden and Tom Meek. The group suggested that it be put into the USDA EQIP program.

## Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

### **NEXT Three Rivers Chapter meeting—January 16**

KFS Fall Field Day— October 23, Emporia  
Chapter Kickoff meeting — Nov. 4, Hutchinson  
NACD meeting—November 23-25, Wichita

KACEE Annual meeting—November 1-2, Atchinson  
Executive Committee meeting — Feb. 4, 2003  
KAWS Spring Meeting—May 6-7