



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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November 8 Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The meeting began at 9:30 am at Maury's Restaurant in Clay Center with 11 people in attendance.

Review minutes of the last meeting – John provided a quick review of the items covered at the last meeting on August 9th at Geary County CD Office. All action items had been completed.

WRAPS update – John provided a handout showing all the WRAPS projects listed in priority. Tuttle Creek, Milford and the Middle Ks are in the top 6. He also provided a handout showing the current recommended funding for each. These budgets will probably be cut even further, since this was part of a 4.4 million recommendation and it will have to be cut to the 2.9 million that is available.

He also discussed the \$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 had to go through the WRAPS sponsors. There was about 1.4 million in applications for the dollars, with most planned to go to stream stabilization projects above public water supply reservoirs.

Middle Ks WRAPS update – John provided an update on the Middle Kansas WRAPS. He also discussed the development of a leadership team and it's 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. John also discussed the 2008 budget request and the targeted areas. The next meeting is scheduled for December 13.

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

Tuttle Creek WRAPS update – Mary Howell provided handouts and briefed the group on the WRAPS. She discussed the last meeting she attended and the tour of the upper end of the lake provided by the COE.

Milford WRAPS update – Tom Meek and John discussed the WRAPS progress. Currently each county is planning a meeting to inform their constituents of the WRAPS process, what it entails and get their input.

Discussion on the 3 Rivers Chapter and how to best integrate into the WRAPS process - The group discussed potential options to include dissolving the chapter, continuing on as before or integrating into the WRAPS. The group would like to maintain the chapter and use it as a conduit to coordinate WRAPS efforts in the chapter area. They would like to hold a spring and fall meeting with all the WRAPS located in the chapter to share ideas and concerns.

Update on Upland Bird Initiative (UBI) and Habitat Teams – John provided a brief update on the Habitat Team. Due to the lack of work, the team has been reduced to one person, Rocky Fahey. He has been busy cutting trees on the Tuttle Creek Wildlife area. More projects are needed for the Team, so please let everyone know he is available. The Manhattan PF has added \$4900 to be used for the UBI with the Team completing the work.

There are plans for additional dollars to be added to the Upland Bird Initiative by KDWP yet this year. The additional funding

should be similar to last year. If you know of anyone interested, have them contact the area biologist.

Chapter projects – John provided a spreadsheet with the current projects listed. The Chapter should have \$5000 to spend on a project for this upcoming year. Since all the current projects are large, the group would like to give the members a little time to find a good demo project in a new area. **Action Needed: Anyone with a new demo project that could use \$5000, needs to provide a proposal to John soon.**

Update on current grants and project dollars – John discussed the current WRAPS dollars available for each WRAPS in the chapter area. He then provided a briefing on the Watershed Improvement Grant that was underway in the watershed. Saving Time and Money booklets and CD's were provided to those needing some.

Farm Bill – 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 – Changes in staff duties, September CPR Conference, new Executive Director position, etc - The CPR III Conference was held on September 20-22 in Overland Park. John spent some time discussing the Rapanos decision made by the Supreme Court, which will effect wetlands US wide.

Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

NEXT 3 Rivers Chapter meeting – April 24 with place to be announced

Clay Co WRAPS meeting – Nov 26
Flint Hills PF Chapter meeting – Dec 6
Kansas Natural Resource Conf – Feb 21-24

WRAPS Capacity Building meeting – Nov 30
Middle Ks WRAPS – Dec 13
EPA Wetlands Conference – April 7-11

Coordinator's 1 Report (cont. from page 2)

John discussed the new Executive Director position that is open for KAWS. Harold Klaege has taken the position and will begin working for KAWS at the beginning of 2008. Be sure to welcome him aboard!

Partner updates – No partner updates were provided.

Next meeting date and location – The next meeting date will be held in the spring, with the tentative date of April 24. We will try to have a tour of the Little Blue River projects that were completed over 5 years ago so everyone can see their progress.

Optional tour of Tom Meek's wetland project – Tom provided a nice tour of his wetland and upland project. The project included a small wetland, the buffer replanted to native grass buffer, planting of foodplots and the remaining crop fields receiving CP33 buffers. It was a great project for conservation as well as wildlife.

We would like to send a special thanks out to the Clay County CD for helping host the meeting and tour.