

Kansas Byways Conference Call
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
1:00 p.m. Central Time

Kansas State Byway Committee Reports

Sue - Added Note: While attending the Byway Leaders Training (BLT) in Kearney, Nebraska last week, I found out all of the Kansas Byways are included under the \$150 membership KS Tourism pays to the Foundation for annual membership. There are many great byway tools available with a login. I talked with Sally Pearce at the NSBF and she said I could share my login with all of you to access the site, if you wish. The website is: <http://www.nsbfoundation.com>. The username is: **KSByways and the password is: **KSByways12****

In Attendance –Connie Dougherty, Jayne Pearce, Mary Billington, Helen Dobbs, Donna Price, Roxie Yonkey & Jayne Pearce, Cathy Albert, Ronn Peters, B.J. Wooding, Clayton Grimmet, Marsha Ericson, Diane Wolfe, Deb Divine, Kaye Kuhn and Sue Stringer.

Sue thank Marsha Ericson for taking notes of this call.

2018 KS Byways Annual Meeting – Thursday, Nov 29th, Salina KDOT, District Two Conference Room

Interpretive Grant Construction – Sue stated we are now in full on construction mode with the Interpretive project. She mailed out earlier in the construction schedule to everyone, but will attach it again with the meeting notes.

Marketing activities for Kansas Byways – Sue mentioned with the new Facebook algorithms- live video rises to the top. In promoting your byway it's a good idea to use Facebook live video for events, construction, businesses or events along your byway.

Kansas Byways Guide 2018 – Sue stated we will be working on the new Kansas Byway guide over the next few months with publication hopefully in July. If anyone has any great byway pics that they would like to see used as the cover, please submit them to her. They would need to be of high resolution. The period for placing ads in the byways guide is still open. If you would like to place an ad in the guide, please contact Joanne Morgan 785-832-7264 or jmorgan@sunflowerpub.com.

While we want to promote the byway communities along the route, we are also looking to feature businesses in the byway communities that benefit from the byway travelers, so if you have suggestions, please let Andrea or me know.

Annual Reports – Sue reported all the byway committees have returned all of their annual reports and thanked everyone for doing so. The Kansas Byway Committee has requested Sue give each byway feedback based on the reports and has been working on these.

Events- Sue reminded everyone to be sure to get all community Byway events listed on KS Tourism website event calendar. Contact Logan Hildebrand 785-296-6292 or email logan.hildebrand@ks.gov for help in getting your event listed.

Byway Reports

Post Rock-Connie- last meeting March 7 with seven committee members in attendance. The Byway is hosting a tour June 2nd “History, Mystery & More” \$50 person includes 2 meals. Wilson to Lucas

Two from Post Rock SB are attending the conference in Kearney, NE Apr 17-20th.

Wilson landscaping.

Western Vistas-Jane- November 2017 last meeting- there have been on-going discussions by email. The WVHB is looking to capitalize on Little Jerusalem once it opens to the public.

Sue- Little Jerusalem & Flint Hills Rec Trail are currently being discussed in legislature to become State Parks & can utilize KDWPT game wardens and work to protect the habitat.

Frontier Military-Mary-Last meeting last month-Motorcycle Ride for wreaths for Fallen Soldiers Graves. Fort Scott Partnership has contacts continuing to work on the ride for 2019. Encouraging attendance for both ends of this long Byway. Hoping to become a group again. There next meeting is at Linn Co courthouse next.

Land & Sky- Helen- Feb 20 last meeting- there are several are going to conference in Nebraska and the committee has given several public byway programs

Smoky Valley- Cathy, the Wilcox School is close to completion on the outside. There will be new storm windows & doors. They've received good media coverage on the history of the school & the byway Cathy will be attending the Heartland Byway Conference..

Route 66-Mary, they were unable to have last two meetings due to weather. The next meeting is next April 17th and are having it with a community meeting at the museum to increase attendance & interest. More awareness.

Prairie Trail-Ron- Sue has given several talks along the Byway-received another grant to reprint the brochures & are now making changes. She will be attending the Heartland Byway conference. There is a part of Byway closed on the county road due to bridge closure while being repaired. Also, there is road work near Maxwell Wildlife, as county crews have time. They have been updating the county commissions of byway activity and are thankful to have commissioners attending the Byway meetings. Smoky Valley Historical Association has received grant to improve road to Coronado Heights. The committee has discussed a historical tour, such as what Post Rock is doing.

Wetlands & Wildlife- Their last meeting was March 29 in Claflin, they are rotating to different communities for their meetings. The local librarian gave talk on history of Claflin. They have updated their driving CD & developing ads. Working on Marketing, updating website. They are excited the US Bicycle route has been rerouted to go through Great Bend & will be able to use Great Bend facilities for travelers.

Sue-Transportation Grants-As communities look at Bike Ped Trail developments be sure to share the Active Ks Byways publication with local leaders.

Sue sent out links to the new Tourism photo library & individual byways can use the images under their byway for marketing. Sue will resend email if necessary. Let Sue know if one of the images is used on something that will be seen nationally or regionally, just so there isn't a duplication on a state tourism document.

Native Stone- Marsha – Next meeting is tonight, 4/11. Last meeting, March 7, 7 in attendance. Stone Fence Workshop April 27, 28, 29, 1 mile south of Alma on Hwy 99; 4th workshop at this site and this is our 22nd stone fence workshop. Working with Washburn Tech on Brochure update. Fish ID Tour on waterways along Byway. Gala Fundraiser-highlighting local artists, authors, photographers, vineyards,

eateries, tentative date Sept. 22. October Byway Ghost Tour-still discussing. (Had a suggestion to include wine on the Ghost Tour). Discussing hosting another Barn Quilt Workshop.

Sue advised that Mission Valley FFA will be having clean-up day in Eskridge next week.

Flint Hills- Deb - Last meeting was last week- Pioneer Bluffs has had several successful dinners with good attendance- they continue to work on the wildflowers ID & markers project at the overlook.

Diane stated the FHNSB committee is also rotating thier meeting locations to increase attendance & learn more about the Byway.

Gypsum Hills-Kaye couldn't get her phone off mute, she was still listening in and submitted her report via email. The Spring meeting has been hard to get anyone together, with Dolly's Mom being ill, and people working in the day & school sports at night. Kaye plans to post a paper at their kiosk that it will be repaired soon because the existing is in bad shape. We are working with the Museum in planning the Gyp Hills Gravel Bike Trip the last of April; then the Big KS Road Trip the first week-end of May 3 – 6. They have plans for several events that week-end... at certain times. The wildflowers hopefully will bloom around that time, if they don't freeze. Wildflower Tour through the Gyp Hills is Saturday, May 12th.

We are working on this year's Peace Treaty brochure, hopefully out soon, and it will include the Gyp Hills Scenic Byway. Our Byway brochures are at the Stockade Museum, and Sagebrush Gallery. When we send out the PT brochures requested, we will include either the Rack card or Byway brochure to individuals planning on attending our Peace Treaty events.

The committee is pleased with the downtown of Medicine Lodge, after all the updating is complete.

Glacial Hills- No one was available from the Glacial Hills committee for the call. Sue said they had a meeting 2 weeks ago. Have had some changes to committee members due to some moving on.

There was a mention of Sue on FB Live with WIBW with a cute clip about asparagus for Agritourism. Sue stated we have a good partnership between our agency and KS Dept of Ag and cross participation in our programs.

Mary advised the Instameet hosted in their byway communities was fabulous! They've received good feedback and also good blogs.

If you see the construction crews working on the byways interpretive plan, snap some photos and let Sue know.

Deb-Advised that the National Scenic Byway Foundation is hosting Byway Storytelling Summit, June 4 & 5 in Schenectady, NY and Midwest Byway Conference, August 22-24 in Richmond, IN.

Sue noted that educational scholarship grant funding may be available for these conferences through Kansas Tourism. These grants have to be applied for prior to attendance to any conference.