

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

Kansas State Byway Committee Reports

2018 KS Byways Annual Meeting – Thursday, Nov 29th, Salina KDOT, District Two Conference Room – Sue & Scott reminded everyone of the KSByways Annual meeting date. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. with registration from 8:30 – 9:00. Sue asked anyone with speaker suggestions to please let her know. This meeting will fulfill the 4th quarterly conference call for 2018. If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to Scott or Sue.

2018 Kansas Tourism Conference – October 22 – 24th, Junction City – Sue shared the dates of the conference with the byway folks. The registration link is: <https://tiak.org/events/kansas-tourism-conference/>

Interpretive Grant Construction – Sue & Scott shared information about this project. Per GSR, there are only a few more slabs to construct and then all the pads will be completed, awaiting the fabrication of the interpretive boards. It is anticipated the boards will be ready for shipment and to begin installation around the first part of September.

Kansas Byways Guide 2018 – Sue relayed we are full on in editing mode of the 2019 KSByways guide. She sent the copy out to the local byway committees for review and edits. Requested everyone to look closely at the amenities to see if they listings are still open, phone numbers, etc. Storylines also need to be checked and edited. Sue said she is working to do her best to spread the stories throughout each byway community as well as amenities. **(Final edits were done over this past weekend and returned to Sunflower Publishing (Lawrence) to send to McCormick Printing (Wichita). It should be out by mid-August as they are supposed to be shrink wrapped and included in mailing KANSAS! MAGAZINE fall edition.)** Thank you all for your help!

New State Parks – Sue noted the Kansas Legislature approved and governor Coyler signed off on the addition of two new state parks in Kansas, both of which are a part of our Kansas Byways program. The Flint Hills Trail which is a linear trail – completed from Osawatomie to Council Grove, so it touches a part of the Frontier Military Historic Byway on the east end and Flint Hills National Scenic Byway on the completed west end. The plan (hope) is that the trail will eventually extend to Herington. This linear trail is open to foot traffic, bicycling and horseback riding.

Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park is in Logan County, west of US-83 and is a part of the Western Vistas Historic Byway. Though not yet open to the public, the plan is to be open in late 2018. There are plans to construct parking and trails, so people can see this fabulous area of Niobrara Chalk formations in Western Kansas.

Call for Transportation Alternative (TA) Grants – Scott told of the call for Transportation Alternative Grants is open. The deadline for submission is September 10, 2018. This is a great opportunity for the byway communities to work on development of the bike/pedestrian plan to construct trails in the communities. Mary Billington stated she thought locals were looking at this grant opportunity to possibly add some parking and a courtyard to the Rt 66 Visitor Center.

Annual Reports – Sue stated she will continue to work on reviews of the KSByways Annual reports. She has given a couple to Matt Messina to work on as well. With editing the Interpretive Boards and the KSByways Guide, she has not been able to get to them all.

Kansas State Fair Booth – Sue reported we have spots open for Kansas Byway committees to feature their community in the Kansas Tourism booth at the KS State Fair, September 7 – 16th, 2018. Drop Sue a note if you are interested in working a day, we do still have some spots left.

Byway Reports

Frontier Military – Julie Steiner and Mary Billington were on the call. Julie said they have worked on attempting to organize a motorcycle ride on the FMHB, possibly working with the Wounded Warriors or other military group. The Committee feels they may have bitten off more than they can chew. They had a telephone conference scheduled, but because of conflicts and they didn't feel there was much to discuss, opted to cancel the call.

Western Vistas – Jayne Humphrey said there is a joint effort TV production in the works with Wayne Roberts, Smoky Hills Public Television and several others involved about the Battle of Beecher Island, including Fort Harker, Fort Hays and Fort Wallace. They are really pumped about this opportunity!

Gypsum Hills – Kaye Kuhn reported they have been excited about the attention their portion of the state has received over the last several months with the Big Kansas Road Show and the Kansas Tourism office making a stop at the Gyp Hills Guest Ranch in Medicine Lodge. The Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty brochure includes the Gypsum Hills Scenic Byway on it. Some local folks are working on a story about the construction of US-160 highway. Kaye plans to work a day in the KS Tourism booth at the State Fair. They are replacing logs at the Stockade Museum with plans to redo the tower and front walls and are selling logs to help raise funds.

Flint Hills – Elena Lincoln and Diane Wolfe – Elena reported on their radio station update. Charley Klamm's daughter and her husband put programming together with current content. They were even able to work in Charley's voice on the recording. The committee has proceeded to complete the wildflower markers at the byway overlooks south of Cottonwood Falls. Heather Brown has spearheaded this project. On July 1, she had a rollout of the project with an "open-house" type event at the overlook. Several visitors stopped, and they received quotes the wildflower markers added to the experience of viewing the Flint Hills.

Smoky Valley – Cathy Albert was happy to report the Wilcox School project is complete with the construction phase of restoration of the school as of the middle of May. The school is located about 15 miles south of WaKeeney in an isolated area. She stated the preservationist who did the work suggested the not seal of all the windows with content, to leave one open so individuals wishing to break into the building can see the inside to see there is nothing worth stealing. The plan is on some permanent type material to have images of local wildflowers. He also suggested they install some cameras to deter vandalism, even if they are just dummies. He said the least expensive insurance policy is security lighting. On August 4th the From the Land of Kansas program will host a Kansas products dinner at Shiloh Vineyard and Winery. Cathy says they plan to have a 15th anniversary celebration of the byway once the interpretive project is complete. She stated Smoky Valley never had a dedication ceremony as US-283 was closed/under construction at the time the byway was designated.

Route 66 – Mary Billington – Mary reported they have had a busy couple of days in their area with a group from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for Route 66 nationwide have been in Galena and Baxter Springs. They have been impressed with the change in the area and what the local communities are doing to promote Historic Route 66 in the area. There is a new business going into downtown Baxter Springs that will involve several store fronts called the Decades of Wheels a car museum. The grand opening will be October 12-14th, 2018 with musical guests Grand Funk Railroad and Steppenwolf performing. It was noted the Riverton roundabout now has the largest “Rt 66” display on the entire route. It is made of steel tire wheels and stands 20 ft in the air.

Prairie Trail – Ronn Peters, Holly Lofton. Ronn sadly reported the passing of committee member, Don Hansen, from the Ellsworth area, who worked very diligently on the committee to promote their part of Kansas. Don’s wife, Garnell, plans to continue with her work on the byway committee. Ronn reported the “hot” and “cold” water towers in Canton have been repainted so it is easier to read. They have a second printing of their byway brochure in the works. The byway placed an ad in the KSByways guide. Sue Schlegel has been doing presentations to civic organizations in their area and county/city commissioners. Fort Harker Days were July 13-15. Ronn has discussed an idea to promote gravel road rides in their area, have some routes laid out so there are options available. He also thinks it would be good to have some bus tours formed with residents from retirement facilities to explore the byways.

Holly reported the Lindsborg community has been very busy with a reseeding project. She said it stems from a visit she made to Coronado Heights where she was disappointed with the wildflower display, so in conjunction with the Smoky Valley Historical Assn, they worked to have packets with a tsp of wildflower seeds made up to distribute - 3000 packets of wildflower seeds, some she hopefully made it to Coronado Heights. The community has hosted several travel writers and bloggers and she works to get them out on the byway.

Wetlands & Wildlife – Curtis Wolf – The Committee met on June 28, 2018. Continuing our byway brochure inventory and revision. The Committee is working with Great Bend CVB to develop several stock print advertisements for Byway to use for future publications. CVB developed and issued a questionnaire to the byway committee members to help develop ad themes and ideas.

The Committee is exploring a revision to our Byway Audio tour CD. They have converted the audio tour onto flash drives but have not had a high demand for these from visitors. The Committee is evaluating the best way to get the audio tour out for use. The Committee divided up all the pages of our website and individual committee members are reviewing and correcting outdated/incorrect information so that we can revise information presented on our website.

Native Stone – Cheryl Collins from the Riley Co Historical Museum was on the call and shared this information about the byway.

EVENTS

NSSB is continuing to attend local community events. Most recently, Dover Heritage Day & also the 8th Annual Mitchell Farm & Prairie Celebration, Wabaunsee, both were held on June 16, but we managed to have committee members at both events.

Hot Alma Nights Car Show is held in August and we’ll have members there also.

BROCHURES

The committee continues to work on their articles & photos for a new brochure. They are

working with the Graphic Design class at Washburn Tech, when classes resume.

FUNDRAISERS

The committee will host a Ghost Tour fundraiser, September 8, from 7 pm - 10 pm, (**Sold out per FB**) focusing on Somerset Hall, Sage Inn, Echo Cliff and the Keene Cemetery, all in Dover. They have met with Kansas Paranormal Investigators, who will be helping us with this event.

Their 3rd Annual Gala fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, September 22 and will hopefully be held at the Alma Hotel, Alma, KS, highlighting Kansas authors, artists, photographers, local restaurants, vineyards and breweries.

They are again discussing the Fish ID Tour as a fundraiser and will be working with a Professor from Emporia State. The committee hopes to have a wildlife artist attend this event and sketch some of the fish that are natural to our local creeks & rivers. (Probably in 2019.)

STONE FENCE WORKSHOP

In October, they will host the 23rd Bi-Annual Stone Fence Workshop. It will be approximately 1 mile south of Alma on K-99 Hwy. Their next meeting is Wednesday, 7/11/201
Land & Sky

Land & Sky – Mona Cover was on the call but had to leave before we came around to her.

Glacial Hills – No one participating on call.

Post Rock – Ashley Wickham reported they have reprinted their byway brochures. Upcoming is the Lucas Adams Apple Festival on Aug 25th and the Czech Festival in Wilson July 27-29.

I do also have a note (I can't remember who mentioned it) that Prairie Earth Tours is a great company to work with for byway tours. Casey Cagle, <https://prairieearthtours.com> is based out of Emporia but contact them about tours. We also have another company, Sunflower State Tours, (785) 470-7720, based out of Hope, KS that does byway tours.