



Cimarron River 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.

Tom Flowers – NRCS
Dave Arnold - Producer

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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February 1st, Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The meeting started at 9:00am at the USDA Service Center in Meade. There were 6 people in attendance, with two landowners present.

Reviewed minutes of last meeting- Mike reviewed the previous meeting minutes from the November 3rd meeting, which was held in Ashland. No changes were suggested and the chapter approved the minutes.

Funding Updates

- **US FWS Invasive Species Grant** – Mike announced that we still have funding to do Salt Cedar Control projects left over from the initial \$25,000 grant. KAWS has also received an additional grant of \$20,000 to fund projects as well. Most of this money is already allocated, but some should be left over for a few more projects.
- **SCC/EPA Grant** – Mike announced that the State Conservation Commission has been awarded \$100,000 dollars for demonstrational projects through KAWS.
- **KDHE 319 Grant** – KAWS is still waiting for funding for this grant. We should receive approximately \$174,000 dollars from this grant for projects as well. We expect to find out more on this grant proposal within the next month or so.

KAWS website Updates- The website has recent updates covering news throughout the state. You can also access the most recent editions of *Resources*, which is our quarterly newsletter. Just go to www.kaws.org and click on publications, then *Resources* newsletter and click on the most current issue. Check the website often if you want to stay informed on what is happening in and around Kansas. **To all chapter members: If you have something that you want to see in the *Resources* newsletter let us know we are always looking for new ideas.**

Coordinator's Report (cont. from page 1)

Frazier Park Update- This project is making headway. The final plan and specifications for the project have been completed. The City is now waiting on their final KDHE NPDES and construction permit. Construction should begin 8-9 weeks after the receipt of the KDHE permit. Mike submitted the KAWS project proposal on November 14th which is now awaiting the Project Management Team approval.

GIS Mapping through DASC and KAWS – Mike gave a brief update on the progress that has been made on the mapping feature that will be added to www.kaws.org. This will allow members that do not have ArcView software to utilize several different overlays to create several different specialized maps. This feature should be up and running within a few months and will include over 20 different overlays when completed.

CP23A Meeting Scheduled - Mike has been working with the local Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service to schedule a joint county meeting. The meeting has been set for March 2nd in the basement of the Plains State Bank at 12:00 p.m. A short meeting will be held after a beef brisket lunch (provided). If you would like to attend please **RSVP to Mike Peterson at 620-227-8609 by February 27th**.

Playa Lakes Exhibit – The Playa Lakes Joint Venture playa lake exhibit is currently being displayed at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby through February 28th and will then be moved to the Sternberg Natural History Museum in Hays, KS. Stop by and check out this exhibit, it has something for everyone.

Playa Lake Placemats – Mike gave a brief

Chapter Business

discussion on the new placemats that have been designed by KDWP in conjunction with the USDA. He told the chapter members that the placemats were developed to be utilized in restaurants throughout the four targeted CP23a counties. The members had several suggestions for restaurants in Finney County, since this is the last county for distribution. These placemats will hopefully entice local producers to inquire about CP23a and boost enrollment for this much needed program.

Upper Ark WRAPS Review- Mike provided a brief run down of what is currently being done with the WRAPS, since the initial stakeholder tour. Three Upper Ark WRAPS meetings have been planned. They will be held in Dodge City Feb. 23, Feb. 28 in Larned and March 2 in Garden City. All will be held at 6:30 p.m. with a free meal provided. Feel free to contact Mike for more information or call and RSVP for the meeting directly to Robert Frisbie the K-State Research and Extension Upper Arkansas Watershed specialist at 620-659-2149.

Salt Cedar Update – Mike gave a brief summary of past and current projects. He also talked about the status of current projects. Tom Flowers announced that funding to control Tamarisk can also be acquired through the NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) at a 50/50 cost share level. Projects can range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 dollars with approximately 40 grants to be awarded. Proposals that address invasive species concern on western range lands will be given priority, with proposals due on April 3, 2006 to NRCS Headquarters.

Mike Peterson

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Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

1/23 – WRAPS Stakeholder Mtg. Dodge City	3/9 – KAWS BOD Mtg. Hays
1/23 – KWO Tamarisk Plan Meeting, Garden City	3/16 – TSI/Weed Control in New Tree Planting Workshop, Emporia
1/28 – WRAPS Stakeholder Mtg. Larned	
3/02 – CP23A Mtg. Plains State Bank, Plains	
3/02 – WRAPS Stakeholder Mtg. Garden City	5/16-17 – KAWS Annual Meeting, Junction City