



Mid-Plains 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

Greg Henderson – NRCS
Craig Curtis – KDWP
Mike Peterson – KAWS
Aaron Baugh – KDWP

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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September 20th, Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The meeting started at 10:00AM at the USDA Service Center in Larned. Three people attended the meeting, and were given the opportunity to visit prior to the meeting about everything that is going on in the world of conservation.

Reviewed minutes of last meeting- Mike reviewed the previous meeting minutes from the May 3rd meeting in Kinsley. No changes were suggested and the chapter approved the minutes.

Upper Ark WRAPS Review- Robert Frisbie provided a brief run down of what is currently being done with the WRAPS, since the initial stakeholder tour. Three Upper Ark WRAPS leadership meetings are being held monthly in three different areas of the watershed. They are the first Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each month in Garden City, Dodge City and Larned respectively. The meetings are held at 1:00pm and locations vary. So far the leadership teams are addressing the list of priorities and highlighting items to construct a dynamic WRAPS document. Public meetings will be held once the leadership teams are finished and the document is in rough draft form. If you would like to participate contact Robert Frisbie the K-State Research and Extension Upper Arkansas Watershed specialist at 620-659-2149.

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.

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 the KAWS website soon. The address is

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<http://maps.kansasgis.org/kaws/map.cfm> This mapping tool will allow our website users access to several different overlays and themes to create specialized maps that were once only useable by those who had ArcView.

Salt Cedar Control 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. If you have any potential projects contact Mike for the forms. He can assist you with their completion.

Salt Cedar Projects – To date we are working on the following projects:

1. Traylor Wetland – Removal of Salt Cedar from around the natural water inlet and outlet and around the perimeter of the wetland itself.
2. Onek River Corridor – The first basal treatment project contracted through KAWS. Their infestation is light to moderate along the Arkansas River. They are going to kill the salt cedar and evaluate if there are any benefits to wildlife by leaving the dead tree biomass standing.
3. Arnold Project – This project is in year two of treatment and is evaluating the effects of Salt cedar on the groundwater table along with three treatment plots of cut/re-cut, cut/burn and cut/spray.
4. Dunne Ranch – This project is being completed by the Gardiner Ranch and is also in year two of treatment. They are cutting trees and using cut stump spraying. Biomass is piled up and burned.

Chapter Business

Project Update - Mike discussed the project funding for the SW portion of KS. To date only one project was submitted by the Cimarron River Chapter, five by the Buffalo Wallow Chapter, and two by the Mid-Plains Chapter. There are remaining project dollars for the MPC and CRC, which both elected to make their left over money to the BWC since they have allocated all of their project dollars.

Projects for the MPC include:

1. Cressie Enlow Playa Buffer - Completed
2. Stanley Riparian Fencing - Completed

Mike also talked about the new KAWS contracting system. With the low number of projects to date however, Mike is handling all of the contracts for his chapters to expedite the process. The majority of projects are currently under contract and the rest will follow soon.

Playa Lake Videos – Mike gave a brief overview of the new video The Playas – Reflections of Life on the Plains. The video gives specific information on playas, their biology, issues relating playa hydrology to the Ogallala Aquifer and conservation efforts. Mike has copies of this video available to those interested in conservation efforts including landowners, conservation specialists, and anyone else wanting to know about playas. Contact Mike directly if you would like to receive a copy, DVD or VHS formats are available.

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Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

10/11 – WRAPS Leadership Mtg. Dodge City
10/12 – Fall Forestry Field Day Emporia
10/17 – Grazing Land Water Quality meeting in Manhattan
10/23-24 – KAWS Fall Tour and BOD Meeting Great Bend, KS