



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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May 3rd, Meeting Review

KAWS Coordinator's Report

The meeting started at 10:00AM at the USDA Service Center in Kinsley. Eight people attended the meeting, and were given the opportunity to visit prior to the meeting.

Reviewed minutes of last meeting- Mike reviewed the previous meeting minutes from the February 3rd meeting in Kinsley. 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.
- **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.

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

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ArcView software to utilize several different overlays to create several different specialized maps. This feature is still being compiled and should be up and running within a few weeks. Mike has sent out a link to the beta version for chapter member review and has received several comments back on this feature.

CP23A Meeting Wrap up - Mike organized a joint county meeting for Seward and Meade counties. The meeting was well received with 20 people attending. Mike also held a meeting in Cimarron for Gray and Finney counties with 20 people attending. Four landowners left very interested, and four other contacts were developed and showed interest prior to the meeting while talking with Mike. Don't forget that the PLSIP for CP23a through KDWP is still available and that interested landowners can contact Mike for further information at 620-227-8609.

Playa Lakes Exhibit – The Playa Lakes Joint Venture playa lake exhibit is currently being displayed at the museum in Boise City, Oklahoma. Mike and Chris set the exhibit up a few weeks ago. The exhibit was displayed in Kansas at the Garden City Zoo, the Prairie Heritage Museum in Colby, and the Sternberg Museum in Hays before moving on to Oklahoma.

Playa Lake Placemats – Mike gave a brief 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. All of the placemats have been used and 3 inquiries into the program have resulted from those efforts.

Chapter Business

Member Updates and New Business

- One new member attended the meeting. He is the new K-State R&E coordinator for Edwards County. He gave a brief history of himself and a rundown of how he would like to be involved in the local chapter.
- Another update included a KERP class (through K-State) one group has decided to promote stream crossings. They would like to have one in Russell County and one in Ford County. Arlen Eaton has been in contact with the members and is going to work with Mike to complete the KAWS project proposal for possible funding.

Upper Ark WRAPS Review- Robert Frisbie provided a brief run down of what is currently being done with the local WRAPS, since the initial stakeholder tour. Three Upper Ark WRAPS stakeholder meetings were held in Dodge City, Larned and Garden City. Since then another stakeholder meeting has been held within each of the three areas to address the issues at hand. We will be meeting every two months to discuss each of the issues that have been set, and take additions of action items. Feel free to contact Mike for more information or call Robert Frisbie the K-State Research and Extension Upper Arkansas Watershed specialist at 620-659-2149 for more information on the upcoming meeting dates.

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Upcoming Chapter meetings, activities, and events

June 7th – CRP 20th Anniversary Celebration – Abilene
June 8th – Forestry Training Opportunity – Topeka
June 15th – Agroforestry Field Day – Spearville
June 13th-15th – PLJV Meeting Fort Robinson, NE
August 10th – KAWS BOD Meeting Manhattan, KS

