

ICMA | conference

REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ELDON FIELDS COLLOQUIUM

Hannes Zacharias

Professor of Practice, University of Kansas SPAA

ICMA Conference, Nashville TN

Oct. 21, 2019 hannes.zacharias@ku.edu

OCTOBER 20–23, 2019

/

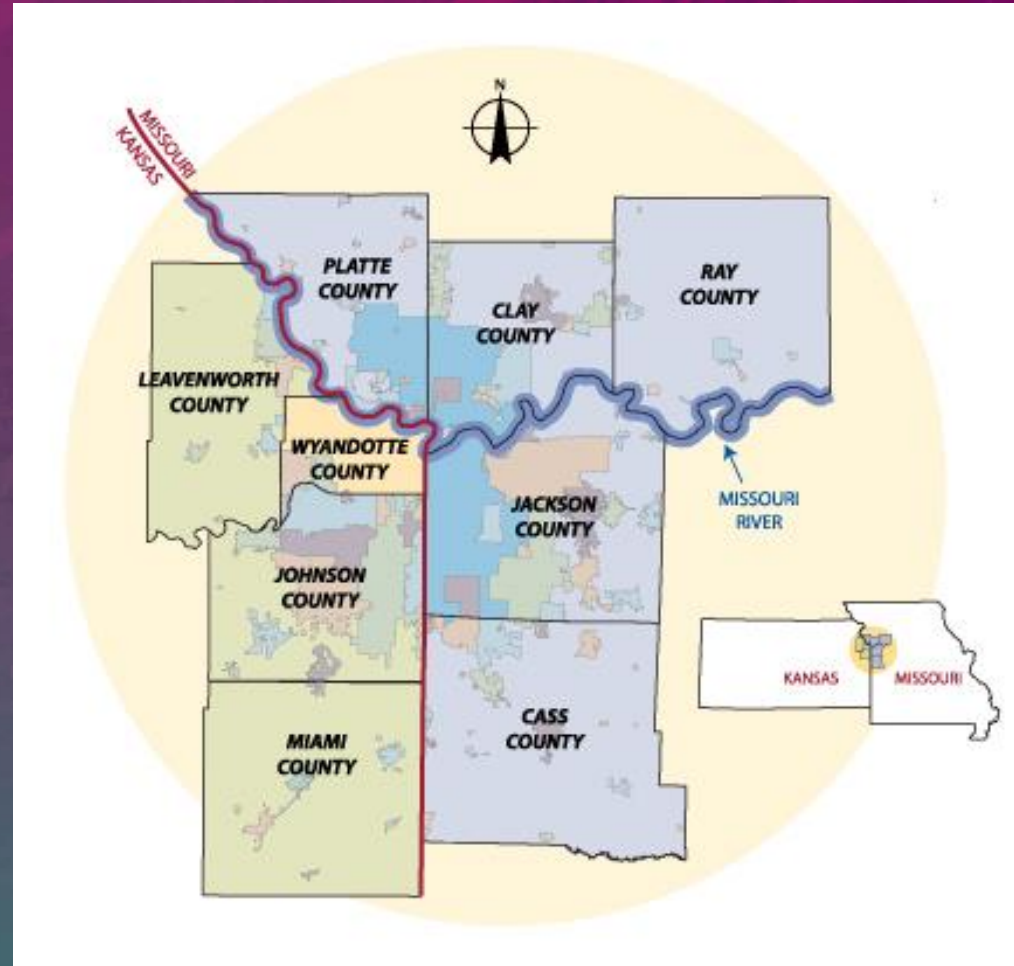
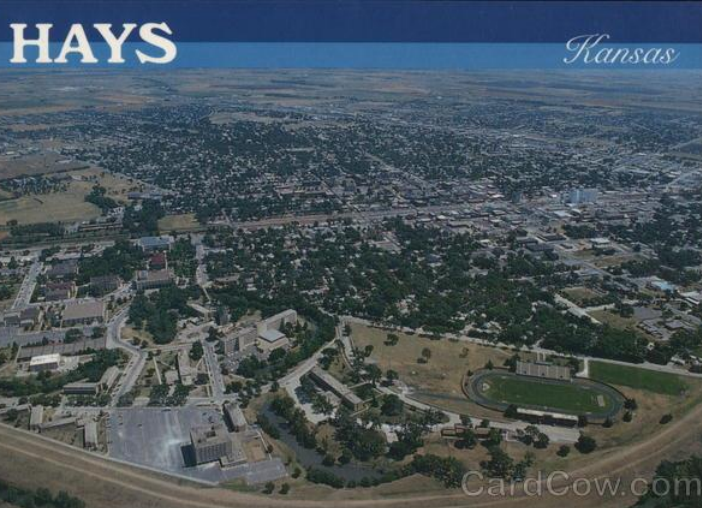
MUSIC CITY CENTER, NASHVILLE, TN

/

#ICMA2019

Outline

- Brief Background
- In Transition
- Rediscovering myself...and the Arkansas River
- Reconnecting...lessons learned

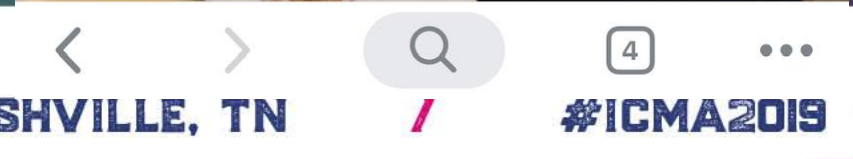
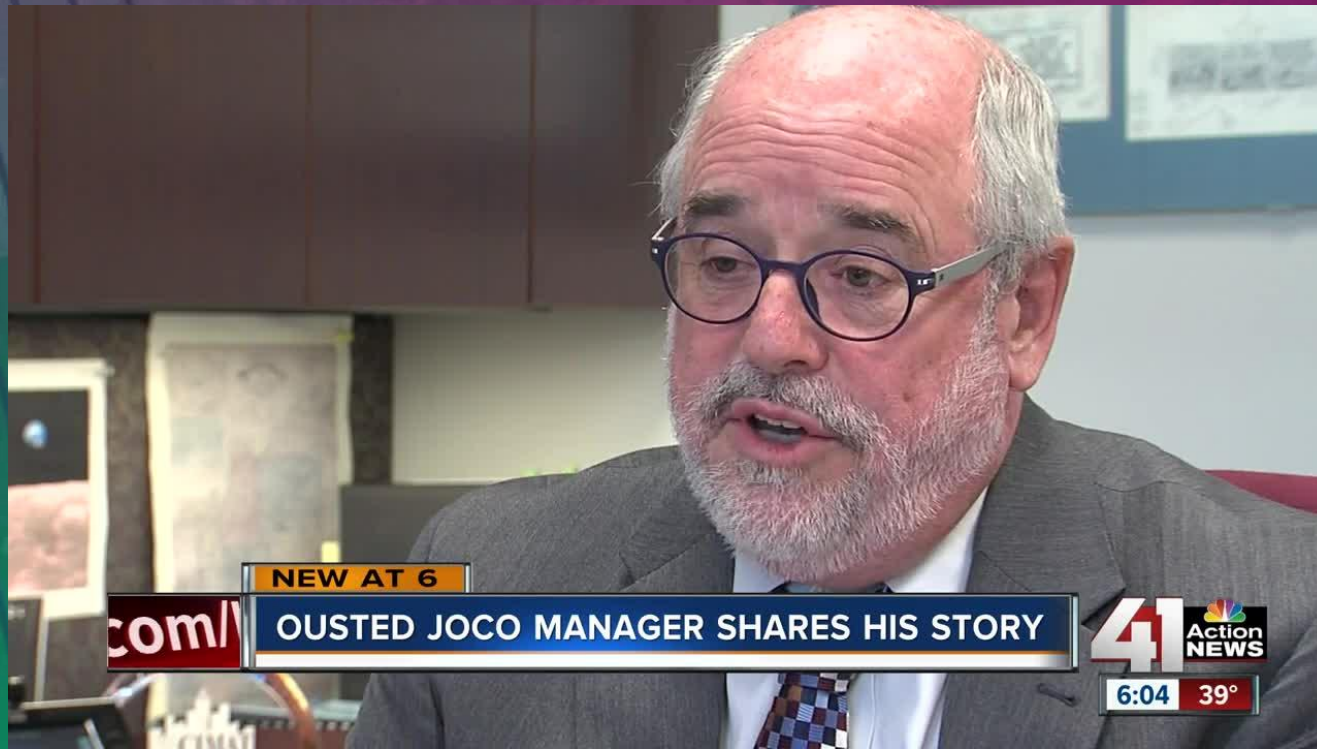


33 years in the ICMA World

OCTOBER 20-23, 2019

MUSIC CITY CENTER, NASHVILLE, TN

#ICMA2019



OCTOBER 20

ENTER, NASHVILLE, TN

#ICMA2019



GUEST COMMENTARY

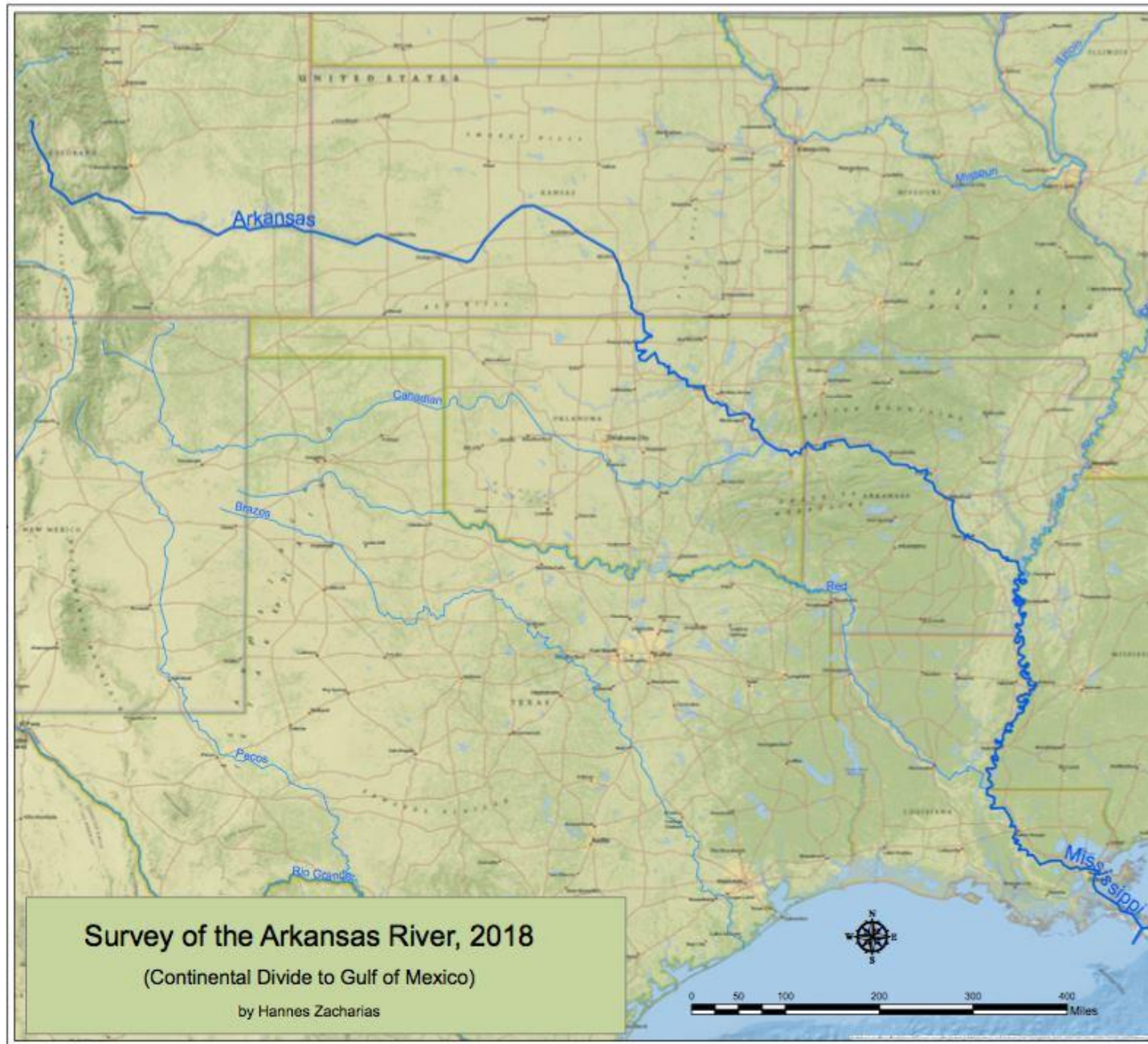
A farewell from outgoing Johnson County Manager Hannes Zacharias



A majority of the Johnson County Commission has voted to not renew my contract to serve as County Manager, effective Dec. 31, 2017. As all managers know, this is their right. As expressed to me, the majority wants to take Johnson County in a more

 Under Armour Factory House:
Up to 40% Off Entire Store! 

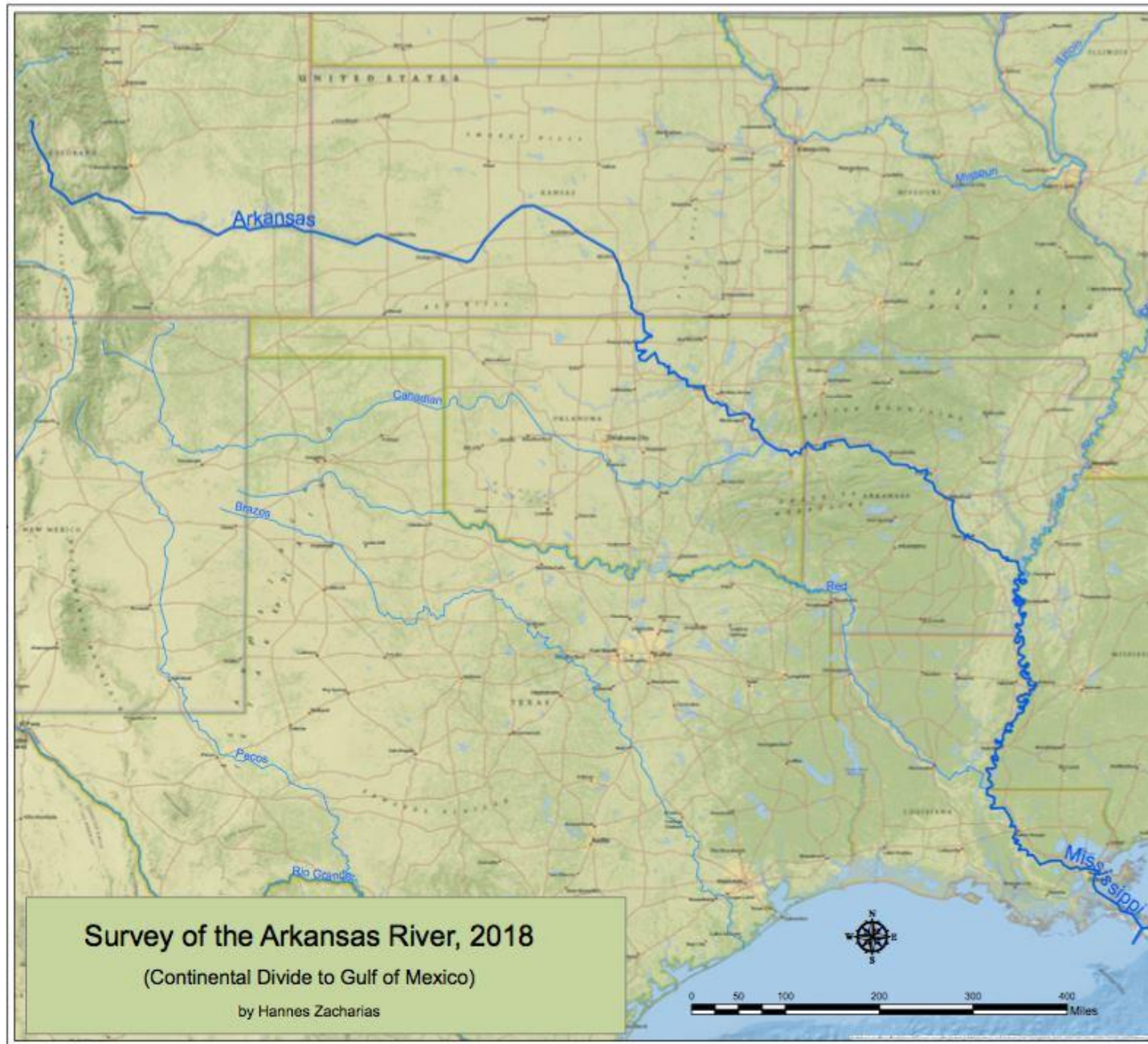




New Orleans 1976





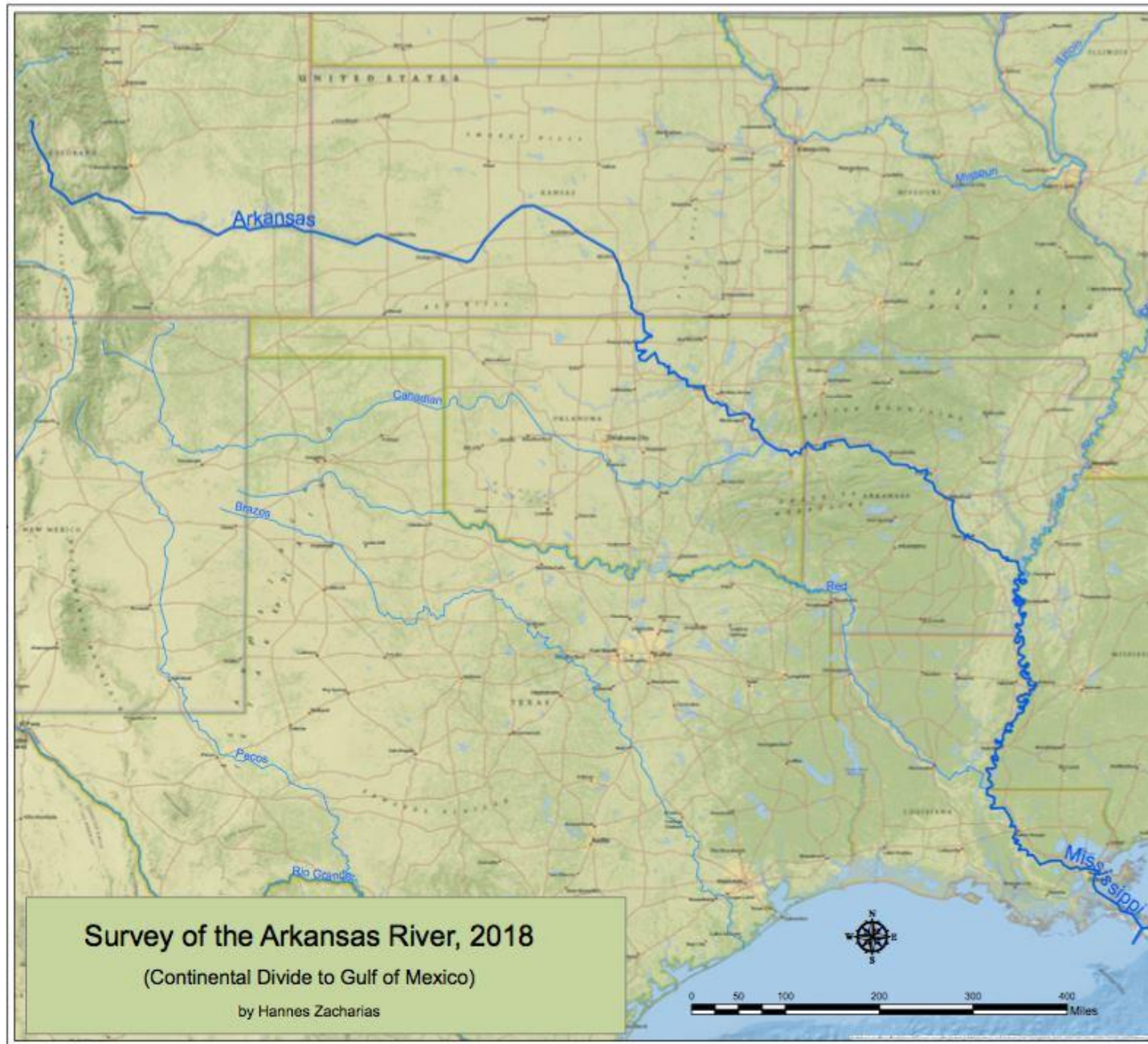




The Arkansas River south of Leadville, CO





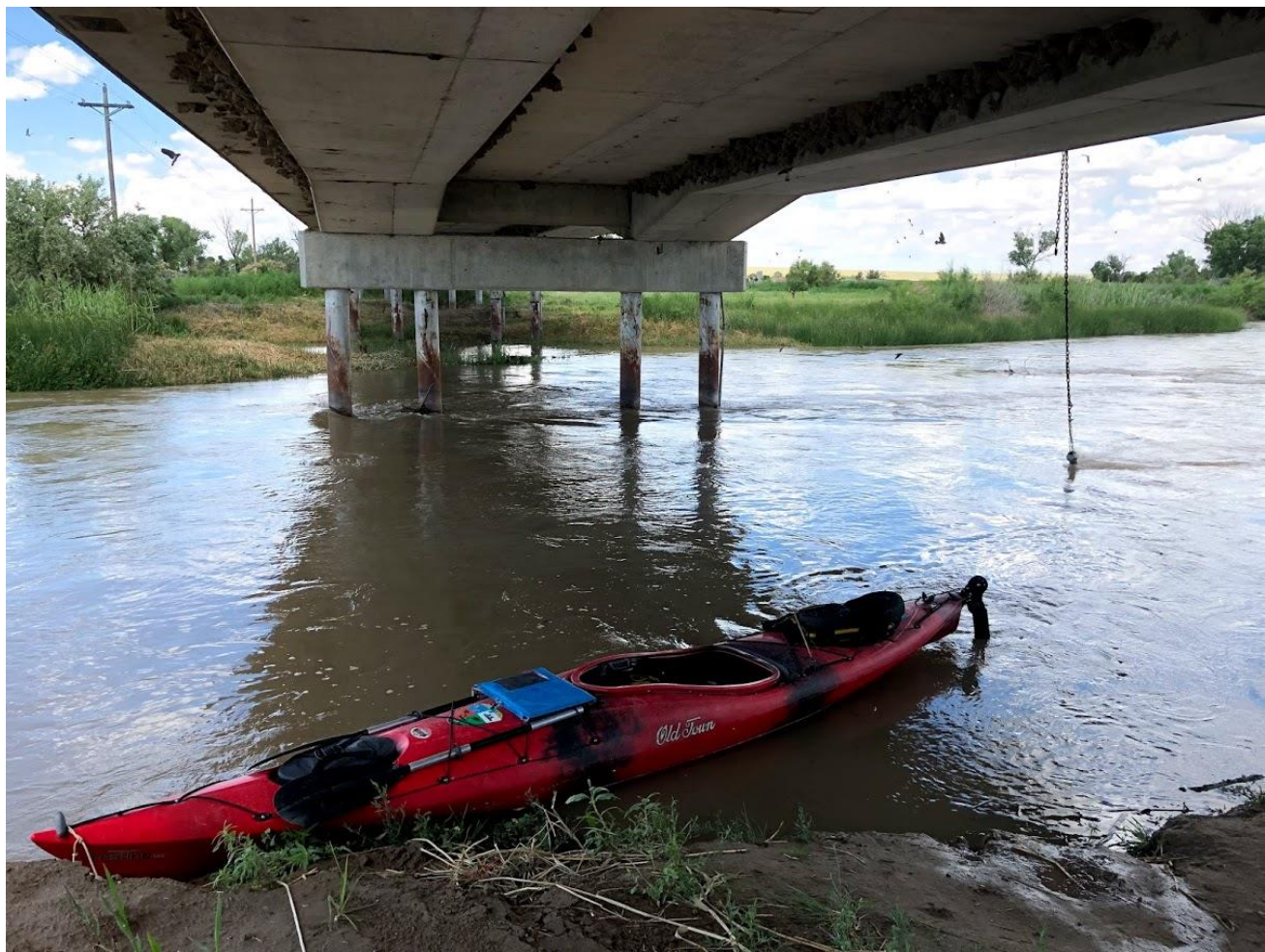




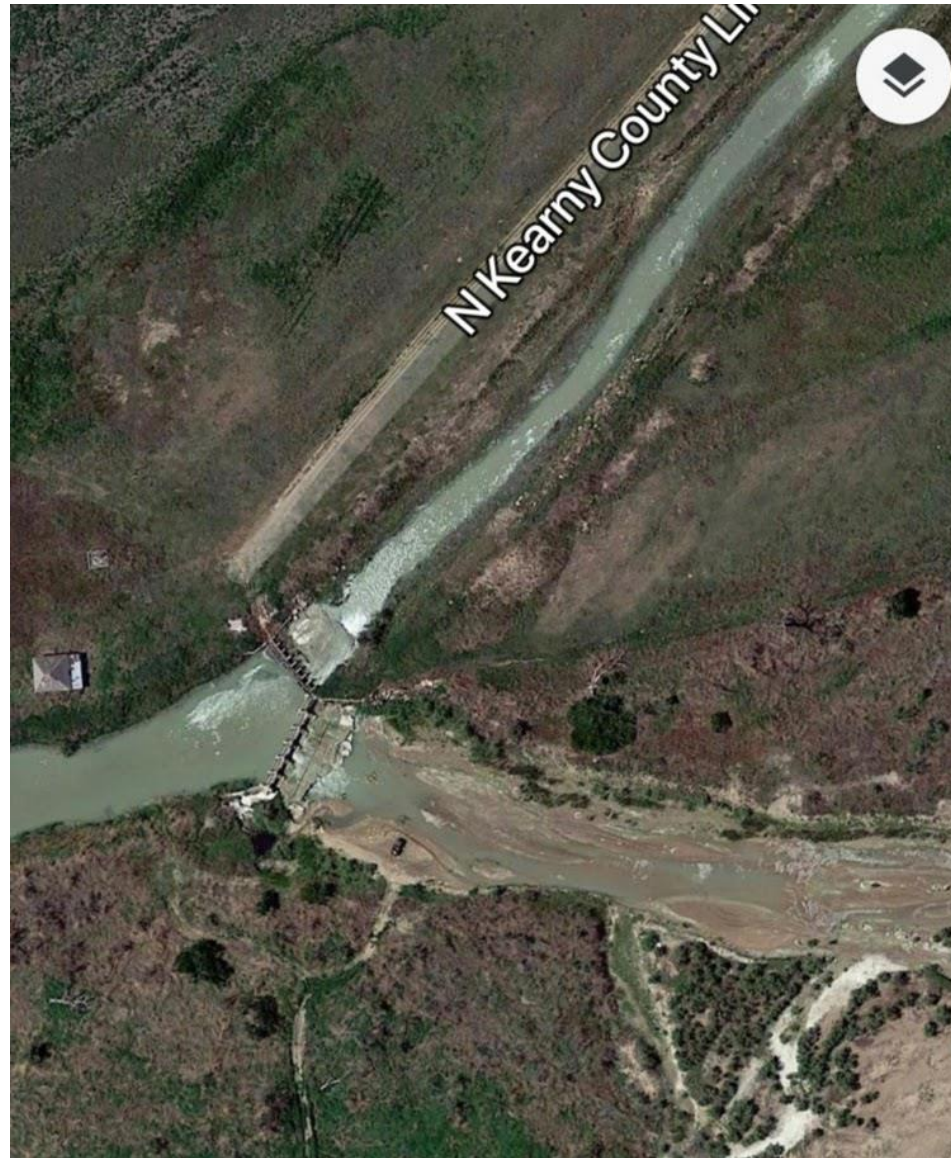


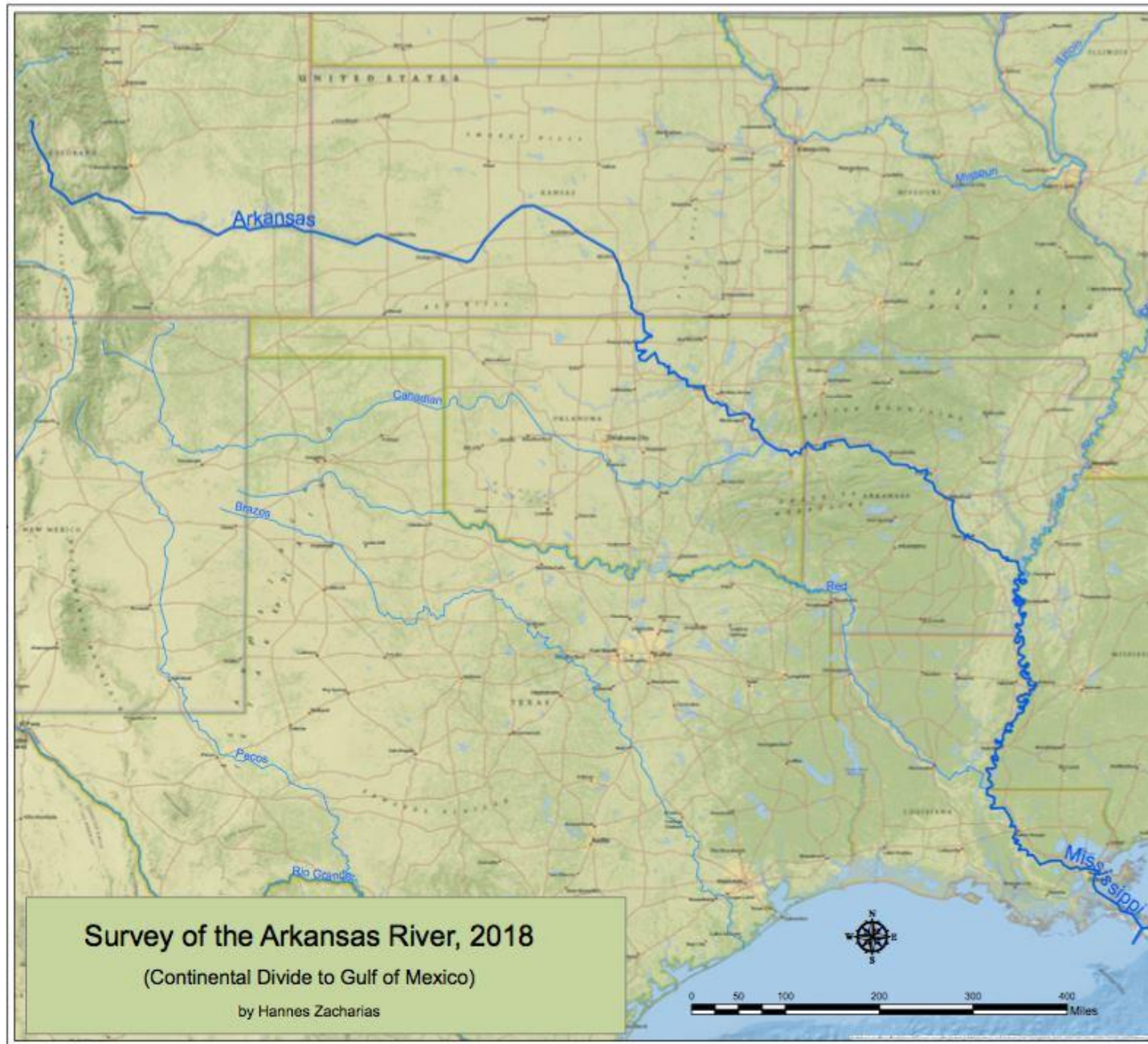






Ditch Irrigation Canal, Deerfield, KS





Ark River below Deerfield



Bridge at Garden City, then and now





Second Street Bridge
in Dodge City,
beginning of 1976
trip (2018 view).







from Concho

crossing the Arkansas at great bend 1872

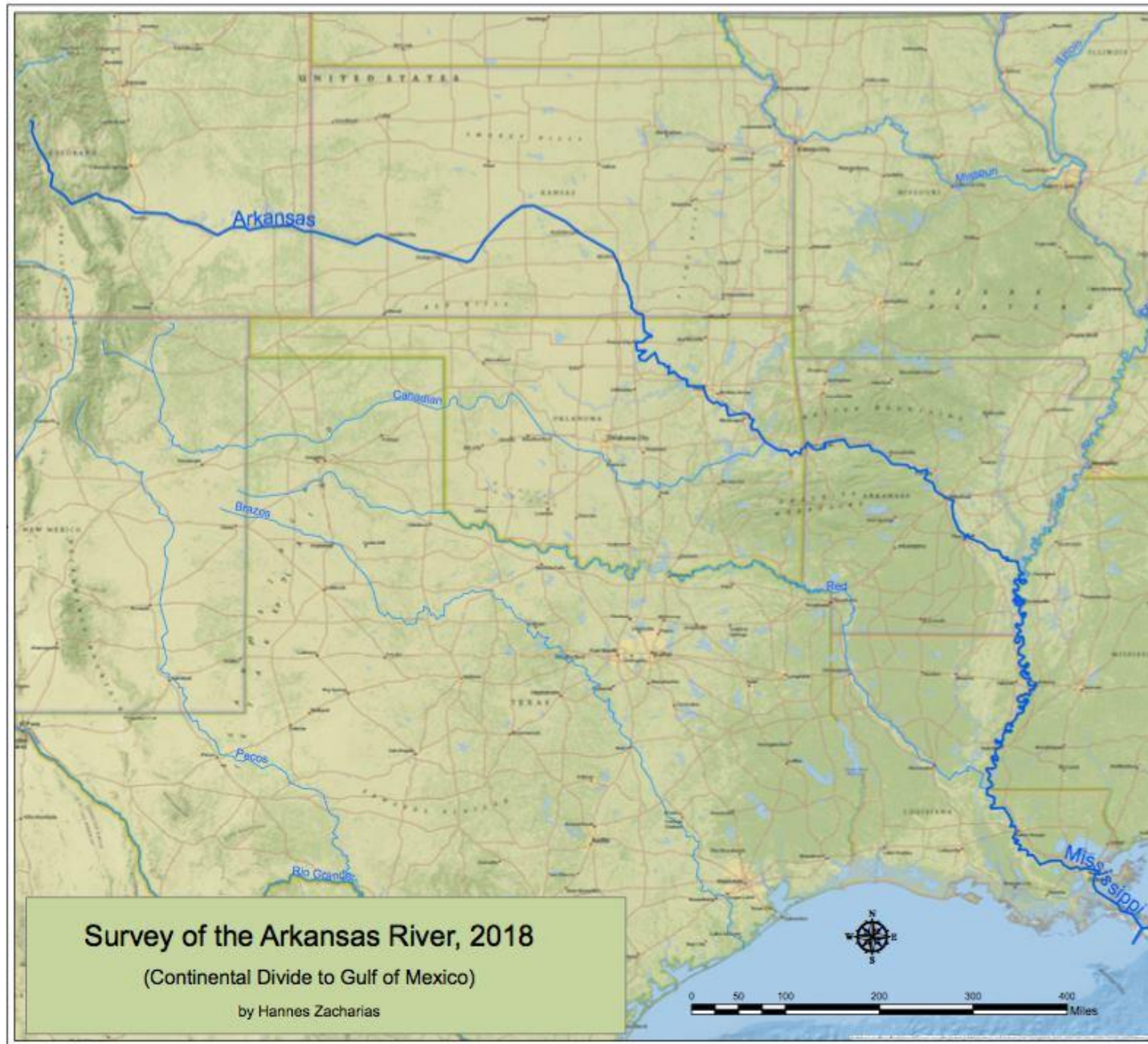


Ark River
coming back to
life north of
Hutchinson

#ICMA2019



Paddling with
'Arkanoë Kayak
Co.'
Hutchinson, KS





Camping on the Ark then
(1976) and now (2018)

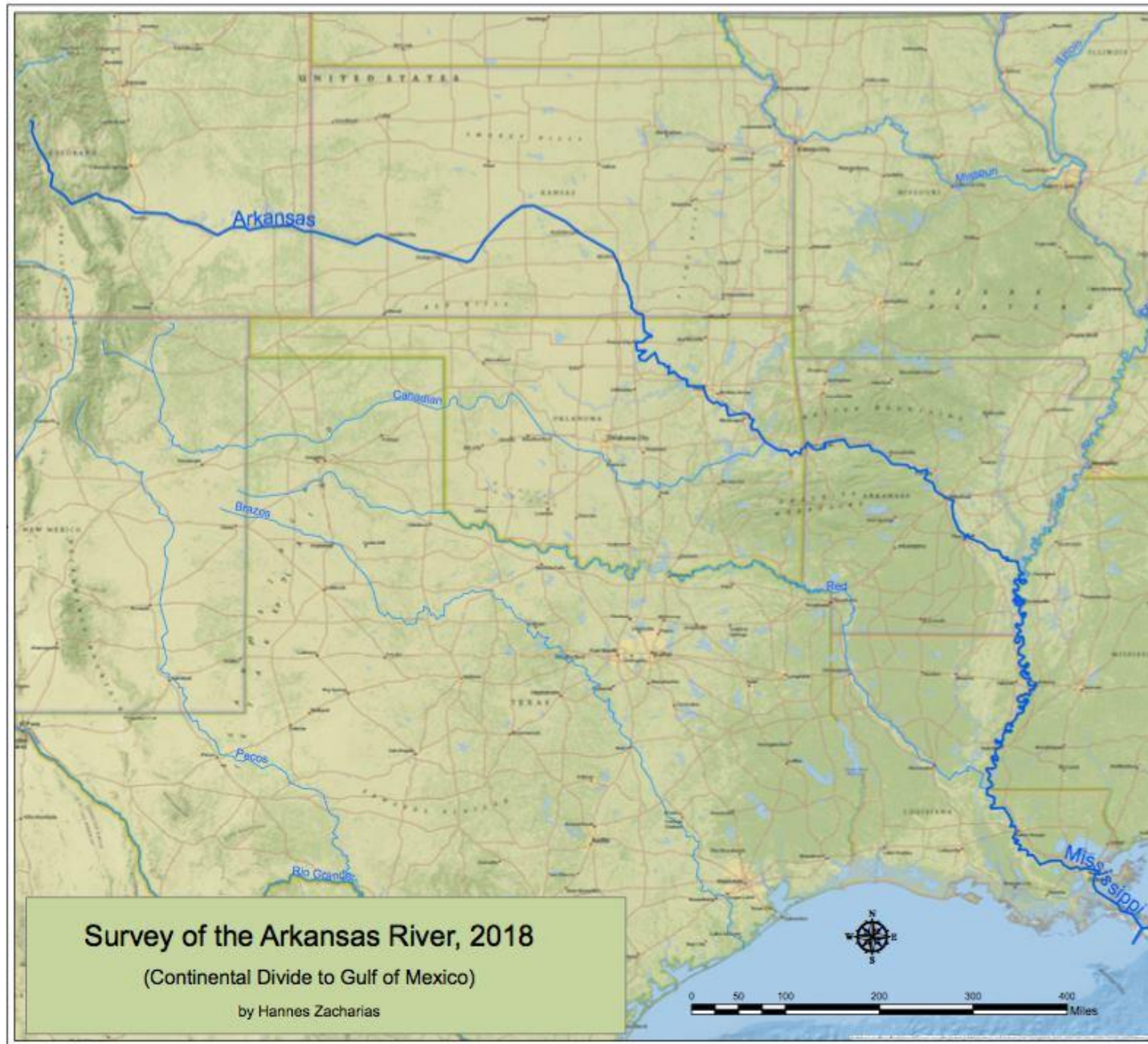


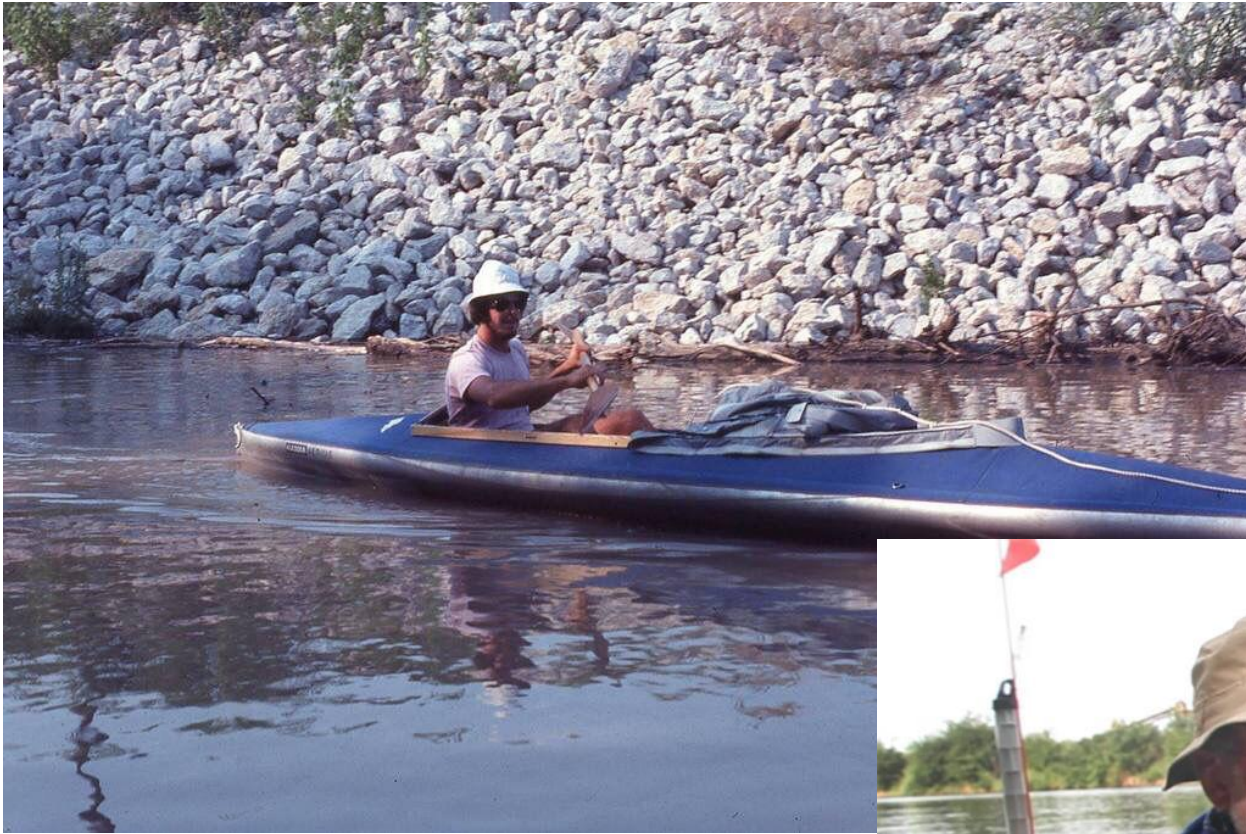
'Tag along' Kayakers, Arkansas City, KS 2018 & 1976



Below Keystone Reservoir, Tulsa, OK







Lock No. 18, East of
Tulsa, OK

No Alligators...yet



Lock No. 15, Kerr Reservoir, Oklahoma



Hannes, Ft. Smith (1976)



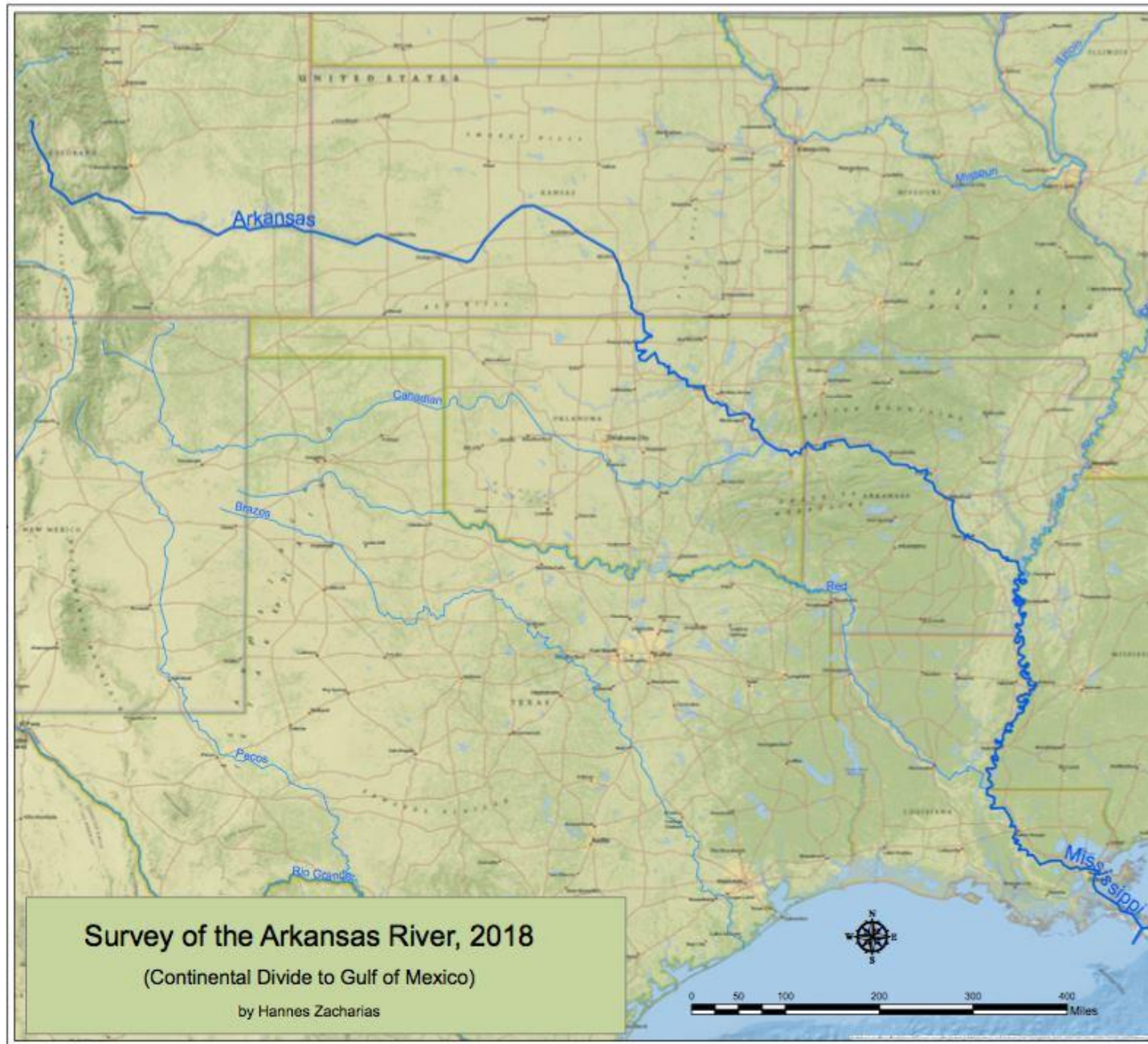
A passing wave

Hannes Zacharias, 22, of Dodge City, Kan., waves as he heads on down

New Orleans, figuring to make the 700-mile "paddle" in six weeks.
(Southwest Times Record Staff Photo by Carrol Copeland)

Towing across Arkansas







Entering the
Mississippi





Pontoon Rescue







Daily Life...



Natchez, MS



What to do after heat exhaustion and dehydration...travel by U-Haul



Algiers Point, New Orleans





Venice, LA...the
end of the road.



WHAT I LEARNED

ICMA | conference

- To keep promises to yourself
- ┌ • That 'Mature' people can still have adventures
- That I am not retiring...I am entering the next chapter of my life
- The environment and politics of the Ark and Miss. Rivers have changed over 42 years, but not the People.

Things to Remember

- You're never too...old, young, inexperienced, etc
- Live your life in a way that others will want to follow
- Be inspired and inspiring
- Make progress...not solutions
- Public Service is not for sissy's
- Overnight success...usually takes 15 years
- Find your own reasons for public service and share

#ICMA2019

Personal Advice

- **Get Healthy...Stay Healthy**
- **Be Yourself**
- **Humility/perseverance**
- **Constant Learning**
- **Adapt, Assume good intent, Listen**
- **What you believe...is your destiny (Gandhi)**

Professional Advice

- Leadership is Action
- Talk about why...less about how
- Value other peoples' work
- Don't let the immediate overtake the important
- Culture eats strategic planning 'for lunch'.
- Do what Covey, Collins, Lencioni, and others say
- Dr. George Frederickson's key four;
 - Social Equity, Think long term, Speak Truth to Power, Remember the Athenian Oath

#ICMA2019

Future Efforts

- **Deepen my relationships with Family and Friends**
- **Advance a Culture of mutual caring in the KC Metro Area.**
- **Advocate for the Arkansas River and the world environment**
- **Inspire and nurture the current (and future) generations of Public Servants**



**Thank you for what you are doing...
And for what you will be doing.**

#ICMA2019



**Keep moving from here to
wherever the river takes you.**

#ICMA2019



Thank You

Books to consider reading and Websites to view

- **Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity by David Whyte, April 2002**
- **Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming by Paul Hawken and Tom Steyer, April 2017**
- **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, website. <https://www.gcom-oceania.org>**