

The Waterfront



Volume 7, Issue 2

Spring 2016

Word From The Street



Tracy Streeter, Director

This spring has been a hectic one for us at the Kansas Water Office (KWO) and our Water Resources Subcabinet partners at Kansas Dept. of Agriculture (KDA), Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment (KDHE)

and Kansas Dept. of Wildlife Parks and Tourism (KDWPT)! KWO has seen significant staff turnover of late and while we've lost some valuable team members, we are fortunate to have recruited some outstanding talent as you will see on page three of this issue.

Each of the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) has met at least once and is actively developing their action plans and some action plans are beginning to be implemented. Equus Beds Aquifer modeling is underway, a groundwater assessment in the Missouri region, a lower Republican new reservoir evaluation, and a low quality water inventory for the Red Hills and other regions are in the works. Water technology farms are under development in the Upper Ark and Great Bend Prairie regions and KDA's list of potential Water Conservation Areas is growing in the Upper Smoky, Upper Republican, Cimarron and Upper Ark regions. A nutrient and sediment CREP project is under development for priority watersheds and reservoirs in the Kansas, Neosho and Equus-Walnut

regions. Streambank projects are being designed and soon to be bid on the Tuttle Creek, John Redmond and Perry Reservoir watersheds.

Last, but not least, the dredging project at John Redmond is now underway and last week, we celebrated the commencement of this historic project for Kansas. Governor Brownback; Lowry Crook, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works); Col. Richard Pratt, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Tulsa District; Stan Ekren, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock; New Strawn and Burlington Mayors Mark Petterson and Stan Luke and Coffey County Commissioner Arlin Meets were in attendance along with approximately 100 other supporters of this project.

The Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force has met three times this year and received written and oral testimony from more than 30 stakeholders in April providing insight into funding needs and potential revenue sources. The Education

and Public Outreach Workgroup has also met three times this year and has identified some great strategies. Both the funding and education efforts are on schedule to provide recommendations at the Governor's Water Conference this fall.



While I recognize this is only the tip of the iceberg, I'm proud of the progress made so far and I thank each of the RAC members, KWO staff past and present, and agency partners for your contributions and commitment.



LP Dredge

Legislative Update:

This past legislative session included KWO support for Senate Bill 412, a bill to allow for a renewable energy facility to benefit the Kansas River Assurance District as a whole, including Water District No. 1 of Johnson County (WaterOne). This legislation was signed into law by Governor Sam Brownback on April 27, 2016.

KWO supported this legislation as it amended the current easement to allow for the installation of hydropower generators and equipment. The new project will capitalize on the ability to create a renewable energy facility to provide electricity to their water treatment plant.

Stable flows in the Kansas River supported by Kansas Water Assurance District releases from Milford, Tuttle Creek and Perry Reservoirs provide the opportunity for WaterOne to produce its' own renewable energy. This non-consumptive use of water will allow additional economic benefit from the use of our natural resources, as the facility will be operating by the natural flow of the Kansas River. The project will cre-

ate a good nexus for the region, and the Kansas River will be providing the power needed to clean its own water to drinking water standards.



Lake Level Management Plans:

The purpose of Lake Level Management is to increase the benefits to recreational users as well as wildlife and aquatic habitat while protecting the flood control, water supply and water quality purposes of the lake. The KWO is charged by the State Water Planning Act with negotiating and entering into agreements with the two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts (Corps) and the U.S Bureau of Reclamation regarding operation or releases of water from federal projects.

Currently, 13 Kansas federal lakes have lake level management plans. Each Lake Level Management Plan is tailored to the characteristics of the lake and uses. Every year lake managers are requested to develop plans for the coming water year; and then those plans are cooperatively agreed upon between the Corps, KWO and the KDWPT. Of particular importance in the review process is consideration of planned lake level changes on state-owned water supplies. Draw-downs that might threaten the state's ability to meet contract obligations are not allowed.

A few examples of general benefits resulting from seasonal lake level manipulations include:

- Lake levels above normal will inundate shoreline vegetation that will benefit waterfowl and create fisheries spawning habitat
- Lake levels below normal provide additional space for flood control, create habitat and stabilize the shoreline by

allowing re-vegetation and lesson ice damage to infrastructure during winter months

This year in an effort to help broaden understanding about the management of Kansas Federal reservoirs, the Corps opted to host an informal open house at some of the reservoirs. The public was invited to provide input as well as visit interactive stations that described how and why plans are authorized on a yearly basis.

Nathan Westrup who works daily to oversee reservoir operations and water supply programs at KWO has been available at the open houses answer questions.

Milford and Tuttle Creek were held May 4 and Perry and Clinton May 25. So far it has proved to be a successful opportunity for one-on-one interaction with staff from the Corps and KWO.



Perry Reservoir

Meet the New KWO Staff

This past spring there have been several new hires at KWO. Each brings their own traits and talents. We look forward to them getting to work with you on different projects.

Amanda Lee is the voice you will hear when you call KWO and assists with human resources.



She has an associate's degree in business with studies in human resources. Previously she was with KDA working in the Division of Water Resources, Division of Conservation as well as at the Topeka field office.

Cara Hendricks grew up in Toledo, OH and has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis, MO and is a licensed professional engineer. For more than 10 years she worked on the private side with an emphasis in water and wastewater treatment system design. Most recently, she worked for the state of Kansas in watershed management, and served as a project engineer for various nonpoint source pollution control projects.



Cara will be involved in various statewide restoration projects.

Kelsee Wheeler was born in Wyoming and since her dad worked in the oil industry she has also lived in Texas, Kansas and Mississippi.



She graduated from K-State with a degree in Geology. Before coming to KWO she worked at KDHE in the Voluntary Cleanup and Property Redevelopment Program, where she addressed contaminated sites through investigation and remediation.

She is now a Water Resource Planner currently working to identify a cost effective treatment for reusing produced water.

Kirk Tjelmeland (TJ) was born and raised in Topeka and earned his BS in Fisheries Biology at K-State. For the past



23 years he was employed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism as the Fish Biologist for the six northeast counties.

He is now the Water Resource Planner for the Solomon-Republican RAC and all the water issues relative to this portion of the state.

Richard Rockel grew up near Spring Hill, Kan., and graduated from KU with a BS in Geology, with an emphasis on GIS and hydrology. His interest in water issues led him to previous positions where he studied KS River aquifer terrace deposits, water right permitting at KDA-DWR and handled water quality enforcement cases at KDHE.



He is now the Water Resource Planner for the Upper Republican and Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committees and assists with film documenting.

For comments or questions on the WaterFront please contact Katie Patterson-Ingels at: Katie.Ingels@kwo.ks.gov

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June

- 2 - MISSOURI REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - ATCHISON, KS
- 17 - KANSAS REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - TOPEKA, KS
- 22 - NEOSHO REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - HILLSBORO, KS
- 23 - VERDIGRIS REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - NEODESHA, KS

JULY

AUGUST

- 31 - KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING - EMPORIA, KS

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING - EMPORIA, KS

OCTOBER

- 6 - VISION EDUCATION & OUTREACH COORDINATION TEAM MEETING, MANHATTAN, KS

NOVEMBER

- 6 - VISION EDUCATION & OUTREACH COORDINATION TEAM MEETING, MANHATTAN, KS
- 14-15 - GOVERNOR'S WATER CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF WATER IN KANSAS

Don Paxson and Governor's Water Conference

In Oakley, Kan., on May 19 Don Paxson was honored for his time and dedicated service to the Kansas Water Authority (KWA). He served more than 20 years on the KWA representing the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. In 2003 he received the KWA Fox Award for "Outstanding Service" to the Authority. During his time on the KWA he served several years as Vice Chair of the Authority and Chairman of the budget committee.

The KWA and KWO wish Don and his wife Rhea the absolute best and thank them for more than two decades of commitment to working on water issues for Kansas and our state's future generations.




Save the Date!

Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas
November 14-15, 2016
Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Kansas
www.kwo.org

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the conference. Please contact KWO for more information. Registration will open in September. We hope you are saving the date to attend!