Kansas Water Authority Meeting
McPherson, Kansas
9:00 a.m. – August 23, 2023
Agenda

Time	*Agenda Item*	*Presenter*	*KWA Advice*	*KWA Decision*	*Page No.*
9:00 am	**Call to Order/Roll Call**	Dawn Buehler			
9:05 am	**Approval of Meeting Minutes**	Dawn Buehler			--
	June 7, 2023 Meeting			X	2-5
9:10 am	**KWA Public Water Supply Committee**	John Bailey			6-16
	City of Independence Negotiation Authorization	Nathan Westrup		X	7-12
	City of Marion Contract Approval	Nathan Westrup		X	13-16
	CNRBWAD#3 Contract Renegotiation	Nathan Westrup		X	--
10:00 am	**KWA RAC Operations Committee**	Jeremiah Hobbs			
	RAC Membership Appointments	Angela Anderson		X	17-23
10:30 am	**BREAK**				
10:45 am	**KWA Budget Committee**	Mike Armstrong			
	SWPF FY 2025 Budget Recommendations	Matt Unruh		X	24-63
12:00 pm	**LUNCH**				
1:00 pm	**Hays/Russell Water Transfer**	Matt Unruh			--
2:15 pm	**KWA Ex Officio Agency Updates**	Dawn Buehler			--
2:45 pm	**Director's Report**	Connie Owen			--
2:50 pm	**New Business**	Dawn Buehler			--
3:00 pm	**Adjourn**	Dawn Buehler			

Upcoming Meetings:

- *October 18, 2023 – Kansas Water Authority, TBD*
- *November 15 & 16, 2023 - Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Manhattan*
- *December 13, 2023 – Kansas Water Authority, TBD*
- *2024 Meetings TBD*

Minutes

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY

June 7, 2023 **In-Person Meeting** **Dodge City, KS**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair **Dawn Buehler** called the **June 7, 2023,** Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting to order at **9:02 a.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Buehler, Michael Armstrong, John Bailey, Lynn Goossen, Randy Hayzlett, Jeremiah Hobbs, Carolyn McGinn, Allen Roth, Allan Soetaert, Jean Steiner, David Stroberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peter Loecke

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Duffy, Earl Lewis, Jay Kalbas, Susan Metzger, Brad Loveless, Sara Baer, Leo Henning, Mike Beam, Andrew Lyon, Connie Owen, Kayla Savage

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: All were present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion No. 06-07-01 It was moved by **Allen Roth** and seconded by **Lynn Goossen** to approve the April 19, 2023, Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority with the following changes: on page 2, "Jeremiah Hobbs reported for *the RAC Operations Committee.*" **Motion carried with no dissenting votes**. Information found in meeting materials.

KWA PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE:

John Bailey reported for the Public Water Supply Committee. **Nathan Westrup** presented an overview of Water Marketing Application No. 267-Renewal of Water Purchase Contract 81-2, Amendment of Article 2 for Water Purchase Contract No. 17-2, and CY 2024 Water Marketing Rate. **Dawn Buehler** opened the floor for questions and comments.

Items that were discussed:

- **Jean Steiner** asked how high the KWA should let the rate get. The committee noted that the current rate increase is producing appropriate funds.
- **John Bailey** discussed how variable rate contracts aid in maintaining utilities. The committee is looking at more sedimentation projects in the future, which effects utilities who use the reservoir.

Water Marketing Application No. 267 – Renewal of Water Purchase Contract 81-2

Motion No. 06-07-02 It was moved by **Jean Steiner** and seconded by **David Stroberg** for the Kansas Water Authority to approve the Director's Request to begin contract negotiations with the City of Emporia. City of Emporia submitted an application for a 5-year contract renewal. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

Water Marketing amendment of Article 2 for Water Purchase Contract No. 17-2, Wolf Creek

Motion No. 06-07-03 It was moved by **John Bailey** and seconded by **Carolyn McGinn** for the Kansas Water Authority to approve the Director's Request to begin negotiations on an amendment of Article 2 for Water Purchase Contract 17-2. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

Set the CY 2024 Water Marketing Rate

Motion No. 06-07-04 It was moved by **Lynn Goossen** and seconded by **Allen Roth** for the Kansas Water Authority to approve the CY 2024 Water Marketing Rate at $0.493. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

KWA BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Mike Armstrong reported for the Budget Committee. **Matt Unruh** presented on the Kansas Water Plan Budget Guidelines.
Dawn Buehler opened the floor for questions and comments.
Items that were discussed:

- Dawn applauded the Budget Committee for thorough guidelines
- Randy Hayzlett asked about funding for GMDs in the guidelines. Further discussion focused on what initiatives were outlined in the guidelines. GMD funding was identified as a topic for RAC discussion.

Kansas Water Plan Budget Guidelines

Motion No. 06-07-05 It was moved by **Mike Armstrong** and seconded by **Jeremiah Hobbs** for the Kansas Water Authority to approve the updated Kansas Water Plan Budget Guidelines. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

FEDERAL UPDATE:

Matt Unruh presented on the Federal Cooperative Agreement, South Johnson County Regional Wastewater PAS. **Dawn Buehler** opened the floor for questions and comments.
Items that were discussed:

- John Bailey asked if there were other studies appropriate for this program. There are no immediate candidates. Further conversation in the Public Water Supply Committee could bring in further applicants.
- Mike Armstrong suggested the Cottonwood/Neosho region as a future candidate for this program.
- Dawn Buehler asked if the PAS could be applied for drinking water and other water issues. It is available.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers PAS Agreement

Motion No. 04-19-06 It was moved by **Allen Roth** and seconded by **Lynn Goossen** for the Kansas Water Authority to give approval to the Director to enter into a PAS Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers for a South Johnson County Regional Wastewater Study. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes**. Information found in meeting materials.

NORTHWEST KANSAS MINERALIZATION STUDY UPDATE:

Leo Henning and **Dr. Todd Moore**, Fort Hays State University, presented on the Northwest Kansas Mineralization Study that was done in coordination with KDHE which tested groundwater public water supply wells for uranium, radium, and other nitrates.

KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WATER UPDATE:

Dr. Elizabeth Siebold from the Kansas Geological Survey gave an update on groundwater and quality concerns across the state.

WATER SUCCESS STORY: WATER CONSERVATION AREAS

Earl Lewis and **Mike Meyer** of KDA – DWA introduced Ted Boersma with Powerline Dairy LLC. Boersma has been a WCA since 2017 and has both irrigated farmland and a dairy. He has saved 1,000 acre-feet beyond his WCA plan with the practices put into place. His WCA will be in effect until December 2026. **Dawn Buehler** opened the floor for questions and comments.

KS/CO ARKANSAS RIVER WATER QUALITY SUMMIT UPDATE:

Leo Henning and **Matt Unruh** presented an overview of the KS/CO Arkansas River Water Quality Summit which took place May 23-24 in La Junta, CO. The summit included discussion on conservation and focusing on certain naturally occurring contaminants like selenium.

KWA EX-OFFICIO AGENCY UPDATES:

Leo Henning gave an update for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Andy Lyon gave an update for the Department of Conservation.

Earl Lewis gave an update for the Division of Water Resources.

Jay Kalbas gave an update for the Kansas Geological Survey.

Sara Baer gave an update for the Kansas Biological Survey.

Susan Metzger gave an update for Kansas State University.

Brad Loveless gave an update for Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Susan Duffy gave an update for the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Kayla Savage gave an update for the Kansas Department of Commerce.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Connie Owen reported that the KWO and partners are progressing with a drought declaration. The KWO is currently hosting a drive for Regional Advisory Committee applications and planning webinars on the budget process for RAC members. The WISE Program is working with new projects such as installing water monitors for NASA and new weather stations with The Nature Conservancy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jean Steiner gave an update on the letter from the Upper Arkansas RAC. It will be passed on to the Ogallala committee which plans to meet in late summer or early fall.

The Kansas Water Authority recognized the legislators in the room for their work during the legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by **Carolyn McGinn** and seconded by **Allen Roth** to adjourn. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** The meeting was adjourned at **2:27 p.m.**

Dawn Buehler, Chair

Connie Owen, Secretary

MEMO

DATE: August 9, 2023
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: John Bailey, Chair, Public Water Supply Committee
Nathan Westrup
RE: Public Water Supply Committee Update

Kansas Water Office
900 SW Jackson Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
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Items Proposed for Action:

- Consider authorizing the Director to begin contract negotiations pursuant to Water Marketing Application No. 268 (City of Independence)
- Consider approval of Water Purchase Contract No. 23-1 with the City of Marion
- Consider authorizing the Director to proceed with renegotiating storage contract with the Cottonwood and Neosho River Basins Water Assurance District No. 3, for the purchase of additional storage space

Water Marketing Application No. 268

The Director of the Kansas Water Office submits findings to the Kansas Water Authority for review and to decide whether to authorize the Director to enter into contract negotiations with the City of Independence for water supply from Elk City Lake. The Kansas Water Office received a written application on June 23, 2023, accompanied by a request to begin negotiations. The city's source of water is the Verdigris River and the water rights that authorize a water supply intake has access to the natural flows of the Verdigris River. There has been a long history of drought vulnerability when natural flows are limited and flows are being supported by reservoir releases. The proposed contract quantity is for supplemental purposes only and will be released from Elk City Lake, to be re-diverted at the city's existing water supply intake. See also, Preliminary Findings (attached).

The Public Water Supply Committee recommends the Kansas Water Authority authorize the Director to begin contract negotiations with the City of Independence.

City of Marion, Water Marketing Contract No. 23-1

- Water supply yield of Marion Reservoir is sufficient to support the negotiated contract quantity
- Contract terms:
  - 40-year contract
  - 237.5 MGY
    - Quantity equivalent to expiring Water Purchase Contract No. 81-4, based on the right of first refusal to renew the same, given available yield.
- No non-standard clauses added
- See also, Findings (attached)

The Public Water Supply Committee recommends the Kansas Water Authority approve Water Purchase Contract No. 23-1 with the City of Marion, as negotiated.

Cottonwood and Neosho River Basins Water Assurance District No. 3 (District)
The District was formed in 1996 and entered into a water supply storage contract with the KWO on August 28, 1996, for the purchase of conservation water supply storage in John Redmond Reservoir, Council Grove Lake, and Marion Reservoir.

The District has been notified of additional projected membership demands and submitted a requested to renegotiate their water supply storage contract for the purchase of additional storage. The quantity of storage is yet to be determined, but will be an amount sufficient for to support the increased demands in the District and water right application approval – as determined by the Chief Engineer.

The Director is satisfied that the District has supplied sufficient information to commence negotiations, in accordance with K.A.R. 98-6-3, and requests that the KWA authorize the Director to begin negotiations, per K.S.A. 82a-1332 and K.S.A. 82a-1347.

The Public Water Supply Committee recommends the Kansas Water Authority authorize the Director to begin contract renegotiation with the District, for the purchase of additional storage.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS
REQUEST BY CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
TO PURCHASE WATER
FROM ELK CITY LAKE FOR WATER SUPPLY PURPOSES
August 4, 2023

The Director of the Kansas Water Office submits findings to the Kansas Water Authority for review and to decide whether to authorize the Director to enter into contract negotiations with the City of Independence for water supply from Elk City Lake. The Kansas Water Office received a written application on June 23, 2023, accompanied by a request to begin negotiations.

In accordance with K.S.A. 82a-1305, which states, in part:

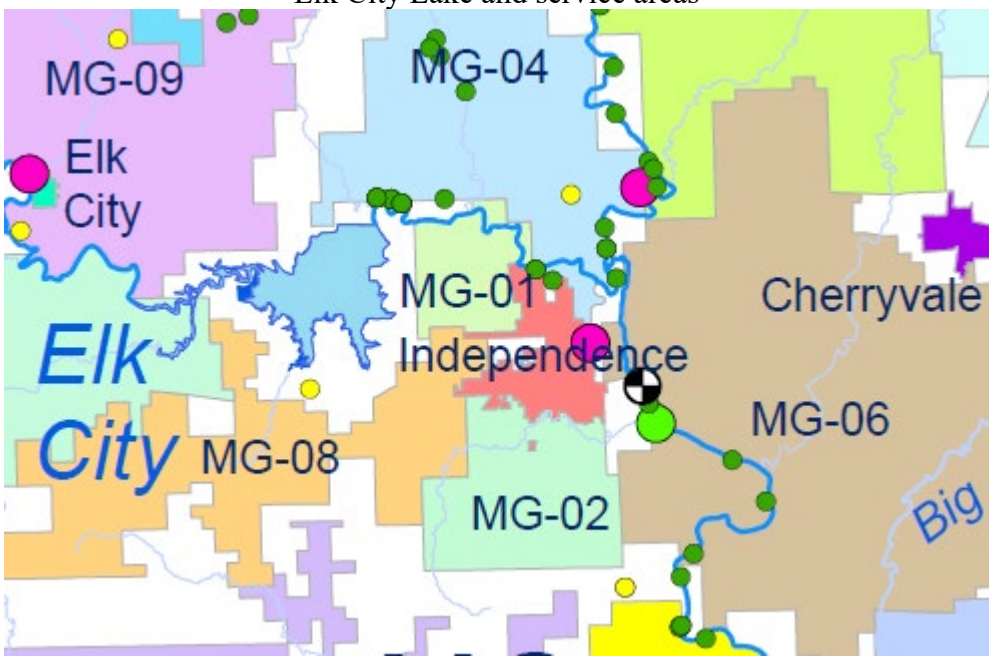
> "Whenever the authority finds that a proposed withdrawal and use of water, other than surplus waters, is in the interest of the people of the state of Kansas and will advance the purposes set forth in article 9 of chapter 82a of Kansas Statutes Annotated**,** and amendments thereto**,** it shall authorize the director to enter into negotiations for the purpose of entering into written contracts with any person for withdrawal and use within or without the state of waters from conservation storage water supply capacity committed to the state."

As noted in the citation above, before negotiations for a contract can begin, the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) must find:

1. That the proposed sale is in the public interest, and
2. That it will advance the purposes of the State Water Planning Act and the State Water Plan.

If the Kansas Water Authority finds that the request meets these two criteria, it should authorize the Director to begin negotiations with the applicant. Figure 1 is a map of Elk City Lake and municipal water service areas.

Figure 1
Elk City Lake and service areas



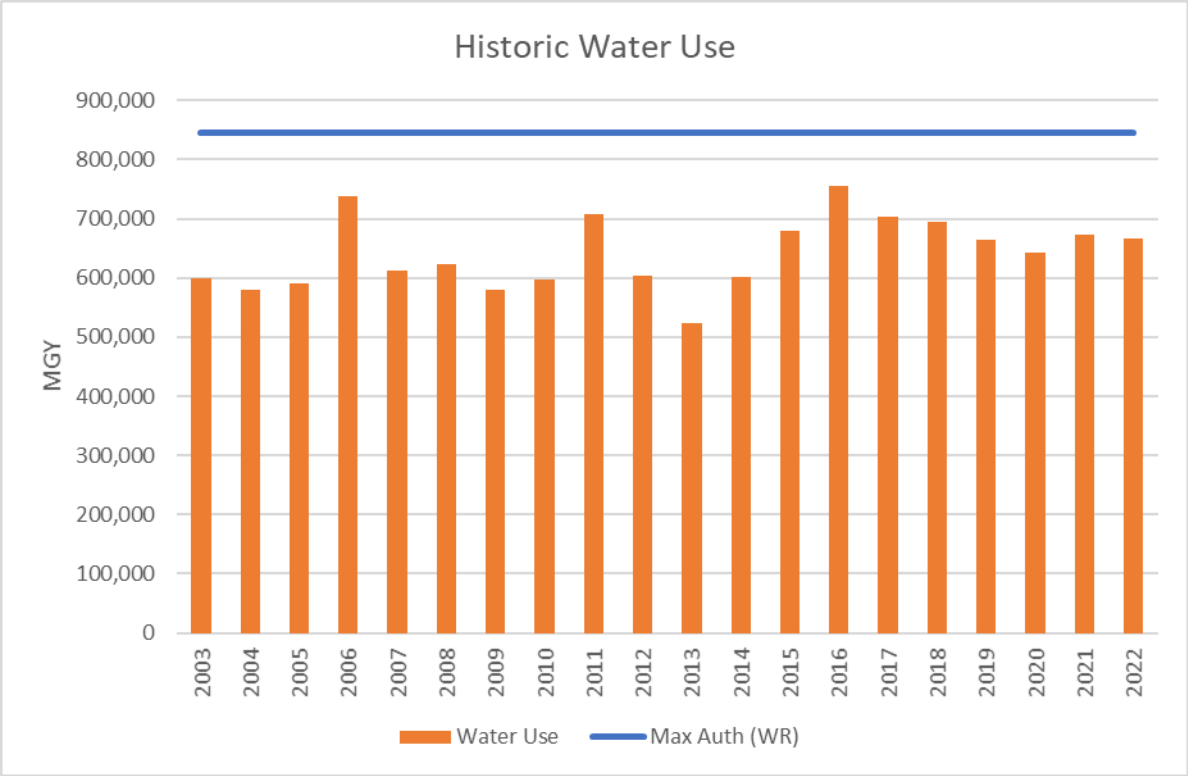
The Kansas Water Authority shall consider the following items in determining whether the proposed contract is in the best interest of the people of the State of Kansas and whether benefits to the State for approving the contract outweigh the benefits to the state for not approving the contract.

1. The present and future water supply needs of the applicant;

The applicant's sole source of water is the Verdigris River. In addition to water rights, the city entered into a water purchase contract for 60 mgy and the subject application is proposing another 200 mgy.

Water Right	MGY	WPC	MGY
MG-004	550	22-1	60
11,401	294.5142	App. 268	200
37,162	789.217		
Total	844.5142		260

The chart below shows 20 years of annual water use from the Verdigris River. The water use is relatively stable, however, the city just signed a water supply contract with a new industry with a demand of 0.6 MGD or 219 MGY. The additional water demand will most likely fully use the authorized quantity under their water rights and they are in the process of submitting application to DWR for additional water rights.



In addition to use within the city and they new industry, Independence also sells water to rural water districts in the area, as follows: Montgomery County, RWD's 1 – 5, and 8.

The intent of the applicant is improve their drought resilience. The water purchase contract provides access to water supply storage in Elk City reservoir to supplement their water supply needs when natural flows are inssuficient in the Verdigris River. KWO modeling shows that 260 MGY of supplemental releases from Elk City is adequate for all drought years since 1956. The modeling performed used the city's current max authorized quantity under their existing water rights.

At this point, the city commision was only comfortable increasing the contracted quantity by 200 MGY but may need to apply for more in the future, as the new industrial demand is expected to expand in phases. If all new industrial demands come to fruition the city's total annual water demand is preliminarily estimated to reach 1,606 MGY.

2. Any current beneficial uses being made of the non-contracted water proposed to be diverted;

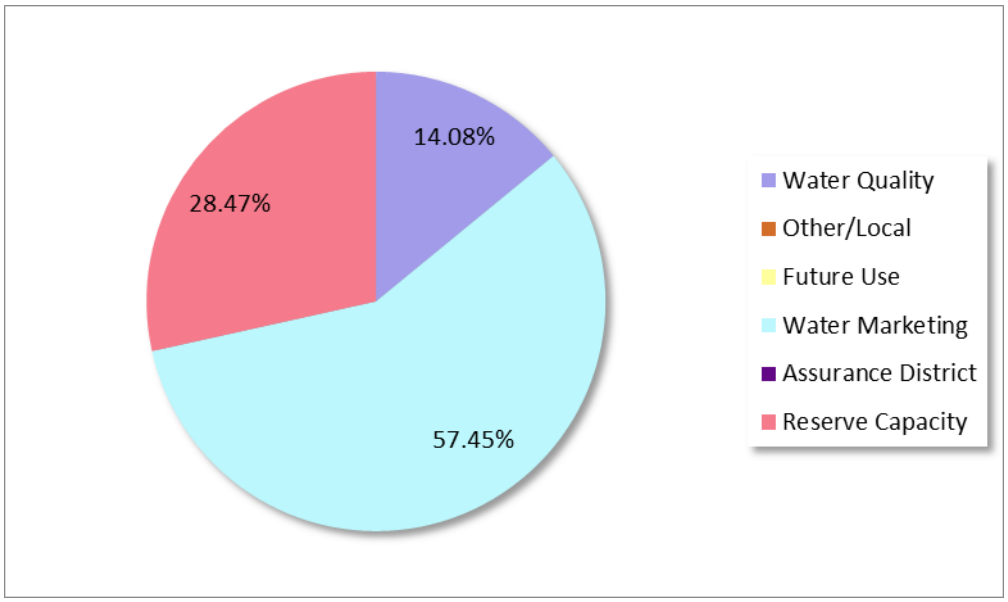
The City of Coffeyville, Coffeyville Resources, and the City of Independence have existing contracts for water supply, see table below. Contract negotiations are on-going with the City of Coffeyville for a contract quantity of 500 MGY, an increase of 200 MGY. The Kansas Water Office's modeling indicates that the Water Marketing storage is sufficient to provide adequate yield for current and proposed contract quantities.

Purchasers, Contract Numbers, and Contract Quantities
Elk City Lake

Contract Number	Customer Name	Contract End Date	2023 Maximum Gallons	2023 Maximum AF	Annual Contract Maximum Gallons	Annual Contract Maximum AF
81-5	City of Coffeyville	12/16/2023	300,000,000	921	300,000,000	921
99-5	Coffeyville Resources	12/3/2039	608,000,000	1,866	608,000,000	1,866
12-7	Coffeyville Resources	8/9/2051	400,000,000	1,228	400,000,000	1,228
22-1	City of Independence	8/17/2062	60,000,000	184	60,000,000	184
			1,308,000,000	4,015	1,308,000,000	4,015

3. Any reasonable foreseeable beneficial use of the water;

Approximately 14% of conservation storage is intended to support minimum releases and downstream flow to the border with Oklahoma. Approximately 86% of conservation storage is for water supply and intended to support municipal and industrial demands. Reserve Capacity, in the pie chart below, is water supply storage that has not yet been dedicated for use in the Water Marketing Program but will be converted as the contractual obligations increase.



The reasonable and foreseeable use of the available yield from Elk City Lake is most likely to meet the supplemental water supply needs of the City of Coffeyville, City of Independence, and Coffeyville Resources.

4. The economic, environmental, public health and welfare, and other benefits or adverse impacts;

A dependable long-term water supply is essential for the for the local economy, public health, and welfare. No adverse impacts have been identified.

5. Alternative sources of water available to the applicant;

No reasonably viable alternative sources have been identified to supplement the city's needs.

6. The preliminary plan of design construction and operation of any works or facilities used in conjunction with transporting the water to its point of use;

All diversion works and facilities are existing and long-standing. The natural water courses, the Elk River and Verdigris River will deliver water released from storage to the city's water supply intake on the Verdigris River.

7. Whether the proposed purchase is consistent with the state water plan approved by the Legislature;

Nothing in this proposed use of water has been identified that would be inconsistent with the State Water Plan and the State Water Plan Storage Act. The Kansas Water Plan indicates that development of regional solutions and use of existing sources is preferred in water supply development. The city is serving as a valuable regional supplier and this supplemental contract is a critical step toward reducing institutional drought vulnerability in the region.

8. The date of the application to contract for withdrawal and use of water;

Application No. 268 was received by the Kansas Water Office from the City of Independence on June 23, 2023.

9. Minimum streamflow requirements; and

The KWO and the Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cooperatively operate Elk City Lake and provides a minimum release to the Elk River (see table below). A portion of the conservation storage (14.08%) in Elk City Reservoir is dedicated to serving water quality/in-stream needs below the reservoir and is used for the minimum release.

Elk City Reservoir Minimum Release Schedule (cfs)

Reservoir	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Elk City	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

While there are no minimum desirable streamflows (MDS) in the Verdigris Basin, target flows (see table below) are specified by the MOA at the Altoona, Fredonia, and Independence gages.

Verdigris Basin Target Flows (cfs)

Gage Location	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Altoona	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	3
Fredonia	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Independence	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35

The use of both water quality storage and water supply storage is necessary to maintain target flows throughout the system, particularly from Elk City Lake.

10. Whether the applicant has adopted and implemented a water conservation plan;

The City of Independence has an approved water conservation plan. The plan is consistent with the guidelines of the Kansas Water Office and was approved on March 18, 2009.

Based on these findings, the Kansas Water Office recommends that the Kansas Water Authority authorize the Director to begin negotiations with the City of Independence for the purchase of water from Elk City Lake for municipal and industrial water supply purposes.

FINDINGS
REQUEST BY CITY OF MARION
TO PURCHASE WATER
FROM MARION RESERVOIR FOR WATER SUPPLY PURPOSES
August 4, 2023

The Director of the Kansas Water Office submits findings to the Kansas Water Authority for review and to decide whether to approve the negotiated Water Purchase Contract No. 23-1 with the City of Marion for water supply from Marion Reservoir. The Kansas Water Office received a written application on December 23, 2022 and the KWA authorized the Director to begin negotiations on January 25, 2023. Marion currently holds Water Purchase Contract No. 81-4 for water supply from Marion Reservoir, which will expire on October 3, 2023. Article 17 of their contract provides the purchaser a right of first refusal to enter into a new contract, contingent on the yield availability.

In accordance with K.S.A. 82a-1305, which states, in part:

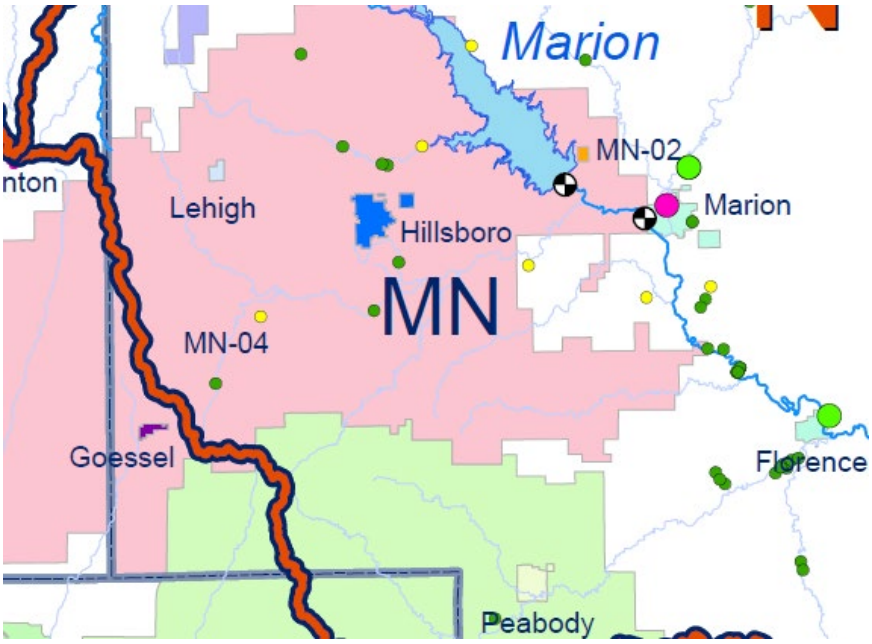
> "Whenever the authority finds that a proposed withdrawal and use of water, other than surplus waters, is in the interest of the people of the state of Kansas and will advance the purposes set forth in article 9 of chapter 82a of Kansas Statutes Annotated**,** and amendments thereto**,** it shall authorize the director to enter into negotiations for the purpose of entering into written contracts with any person for withdrawal and use within or without the state of waters from conservation storage water supply capacity committed to the state."

As noted in the citation above, before negotiations for a contract can begin, the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) must find:

1. That the proposed sale is in the public interest, and
2. That it will advance the purposes of the State Water Planning Act and the State Water Plan.

If the Kansas Water Authority finds that the request meets these two criteria, it should authorize the Director to begin negotiations with the applicant. Figure 1 is a map of Marion Reservoir and municipal water service areas.

Figure 1
Marion Reservoir and service areas

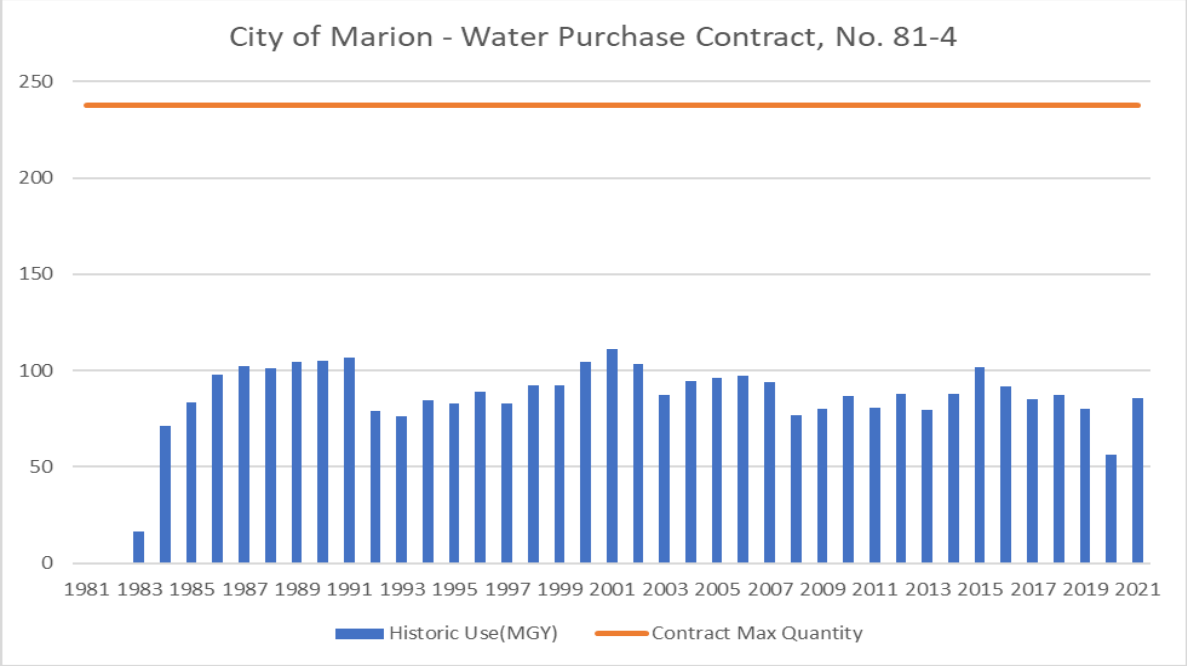


The Kansas Water Authority shall consider the following items in determining whether the proposed contract is in the best interest of the people of the State of Kansas and whether benefits to the State for approving the contract outweigh the benefits to the state for not approving the contract.

1. The present and future water supply needs of the applicant;

The applicant is requesting a renewal of the 237.5 million gallons per year (mgy), currently authorized by Water Purchase Contract, No. 81-4. Marion Reservoir has been sole source of water for the city for the past 40 years. The city transitioned from a raw water intake on Mud Creek to Marion Reservoir due to water quality problems.

The chart below shows the historic water use under Water Purchase Contract No. 81-4.



There is no indication of population or water use demand increase. The city has not provided any information of future comercial or industrial customers, however, contract negotiations will include exploration of the potential for additional future demands.

Negotiations: The city did not provide any concrete or quantified projections for increased water need. As is common, the city wants to experience economic growth and is currently optimistic about a new truck stop but does not have any water use estimates. The city feels that having some room for growth is essential to have any chance for industrial or commercial opportunities.

2. Any current beneficial uses being made of the non-contracted water proposed to be diverted;

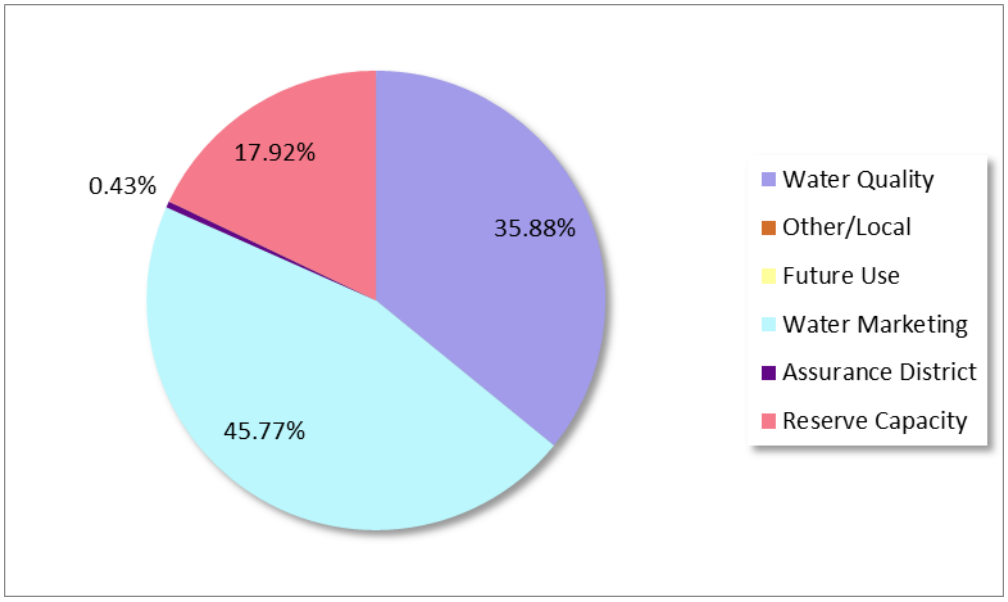
Three public water suppliers, including Marion, have existing contracts for water supply, see table below. The Kansas Water Office's modeling indicates that the Water Marketing storage is more than sufficient to provide adequate yield for current contract obligations through 2062. The applicant is not proposing to divert non-contracted water in excess of their current contracted quantity.

Purchasers, Contract Numbers, and Contract Quantities
Marion Reservoir

Contract Number	Customer Name	Contract End Date	2023 Maximum Gallons	2023 Maximum AF	Annual Contract Maximum Gallons	Annual Contract Maximum AF
21-3	City of Hillsboro	12/22/2061	300,000,000	921	300,000,000	921
81-4	City of Marion	10/3/2023	237,500,000	729	237,500,000	729
99-1	City of Peabody	4/9/2039	60,000,000	184	60,000,000	184
			597,500,000	1,834	597,500,000	1,834

3. Any reasonable foreseeable beneficial use of the water;

As mentioned in the previous section, Water Marketing storage is more than sufficient to meet contractual obligations for water supply. Modeling results show that less than 20% of conservation storage is needed, less than half of the Marketing storage. Given the surplus of Marketing storage and additional water supply Reserve capacity, Marion is currently underutilized.



It is worth noting that the KWO, over the past few years, has performed modeling scenarios within the Cottonwood/Neosho that make use of Marion Reservoir water supply to meet downstream demands. Some of the available water supply storage in Marion will be needed to support the water supply needs of Wolf Creek, as the capacity and yield of John Redmond decreases from sedimentation. It should also be noted that the Cottonwood and Neosho River Basins Water Assurance District No. 3 have submitted a request to negotiate for additional storage in Marion to support downstream member demands, as a secondary source to the assurance storage in John Redmond.

4. The economic, environmental, public health and welfare, and other benefits or adverse impacts;

A dependable long-term water supply is essential for the for the local economy, public health, and welfare. No adverse impacts have been identified.

5. Alternative sources of water available to the applicant;

As mentioned before, the city previously used Mud Creek as a source of water and transitioned to Marion Reservoir due to water quality problems. A rigorous evaluation of alternative water sources does not appear to be appropriate for this existing customer of the Water Marketing Program. Other water utilities in the area include the City of Hillsboro, Marion County RWD No. 4, and the City of Peabody. Hillsboro and Marion are in close proximity to the geographic boundaries of MN RWD4 but further evaluation of their infrastructure and sources would be needed completed. The City of Hillsboro and the City of Peabody are also customers of the Water Marketing Program, with Marion Reservoir as the source. Review of the files at the KWO reveal that Marion and Hillsboro have had discussions about consolidation in the past but no formal plan has ever been developed and there is no indication that the cities are considering any partnership now.

6. The preliminary plan of design construction and operation of any works or facilities used in conjunction with transporting the water to its point of use;

Marion currently has a contract for water supply from Marion Reservoir. The city will use existing facilities to treat and transport water to its customers.

7. Whether the proposed purchase is consistent with the state water plan approved by the Legislature;

Nothing in this proposed use of water has been identified that would be inconsistent with the State Water Plan and the State Water Plan Storage Act. The Kansas Water Plan indicates that development of regional solutions and use of existing sources is preferred in water supply development. KWO will be supportive and accommodating if and when the City of Hillsboro and City of Marion chose to pursue consolidation.

8. The date of the application to contract for withdrawal and use of water;

Application No. 265 was received by the Kansas Water Office from the City of Marion on December 23, 2022.

9. Minimum streamflow requirements; and

Marion Reservoir will be making minimum releases from a separate sub-pool (Water Quality) within the conservation pool meet the instream flow needs immediately downstream of the reservoir, primarily for aquatic life in the stilling basin. Marion Reservoir is not responsible for maintaining any downstream target flows of the Cottonwood River. Baseflow gains of the Cottonwood River are normally very healthy.

10. Whether the applicant has adopted and implemented a water conservation plan;

The City of Marion has a water conservation plan that was developed as part of the requirements for purchase of water supply from the Water Marketing Program. The plan is consistent with the guidelines of the Kansas Water Office and was approved on July 30, 2012.

Based on these findings, the Kansas Water Office recommends that the Kansas Water Authority approve the negotiated Water Purchase Contract No. 23-1 with the City of Marion for the purchase of water from Marion Reservoir for municipal water supply purposes.

MEMO

Kansas Water Office
900 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.ks.gov

DATE: August 15, 2023
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Jeremiah Hobbs, RAC Operations Committee Chair
RE: Regional Advisory Committee Membership

A membership drive for Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) membership positions with term expirations of June 30, 2023, as well as vacant positions, took place beginning this past spring. Ninety-five applications for RAC membership were received covering all 14 of the RACs.

On August 8, 2023, the RAC Operations Committee met to review the applications received for RAC membership and to develop recommendations for membership appointments to the RACs. Please find included with this memo, a table consisting of the proposed slate for membership for all 14 RACs, as discussed and approved by the RAC Operations Committee to be submitted for Kansas Water Authority (KWA) approval. The recommendations are listed by RAC and include the term expiration date, membership category and the applicant's name.

Other information of note from the 2023 membership drive includes:

- 19 current RAC members with 2023 term expirations did not express interest in continuing as members for an additional term.
- 20 RAC positions were vacant at the beginning of the membership drive; 12 with terms expiring on June 30, 2023 and 8 with terms expiring June 30, 2025.
- 16 RAC positions will remain vacant post KWA approval; 3 having expirations term dates in 2025 and 13 with expiration term dates of June 30, 2027.

The KWA RAC Operations Committee recommends KWA approval of the proposed RAC membership slate and appoint those RAC applicants for each RAC.

RAC	Membership Category	Term Expiration (June 30th of)	RAC Ops Member Recommendation
Cimarron	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	Jose Rosales - this would be a change from his current Public Water Supply 3 position
Cimarron	At Large Public 2	2027	Jason Norquest - this would be a change from his At Large Public 3 position
Cimarron	Agriculture Industry	2027	Jas Dale
Cimarron	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Gary Boldt - this would be a change from his current At Large Public 2 position
RAC	**Membership Category**	**Term Expiration (June 30th of)**	**RAC Ops Member Recommendation**
Equus-Walnut	Integrated Planning	2027	Russ Tomevi
Equus-Walnut	Groundwater Management	2027	David Bogner
Equus-Walnut	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	Don Henry
Equus-Walnut	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027	Steve Hieger
Equus-Walnut	Conservation/Environment 2	2027	Sandy Koontz
Equus-Walnut	Agriculture 2	2027	Jerry Clasen
Equus-Walnut	Watershed Protection	2027	Dan Defore
RAC	**Membership Category**	**Term Expiration (June 30th of)**	**RAC Ops Member Recommendation**
Great Bend Prairie	Watershed Protection	2027	Isaac Aberson
Great Bend Prairie	Agriculture (cc)	2027	Berry Bortz
Great Bend Prairie	At Large Public 2	2027	Stephanie Royer
Great Bend Prairie	Agriculture 3	2027	Roger Blew
Great Bend Prairie	Groundwater Irrigation	2027	Pat Janssen
Great Bend Prairie	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	Move James Oberle from his current Public Water Supply 2 2025 position

RAC	Membership Category	Term Expiration (June 30th of)	RAC Ops Member Recommendation
Kansas	WRAPS	2027	Adam Bauer
Kansas	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2027	Marlene Bosworth
Kansas	Industry/Commerce 2	2027	Sarah Hill-Nelson
Kansas	Conservation/Environment 2	2027	Leslie Holthaus
Kansas	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	Darci Meese
Kansas	Public Utility	2027	William (Bill) Heatherman
Kansas	At Large Public (cc)	2027	Colin Stalter

RAC	Membership Category	Term Expiration (June 30th of)	RAC Ops Member Recommendation
Marais des Cygnes	WRAPS	2027	Lori Kuykendall
Marais des Cygnes	At Large Public 2	2027	Don Stottlemire
Marais des Cygnes	Agriculture 2	2027	Lyle Wobker
Marais des Cygnes	Public Water Supply (cc)(HAWC)	2027	Trenton Morris
Marais des Cygnes	Public Water Supply 2	2027	Charles Finley
Marais des Cygnes	Water Assurance District	2027	Laura Hines - this would be a move from her current Industry/Commerce (cc) position
Marais des Cygnes	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027	Larry Schulte

RAC	Membership Category	Term Expiration (June 30th of)	RAC Ops Member Recommendation
Missouri	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2027	Carl Johnson
Missouri	Agriculture (cc)	2027	Jeff Grossenbacher
Missouri	Agriculture 2	2027	Brett Neibling
Missouri	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027	Mike Stec
Missouri	Recreation	2027	John Bishop
Missouri	Change category of Fish & Wildlife to At Large Public 2	2027	Dan Bowen

RAC	Membership Category	Term Expiration (June 30th of)	RAC Ops Member Recommendation
Neosho	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027	Wes Fleming
Neosho	WRAPS	2027	Lisa Suderman
Neosho	Conservation/Environment 2	2027	Brian Obermeyer
Neosho	Water Assurance District	2027	Dean Grant
Neosho	At Large Public 2	2027	Tisha Conard Richardson
Neosho	At Large Public 3	2027	Barry Mayhew
Neosho	Industry/Commerce 2	2025	Tim Peoples
RAC	**Membership Category**	**Term Expiration (June 30th of)**	**RAC Ops Member Recommendation**
Red Hills	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	Larry Mangan
Red Hills	At Large Public East	2027	Phil White
Red Hills	At Large Public West	2027	Clark Bibb
Red Hills	Agriculture (cc)	2027	Alan Albers
Red Hills	Fish & Wildlife	2027	Michael Coleman
Red Hills	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	Tim Marshall
Red Hills	Agriculture 2	2025	Ted Alexander
RAC	**Membership Category**	**Term Expiration (June 30th of)**	**RAC Ops Member Recommendation**
Smoky Hill-Saline	Large Public Water Supply	2027	Holly Dickman
Smoky Hill-Saline	Conservation/Environment 2	2027	Baron Shively
Smoky Hill-Saline	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	Martha Tasker
Smoky Hill-Saline	Small Public Water Supply	2027	Rich Krause
Smoky Hill-Saline	Agriculture (cc)	2027	Chris Meyer
Smoky Hill-Saline	Change category of At Large Public 2 to Agriculture 3	2027	Jay Leusman
Smoky Hill-Saline	Change category of Industry/Commerce 2 to Conservation/Environment 3	2025	Herbert Graves Jr.
Smoky Hill-Saline	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Lon Schrader

RAC	Membership Category	Term Expiration (June 30th of)	RAC Ops Member Recommendation
Solomon-Republican	At Large Public 3	2027	Rhonda Coffman
Solomon-Republican	Agriculture (cc)	2027	Raymond DeBey
Solomon-Republican	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	Timothy Driggs
Solomon-Republican	Conservation/Environment 2	2027	Amanda Johnson
Solomon-Republican	Irrigation East	2027	Arnold Ross
Solomon-Republican	Add a Conservation/Environment 3 Category	2027	Sherry Koster
RAC	**Membership Category**	**Term Expiration (June 30th of)**	**RAC Ops Member Recommendation**
Upper Arkansas	Agriculture (cc)	2027	Joe Jury
Upper Arkansas	Groundwater Irrigation	2027	Titus Jaeger
Upper Arkansas	At Large Public 2	2027	Jason Shamburg
Upper Arkansas	Groundwater Management	2027	Gina Gigot
Upper Arkansas	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027	Emily Vsetecka
Upper Arkansas	Public Water Supply 2	2027	Ray Slattery
RAC	**Membership Category**	**Term Expiration (June 30th of)**	**RAC Ops Member Recommendation**
Upper Republican	At Large Public 2	2027	David Shaul
Upper Republican	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	Mike Schultz
Upper Republican	Groundwater Management	2027	Shannon Kenyon
Upper Republican	Conservation/Environment 2	2027	Kenneth Sanderson
RAC	**Membership Category**	**Term Expiration (June 30th of)**	**RAC Ops Member Recommendation**
Upper Smoky Hill	Irrigation	2027	Alicia Allen
Upper Smoky Hill	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2027	Frank Mercurio
Upper Smoky Hill	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	Louis "Bo" Parkinson
Upper Smoky Hill	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027	Perry Nowak

RAC	Membership Category	Term Expiration (June 30th of)	RAC Ops Member Recommendation
Verdigris	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027	John Ditmore
Verdigris	Public Water Supply (cc)	2027	John Garris
Verdigris	Agriculture 2	2027	John Black
Verdigris	At Large Public 2	2027	John West
Verdigris	Conservation/Environment 2	2027	Doug Blex - this would be a move from his current WRAPS position
Verdigris	WRAPS	2027	Derek Haines

VACANT POSITIONS AFTER PROPOSED KWA MEMBERSHIP APPROVALS		
RAC	**POSITION**	**TERM EXPIRATION**
Cimarron	Agriculture (cc)	2025
	Public Water Supply 3	2027
	Agriculture 2	2027
	At Large Public 3	2027
Equus-Walnut	No Vacancies	
Great Bend Prairie	Public Water Supply 2	2025
	Public Water Supply 3	2027
Kansas	No Vacancies	
Marais des Cygnes	No Vacancies	
Missouri	Tribal Representative	2027
	Agriculture Industry	2027
Neosho	Ranching/Grazing	2027
Red Hills	Industry/Commerce 2	2027
Smoky Hill-Saline	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2027
Solomon-Republican	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation	2027
Upper Arkansas	No Vacancies	
Upper Republican	Local Government	2025
	Agriculture	2027
	Agriculture Industry	2027
Upper Smoky Hill	Agriculture Industry	2027
Verdigris	No Vacancies	

MEMO

DATE: August 16, 2023
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Mike Armstrong, Committee Chair
RE: KWA Budget Committee

Kansas Water Office
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
kwo.ks.gov

The Kansas Water Authority (KWA) Budget Committee held meetings via Zoom on August 7 and 14, 2023. The primary topic of these meetings was State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) recommendations for FY 2025. Mike Armstrong, Dawn Buehler, Sen. Carolyn McGinn, Randy Hayzlett and Jean Steiner were on Zoom both days along with agency representatives.

The Budget Committee reviewed and discussed feedback from the agency and Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) input phase of the KWA SWPF budget recommendation development process. Budget Attachment 1 shows the Budget Committee's SWPF FY 2025 expenditure recommendations for consideration by the full KWA which would be supported by estimated SWPF fees of nearly $13 million, State General Fund (SGF) and Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF) transfers of $6 million and $2 million, and $18 million from a transfer into the SWPF as set forth by Senate Substitute for House Bill 2302. These FY 2025 recommendations support priorities identified within the Kansas Water Plan as well as Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) goal action plans. The KWA's Kansas Water Plan Budget Guidelines were also discussed and considered in the development of

Additional materials reviewed and discussed during Budget Committee meetings on August 7 and 14 include the following:

- Budget Attachment 2 – SWPF FY 2025 Expenditure Recommendation Summary by Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principle
- Budget Attachment 3 – SWPF FY 2025 Expenditure Recommendation Summary by Category
- Budget Attachment 4 – RAC Input Feedback & Summary Table
- *Budget Attachment 5 (Pending) - SWPF FY 2025 Expenditure Recommendation Narrative Summary*

In addition to the SWPF FY 2025 budget recommendations, Committee members also discussed consideration of utilizing SWPF resources for future year SWPF expenditure strategy development as well as follow up with the RACs regarding input provided during the RAC input phase.

The KWA Budget Committee recommends the KWA adopt State Water Plan Fund FY 2025 expenditure recommendations as shown in Budget Attachment 1. These recommendations assume base-level funding from FY 2024 supported by continuation of the State General Fund and Economic Development Initiatives Fund demand transfers totaling $8 million along with $18 million from a transfer into the SWPF as set forth by Senate Sub. For HB 2302.

Kansas Water Authority

State Water Plan Fund FY2025 Budget Recommendations (08/14/2023)

EXPENDITURES	FY2025 Base Budget Allocations	FY2025 Recommended Transfers - HB 2302	FY2025 Total Expenditures
Department of Health and Environment			
Contamination Remediation	$ 1,105,578	$ 500,000	$ 1,605,578
LEPP	$ 250,000	$ 400,000	$ 650,000
Nonpoint Source Program	$ 430,587		$ 430,587
TMDL Initiatives	$ 391,378		$ 391,378
Drinking Water Protection Program	$ 800,000		$ 800,000
Watershed Restoration/Protection (WRAPS)	$ 1,000,000		$ 1,000,000
Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot	$ 150,937		$ 150,937
Surface Water Trash Removal		$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Ark River Ditch Lining - NEW		$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000,000
Aquifer Recharge Basin - NEW		$ 500,000	$ 500,000
Ground Water Quality Monitoring Network - NEW		$ 1,060,000	$ 1,060,000
WRAPS Effectiveness Monitoring - NEW		$ 200,000	$ 200,000
SUBTOTAL--KDHE	**$ 4,128,480**	**$ 3,710,000**	**$ 7,838,480**
Department of Agriculture			
Interstate Water Issues	$ 527,927		$ 527,927
Subbasin Water Resources Management	$ 673,847		$ 673,847
Water Use Database Modernization - Name Change	$ 100,000	$ 150,000	$ 250,000
Water Resources Cost Share	$ 2,834,714	$ 2,165,286	$ 5,000,000
Nonpoint Source Pollution Asst.	$ 1,866,598		$ 1,866,598
Aid to Conservation Districts	$ 2,502,706	$ 1,000,000	$ 3,502,706
Dam Construction Rehabilitation - Name Change	$ 650,000	$ 2,350,000	$ 3,000,000
Water Quality Buffer Initiative	$ -		$ -
Riparian and Wetland Program	$ 154,024		$ 154,024
Water Transition Assistance Program/CREP	$ 554,142	$ 1,000,000	$ 1,554,142
Irrigation Technology	$ 550,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,550,000
Crop and Livestock Research	$ 350,000	$ 100,000	$ 450,000
Soil Health	$ 400,000		$ 400,000
Streambank Stabilization	$ 750,000	$ 750,000	$ 1,500,000
SUBTOTAL--KDA	**$ 11,913,958**	**$ 9,515,286**	**$ 21,429,244**
Kansas Water Office			
Assessment and Evaluation	$ 1,050,414	$ 1,180,841	$ 2,231,255
MOU - Storage Operations & Maintenance	$ 719,824		$ 719,824
Stream Gaging	$ 448,708		$ 448,708
Conservation Assistance for Water Users - Name Change	$ 425,000	$ 75,000	$ 500,000
Reservoir and Water Quality Research	$ 450,000	$ 100,000	$ 550,000
Water Quality Partnerships	$ 884,176	$ 580,714	$ 1,464,890
KS Water Plan Education & Outreach Strategy	$ 250,000	$ 500,000	$ 750,000
High Plains Aquifer Partnerships	$ 850,000	$ 1,150,000	$ 2,000,000
Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative	$ 1,000,000	$ 500,000	$ 1,500,000
Equus Beds Chloride Plume Remediation Project	$ 50,000	$ 25,000	$ 75,000
Flood Response Study			$ -
Arbuckle Study	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	$ 300,000
Water Injection Dredging (WID)			$ -
HB 2302	$ 18,000,000	$ 500,000	$ 500,000
SUBTOTAL--KWO	**$ 24,278,122**	**$ 4,761,555**	**$ 11,039,677**
Department of Wildlife & Parks			
Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program	**$ 224,457**	**$ -**	**$ 224,457**
University of Kansas--Geological Survey	**$ 26,481**	**$ 13,159**	**$ 39,640**
Total State Water Plan Expenditures	**$ 40,571,498**	**$ 18,000,000**	**$ 40,571,498**

Kansas Water Authority

DRAFT

State Water Plan Fund FY2025 Budget Recommendation Development

DRAFT

Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principle Expenditure Recommendation Summary (08/14/23)

FY 2025	Expenditure Type	Conserve & Extend the High Plains Aquifer	Secure, Protect & Restore our Kansas Reservoirs	Improve our State's Water Quality	Reduce our Vulnerability to Extreme Events	Increase Awareness of Kansas Water Resources	Total
Total Expenditures	Dollar Amount	$10,946,289	$10,459,467	$12,014,674	$5,358,724	$1,792,343	$40,571,498
	Percent of Total Expenditures	27.0%	25.8%	29.6%	13.2%	4.4%	
Base Budget Allocations	Dollar Amount	$5,159,099	$7,657,578	$6,815,285	$1,922,193	$1,017,343	$22,571,498
	Percent of Base Budget Allocations	22.9%	33.9%	30.2%	8.5%	4.5%	
Recommended Transfers	Dollar Amount	$5,787,191	$2,801,889	$5,199,389	$3,436,532	$775,000	$18,000,000
	Percent of Recommended Transfer	32.2%	15.6%	28.9%	19.1%	4.3%	

Category	Program Name	Agency	FY2025 Draft Agency Allocation Recommendations	FY2025 Draft Agency Recommended Transfers - HB 2302	FY2025 Draft Agency Total Expenditure Recs	Category Total: FY2025 Draft Agency Allocation Recommendations	Category Total: FY2025 Draft Agency Recommended Transfers - HB 2302	Category Total: FY2025 Draft Agency Total Expenditure Recs	Category Percent of FY2025 Draft Agency Allocation Recommendations	Category Percent of FY2025 Draft Agency Recommended Transfers - HB 2302	Category Percent of FY2025 Draft Agency Total Expenditure Recs
Groundwater Initiatives	Water Transition Assistance Program/CREP	KDA	$554,142	$1,000,000	$1,554,142	$2,330,623	$4,263,159	$6,593,782	10.3%	23.7%	16.3%
	Irrigation Technology	KDA	$550,000	$2,000,000	$2,550,000						
	Crop and Livestock Research	KDA	$350,000	$100,000	$450,000						
	High Plains Aquifer Partnerships	KWO	$850,000	$1,150,000	$2,000,000						
	Kansas Geological Survey	KGS	$26,481	$13,159	$39,640						
Groundwater Initiatives & Water Quality	Interstate Water Issues	KDA	$527,927	$0	$527,927	$1,301,774	$150,000	$1,451,774	5.8%	0.8%	3.6%
	Subbasin Water Resources Management	KDA	$673,847	$0	$673,847						
	Water Use Database Modernization	KDA	$100,000	$150,000	$250,000						
GW Initiatives, WQ & Res. WS & Sed	KS Water Plan Education & Outreach Strategy	KWO	$250,000	$500,000	$750,000	$1,300,414	$2,180,841	$3,481,255	5.8%	12.1%	8.6%
	Assessment and Evaluation	KWO	$1,050,414	$1,180,841	$2,231,255						
	HB 2302	KWO	$0	$500,000	$500,000						
Water Quality	Contamination Remediation	KDHE	$1,105,578	$500,000	$1,605,578	$8,128,711	$4,540,714	$12,669,425	36.0%	25.2%	31.2%
	Nonpoint Source Program	KDHE	$430,587	$0	$430,587						
	TMDL Initiatives	KDHE	$391,378	$0	$391,378						
	Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot	KDHE	$150,937	$0	$150,937						
	Watershed Restoration/Protection	KDHE	$1,000,000	$0	$1,000,000						
	Drinking Water Protection Program	KDHE	$800,000	$0	$800,000						
	Ark River Ditch Lining	KDHE	$0	$1,000,000	$1,000,000						
	Aquifer Recharge Basin	KDHE	$0	$500,000	$500,000						
	Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network	KDHE	$0	$1,060,000	$1,060,000						
	WRAPS Effectiveness Monitoring	KDHE	$0	$200,000	$200,000						
	LEPP	KDHE	$250,000	$400,000	$650,000						
	Surface Water Trash Removal	KDHE	$0	$50,000	$50,000						
	Nonpoint Source Pollution Asst.	KDA	$1,866,598	$0	$1,866,598						
	Soil Health	KDA	$400,000	$0	$400,000						
	Conservation Assistance for Water Users	KWO	$425,000	$75,000	$500,000						
	Equus Beds Chloride Plume Remediation Project	KWO	$50,000	$25,000	$75,000						
	Water Quality Partnerships	KWO	$884,176	$580,714	$1,464,890						
	Arbuckle Study	KWO	$150,000	$150,000	$300,000						
	Aquatic Nuisance Species Program	KDWP	$224,457	$0	$224,457						
Water Quality/Res. Water Supply & Sedimentation	Aid to Conservation Districts	KDA	$2,502,706	$1,000,000	$3,502,706	$3,555,438	$1,100,000	$4,655,438	15.8%	6.1%	11.5%
	Riparian and Wetland Program	KDA	$154,024	$0	$154,024						
	Stream Gaging	KWO	$448,708	$0	$448,708						
	Reservoir and Water Quality Research	KWO	$450,000	$100,000	$550,000						
Reservoir Water Supply & Sedimentation	Water Resources Cost Share	KDA	$2,834,714	$2,165,286	$5,000,000	$5,954,538	$5,765,286	$11,719,824	26.4%	32.0%	28.9%
	Dam Construction Rehabilitation	KDA	$650,000	$2,350,000	$3,000,000						
	Streambank Stabilization	KDA	$750,000	$750,000	$1,500,000						
	MOU - Storage Operations & Maintenance	KWO	$719,824	$0	$719,824						
	Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative	KWO	$1,000,000	$500,000	$1,500,000						
	TOTALS:		$22,571,498	$18,000,000	$40,571,498	$22,571,498	$18,000,000	$40,571,498			

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Cimarron

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - Increased rain this year.
    - Increased awareness of the amount discussions taking place regarding water issues in the region. Particularly with the previous years drought and the passing of HB 2302 by the state legislature.
    - The large number of attendances by individuals from all over the state to the recent KWA meeting held in Dodge City.
    - Feedyard operations looking in to different feed rations that utilized less water intensive crops.

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Conserve and extend the high plains aquifer
    - Reduce the Vulnerability for extreme events
    - Increase awareness of Kansas Water Resource

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Increased education for water issues for the region.
    - Education for all ages

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for “low hanging” issues or priorities to be addressed?

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?

  - Climate Change
  - Increased funding towards and research into less what intensive crops
  - Preparing/Planning for the next drought
  - Need for incentive-based water conservation programs that are voluntary.
  - Needs to be enough funding incentive to really matter.

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
  - Looking into additional research on ways to capture excessive rainfall events to act as a source of recharge, such as playas. Possibly working with KGS and other groups.
  - Funding for incentives to help with water quality, run off, and erosion that help to improve soil health, such as cover crops and other applicable farming practices.
  - Having region/county specific information and data on crops and different farming practices.
  - Work with conservation districts to promote water conservation with local youth.

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee
  - The Livestock User Fee funding should be redirected towards the regions that have the larger concentrations of Dairies and Feedyards that pay into the fees to help the region.
  - The RAC would like to stress the need to have local/regional representation in the conversations and discussions when decisions are being made about water use and rights.
  - The need to educate others in the state in detail about what all is going on in the region and how locals are addressing the water issues they face.

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Equus Walnut

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - The legislature appropriating funding for federal reservoir storage debt payoff
    - Testing wells for the Burton Equus-Beds Chloride plume from the KGS is a good step forward for understanding this problem.
    - McPherson's south wellfield project in progress which eases use on the aquifer.
    - Cheney Lake's slowed sedimentation due to best management practices above the reservoir.
        - Also, Winfield's city reservoir
    - Implementation of Wichita's offsite stormwater BMP program
    - Funding in the Little Arkansas watershed to address Atrazine.

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Buffer strips or WRAPS projects above reservoirs.

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Reduce vulnerability to extreme events, especially for small communities or rural areas that may not be prepared for the increasing extreme precipitation events that characterize the future climate.
        - Flood control, stormwater control, ponds and dams, levees
    - Continue to promote projects/outreach that have sustainable goals and purpose

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?

  - McPherson seeking additional funding for south wellfield and ease stress of raising rates on McPherson customers due to increases costs of construction and development.
  - Identifying communities that may need DWP plans/funding within the region to support their source water protection activities/efforts.

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?
  - Similar water quality testing as the Burton Equus-Beds Chloride Plumes is needed for the Arkansas River to get additional characterization of the system.
    - What level has it reached, what is the transport path…etc.
  - Then evaluating the potential recreational impacts of changing Wichita's source water to surface water such as Cheney.
  - Channel control within the Arkansas River.
  - Education
    - Invasive species along the river channel such as Cottonwoods.
    - Water festivals for local elementary schools- could use increased funding.
    - Student liaison program for RAC meetings to develop emerging water leaders.
  - Education for municipalities on direct/indirect wastewater reuse i.e. portable trailer.
  - Increased FFA and 4H presence throughout the state and increased engagement with current groups with the same mindset.
  - Engagement with conservation districts for local groups education
    - General education on conservation districts and the services they provide.
  - Bromide issues within the Little Arkansas River.
  - Resource recovery of waste water reuse, especially with the changing economic dynamics i.e. phosphorous and other fertilizer chemicals.
  - Possible need for research on the necessity for permits for appropriated use for a conglomerate of residential communities.

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Great Bend Prairie

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - Increased conversations about & awareness of the role of the RACs
    - Progress made on GBP RAC goal #4 through public outreach in Barton County
    - Increased funding from the Legislature

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Establishing state-wide goals (i.e. saltwater goal, municipal goal, watershed goal and feeding goal)
    - Collaboration between state agencies to work with farmers through the Conservation Districts to participate in on-farm trials like feed wheat trials
        - Multi-year funding
        - Coming up with priorities to address resource issues – if multiple RACs have similar goals, that can be the first step in identifying priorities

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for “low hanging” issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - GBP Priority goal #4
    - Tracer wires on the pipeline – priority goal #3
- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?

    - Implement slow release programs with watershed dams

  - Research needed in order to determine a consistent metric for recharge rates for all watershed dams/structures
  - Nitrates in the water supply (could be considered a state-wide water quality goal)
  - Incentives for management practices, including cover crops- enough funds for multi-year contracts
  - Fully funding the Conservation Districts

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
  - Using the water bank to incentivize water conservation
  - Increased funding towards rehabbing current watershed structures
  - Resources needed to address road ditch erosion
  - Increased funding for water right retirement (WTAPP) (CREP) – targeting high priority areas

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Kansas

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - Increased funding allocated for water from Legislature – ability to purchase storage in Kansas Region reservoirs
    - Funding for WID
    - Extending the Milford RCPP for another 5 years
    - Conversations had between the RAC and KDWP about land surrounding Kansas Region reservoirs
    - Emphasis being placed on regenerative ag and soil health

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Water security- could be from reduction of sedimentation
    - Purchasing remaining storage in Milford and Perry
    - Investing in water education – statewide
        - Media, in school curriculum (all ages), social media
        - Education of soil health – partnering with groups (Soil Health Alliance)
        - Partnering with universities i.e. for testing of reservoirs, scenario analysis, data collection, other research opportunities
        - Developing a compelling narrative – what is the ultimate message
    - Drinking water protection program – especially for small communities
        - Water quality, both ground & surface
    - Developing resiliency plans for small, rural communities
    - Scenario analysis to identify the most vulnerable communities -
    - Investment in keeping farmers engaged once projects are completed
        - Educating to make the connections
    - Increased funding for workforce development
    - Protecting sensitive areas, such as riparian areas
        - Potential regulations on buffer zones

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - WID – furthering research and development of these tools
    - Soil Health initiatives, especially upstream of projects like WID to proactively address the issue

- Education and outreach
- Non-science research (social/policy research) – how to effectively utilize the existing structures

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?
  - Conserve & extend the HPA – 25%, 5%,
  - Secure & protect reservoirs – 25%,
  - Improve the state's water quality – 25%
  - Education and outreach – 13% (closer to 25% if education is included within other categories) 40%,
  - Reduce vulnerability to extreme events -12% 10%

1. Education and outreach
2. (2a). Reservoirs
3. (2b). HPA
4. (3). Water quality
5. (4). Extreme events

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
  - Secure, protect & restoration Kansas Reservoirs:
    - Water security- could be from reduction of sedimentation
    - Purchasing remaining storage in Milford and Perry
  - Education:
    - Investing in water education – statewide
    - Media, in school curriculum (all ages), social media
    - Education of soil health – partnering with groups (Soil Health Alliance)
    - Partnering with universities i.e. for testing of reservoirs, scenario analysis, data collection, other research opportunities
    - Developing a compelling narrative – what is the ultimate message
  - Water Quality:
    - Drinking water protection program – especially for small communities
      - Water quality, both ground & surface
    - Protecting sensitive areas, such as riparian areas
      - Potential regulations on buffer zones
  - Extreme events:
    - Developing resiliency plans for small, rural communities
    - Scenario analysis to identify the most vulnerable communities -
  - Reservoirs & water quality:
    - Investment in keeping farmers engaged once projects are completed
      - Educating to make the connections
  - All of the above:

        - Increased funding for workforce development
    -

- Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - Education – coordinated & consistent message
        - Marketing campaign running: website & other media
    - Technical support for GMD reporting & implementation
    - Soil health projects
        - More "boots on the ground"
            - Salary support for these positions

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?
    - Drought
    - Water quality for economically challenged users
    - Providing support for utilities to address PFAS and federal regulations
        - Education for congressional delegation

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
    - Ecological focus on rivers & lake systems
    - Riverbed degradation – studies to understand the speed of it

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee
    - KWO taking a more forceful lead on these issues for a cohesive effort among agencies

MEMO

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DATE: July 31, 2023
TO: Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee
FROM: Amelia Nill
RE: Kansas RAC Message to the KWA

At the July Kansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting in Manhattan, the RAC took action to voice their support of educational efforts across the state of Kansas, specific to water. They voted to send a message detailing that support to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee for consideration.

KANSAS REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Message: Message from the Kansas Regional Advisory Committee to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee

The Kansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) acknowledges that great progress has been made in the last three years culminating this year in an unprecedented increase in funding for water conservation and infrastructure as well as funding the purchase of water storage in many of our major reservoirs. This progress is to be celebrated.

A great deal of work by House and Senate committees to educate themselves on water issues as well as the timely sharing of important information on the part of the KWO, other state agencies, RACs and other groups and individuals can be credited for a shift toward greater understanding of water needs and the urgency to address these needs. It is obvious that education on water issues led to a better understanding of these issues in both the Statehouse and the Governor's mansion. Education like this is ***essential to change****. It led to the creation of ideas on how to change water management in Kansas which, when coupled with opportunities of budgetary surpluses, turned legislative conversations toward water in ways that we have not seen in many years.*

The Kansas RAC believes that Education and Outreach has great potential for turning the conversations of Kansans across the state toward how-to best address water issues. This is necessary to move water protection forward.

The Kansas RAC respectfully requests that the Kansas Water Authority expeditiously direct the expenditure of sufficient funds from the State Water Plan Fund to create a robust Education and Outreach Program for the State. This includes full development and maintenance of the "Kansas Runs on Water" website, development of water-focused curricula and educator resources for K-12 students, media and public outreach programs, a strong social media outreach effort, community facilitation and learning programs, outside-the-classroom youth education, and water-related career development and education components. This is an effort that must not wait.

Along with this funding, the Kansas Water Authority should also create an Education and Outreach Specialist position within the KWO. This position should have authority to implement a robust Education and Outreach Program. This position would be responsible for targeting messages, developing materials, and coordinating with other organizations and agencies so that the Education and Outreach Program is implemented quickly, efficiently, and effectively.

It has been emphasized that it will be necessary for water agencies and organizations to show a return on the investment of the funding that was approved by the 2023 legislature over the next five years. Sufficient funding of an effective Statewide Education and Outreach Program, getting it up and running quickly and ensuring that it reaches all Kansans will be the most efficient way to create the public conversations necessary to produce the results needed.

Background: At the April 25, 2023 Kansas RAC meeting in Topeka, Marlene Bosworth, Chair of the Kansas RAC, drafted and presented a message regarding the RAC's support for educational efforts specific to water throughout the state of Kansas. The Kansas RAC felt that it is essential to the future of water in Kansas to have a coordinated educational plan and establish a dedicated position to carry-out that plan and therefore felt compelled to express these interests to the Kansas Water Authority. At the April meeting, RAC members expressed their support for sending this kind of message onto the Kansas Water Authority in some capacity, but also agreed that some changes needed to be made to the language of the message in order to make their intent of the message clearer and more concise. Edits were made to the message and it was presented again to the RAC at the June 10, 2023 Kansas RAC meeting. At this meeting, the RAC members decided to defer voting on this message to their next meeting. The message was presented once again at the July 10, 2023 Kansas RAC meeting in Manhattan. At this meeting, RAC members agreed that this was an important message to pass onto the KWA Budget Committee and voted unanimously to send it on.

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Marais de Cygnes

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - The legislative recognition of the importance and need for change in Kansas water resources.
        - Matching funds for aid to Conservation Districts increased to close to 1-1 match.
    - The recognition and transparency of the state of the High Plains Aquifer. Addition of the language "halting the decline" and "reducing use" of the High Plains Aquifer in state policies and documents.
    - Funding and implementation for Aquatic Invasive Species education and prevention via AIS trailers.
    - Increased HAB program awareness from the public and private entities.

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Education for kids and showing them the importance of water
        - Need to start this process young
        - Create or utilize an existing water curriculum at every grade level

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Increased need for cover crops and other best management practices to increase soil health in the region which would address protecting our reservoirs. There is need for a mindset and cultural change for successful implementation of these practices. A possible solution would be to offer more incentives for implementation.
    - Need for increased education of water resources at local levels. Need to get water back into the school curriculum. Need to educate the schools to understand the importance of prioritizing water/conservation education.

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - Utilization of education programs that are available to the state.
    - Change of regulations for watershed districts to build more watershed lakes.
        - Cost benefit ratio for mitigation
    - Funding for structural practices

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?

    - Educating elected officials on the importance of water/conservation, especially for the boots on the ground efforts locally.
    - Technical assistance for new/growing programs.
        - Engineering TA
    - Lack of contractors in some areas of the state to implement the conservation practices.
    - Development of the intermodal area north of Hillsdale and the increased sedimentation and nutrients into the lake.
    - Abandoned oil wells in the state
        - Bonding requirements need to match the environmental risk of implementing oil wells
    - Increased funding for structural practices.
    - Educate land owners on the need for a buffer along streams and educate county on the need for buffers along the ditches.
    - Need for funding mechanism for land taken out of production for recreation.
    - Need to address Eastern Red Cedars and other woody species encroaching on prairie/rangeland.
- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
    - Need to increase public access to local rivers and streams that are not currently designated as navigable i.e. Marmaton, Marais des Cygnes…
        - This would increase public interest and understanding of Kansas water resources.
        - Possible solution is long-term land lease or public easement.
        - This would increase revenue from tourism via sales tax to rural areas in the state.

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee
    - Virtual attendance for Kansas Water Authority meetings.

- The state needs regulation prohibiting conflict of interest with regulatory authorities or agencies.

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Missouri

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - Sheridan County successes, LEMA.
    - Water Conservation programs (LEMA, IGUCAs).
    - Water quality testing in the Missouri Region by KGS (need for good data – statewide).
    - Education – website was good.
    - Equus Beds recharge, ASR program that Wichita is using.
    - Cleaning out of sediments in reservoirs, in particular the WID project at Tuttle Creek Reservoir.

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Greatest challenge is the Ogallala Aquifer, increase conservation or recharge.
    - Engage with USACE to make sure their priorities are similar to Missouri RACs.
    - Sediment into reservoirs, impacts from farming practices and water quality in the region.
    - Reduce our vulnerability to extreme events, like the oil spill in Washington County also weather – flooding and drought. Planning needs to be more proactive instead of reactive.
    - Degradation of the Missouri River for utilities and public water supply, linked to river management and natural occurrences.

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Reduce our vulnerability to extreme events.
    - Primary water supply in surface and groundwater.
    - Good education, effective so that folks can grasp the concepts.
    - Education goes beyond coloring books, legislators and other influential folks.
    - Testing, better data on water quality and consumptive use.
    - Better cooperation with other states involved with the Missouri River system.
    - Ogallala Aquifer decline or stability.
    - Missouri River system contributions to economics (ag/industry) and how it affects water supply and population.

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?
    - **"Greater than"** for the Missouri River issues.

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - This question was skipped intentionally.

- Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - Sediment control into our Reservoirs or watershed dams/ground cover.
    - WID at Tuttle Creek.
    - New grant program through HB 2302, lots of communities that could use this additional funding. Unaccounted water accounts for a good amount of waste, both water and funding.

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?
    - Control of USACE.
    - Vulnerability to extreme events.
    - Shortfall in maintenance for infrastructure – water/sewer/storm (**total water**). People shortage as well, folks to take care of these systems.

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
    - RAC on educational field trips with a SWAG bag!!!
    - Groundwater throughout the state – quality and quantity.
    - Need for good groundwater data followed by planning and implementation.

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee
    - Take care of staff.
    - Don't let national guidelines rule the day, local guidelines should be the considered first.
    - Stop considering the aqua duct to southwest Kansas.
    - Education and Outreach, hearing from local folks about water issues they feel should be given a look.
    - More education on where our water comes from, not just from the tap.

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Neosho

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
  - KRPI success for the Neosho region, due to state funding and partners working together to implement practices above John Redmond Reservoir
  - Making progress on AIS including funding. By adding it as a RAC Goal, it has had a positive impact and response
  - The WRAPS funding of a demonstration project utilizing phosphorus removal structures with hopes that it shows water quality success (when water runoff occurs). There has been much positive response to the implementation.
  -

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
  - Technologies, studies, and implementation in our region of in-reservoir sedimentation removal.
  - Ozark aquifer storage and recovery; maintain current storage and exploring existing, but unused water storage
  - Water reuse/water reintroduction upstream of municipal water intakes

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
  - Water quantity in reduction of sediment in reservoirs. Technologies, studies, and implementation in our region of in-reservoir sedimentation removal; specifically, those that would work best with the reservoirs located in the Neosho Basin.
  - Water quality, especially nitrates, in the region's water that water suppliers are forced to mitigate.
  - Formation of study groups to evaluate potential unused water source storage.

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for “low hanging” issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - Support for purchase of increased number of AIS stations in addition to support of workforce to maintain the stations.
    - In-lake water quality task force development to work to explore ways to mitigate basin issues, such as HABs.
    - Research other ways of sedimentation reduction options such as off-stream diversion.
    - Explore nutrient trading.
- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?
    -

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
    - May be funding too many projects, in order to make a significant change/difference, may need a more focused effort.
    - Funding for research for groundwater nitrate removal.

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee
    - Cooperation between Kansas and Oklahoma as it relates to the Neosho Basin. In order to solve the issues in the basin, the states must work together.

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Red Hills

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - One of the goals of the region was to reduce use of water from the oil and gas industry, but the industry has reduced as a whole which has, in turn, reduced use of water in the region.
    - Continued study of the Arbuckle formation, which is an important source of information for municipalities and the oil and gas industry.
    - Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPGI) activity on Red Cedar removal for ranchers in the region.

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - It is very important for municipalities reduce the vulnerability to extreme events.
    - Mitigation of flood hazards and updated flood maps for information for the region.

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for “low hanging” issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - Increased funding for the produced water pilot.
    - Increased funding for opportunities similar to the concept of the ASR project in Wichita.
    - Increased education and awareness of Kansas water resources
    - City rate payment program to penalize large water volume use and encourage conservation of water.

  - Prescribed burn associations education on woody encroachment.
  - Targeting education to various water type users (industrial, agricultural, and municipal…etc.)

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?
  - The Arbuckle formation
  - Red Cedar removal and other invasive woody species
  - PFAS – staffing issues to conform to regulations. This is a nationwide issue.
  - Small towns in the region not able to afford putting in treatment plants to address water pollution issues. Need possible regionalization of water treatment.
  - Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on Wellington Lake.

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Smoky Hill Saline

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - Lower Smoky Hill Access District – conserving water
    - Streambank projects
    - Hays water resources efforts
    - WRAPS load reductions
    - Sediment and nutrient reductions

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Education of the public – television ad campaign/billboards/social media
        - Focus groups on average person to understand how to best communicate water information
        - Partnering with local media to survey the public
        - Statewide curriculum into schools – basics of water, working with Department of Education
        - Developing Education & Outreach Coordinator position, potentially within the KWO, specifically dedicated to outreach
    - More money for BMPs – through WRAPs
        - Focusing on trials/small acreages (not whole farm approaches)

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    -

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?
    - Increase State's budget for education/outreach
    - Reinstating funding for structural practices: terraces/waterways/other structural practices, targeting through WRAPS priority areas
        - Prioritizing areas surrounding Kanopolis
    - Increasing funding for drinking water protection program – costs to rehab wells, helping farmers implement BMPs
    - Opportunity for remote locations for KWO across state for education

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - Statewide water conservation rebate programs, for example:
        - household rebate program
        - Replacement of irrigation nozzles, sprinkler heads
    - Funding for tours/programming (educational opportunities) – municipal tours, irrigation/ag tours, RAC tours

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?
    - Technical assistance for federal funding opportunities
        - Especially for small communities
        - On a regional basis
        - Putting the actual manpower on the ground
    - Consideration for efficiencies on golf courses
    - Funding for water transfers/connectivity

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
    - Need for input from public about current issues

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee
    - Add Ellis County to KRPI program
    - Need a one-stop-shop place to have all of the financial programs available to a resident/producer
    - Would like to see WRAPS continue HUC 12 prioritizations so you can really see a delisting of waterbodies after implementation of practices with additional funding
    - Would like to see a fact sheet from the KWO as to where the John Redmond Reservoir is now as compared to before and immediately after the dredging was completed. Also provide fact sheet updates on the progress of experimental dredging projects.

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Solomon Republican

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - Reporting and progress from the Kansas Bostick Irrigation Districts on their updates and efficiencies
    - Bathymetric surveys done by the KWO
    - Streambank stabilization projects completed throughout the state
    - Increased push for farmer to farmer meetings through the conservation districts
    - Increased education and awareness for soil health practices

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Continued efforts for streambank projects and ditch erosion
    - Agency manpower- more technical assistance needed throughout state
        - Encouraging younger folks to take on contracting jobs/agency positions
        - Promote the recruitment of workforce through agency scholarship & internship programs
    - Drought mitigation
    - Increase education & cost-share programs for Non-point source pollution
        - Developing educational/informational materials specific to towns/areas-targeting municipalities (under the 10,000 pop. Threshold)
        - Addressing increased nutrient & pesticide application with the reduction of tillage practices
        - Funding opportunities for newer technologies that could help in reducing nutrient & pesticide application

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Water resources cost-share program
    - Non-point source program
    - Aid to conservation districts
    - General water education
        - Through in-school curriculum
        - Working with local units of government

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - Conservation district programs
        - Non-point source program funding
        - Water resources programs
    - WRAPS funding

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?

    - Including road ditch erosion within streambank stabilization projects framework
    - Rural water districts not having enough water
    - Addressing HAB issues
    - Reduce economic damage and water supply vulnerability due to drought

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
    -

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee
    -

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Upper Republican

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - Statewide effort on the state raising awareness of water issues
    - Sharing information publicly about the success stories and the data that goes along with them so that they can be seen statewide.
    -

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Continuing to raise the awareness of water issues
    - The need to continue sharing information and taking things to the next level, for example sharing things via youtube.
    - The need to educate on about ALL users water issues and how to manage them.
        - K-12 Education
        - Educator Education
        - Continuing Producer Education
        - Young Producer Education
    - Drought Planning
    - Tracking chemicals used that could potentially contaminate water sources and hold handlers responsible.
    - Education on Programs like MYFA's and others that help users manage their water resources
    - Reduce our Vulnerability to Extreme Events. Particularly when there are large rainfall events that have high winds and that cause excess damage.
    - Encouraging alternative approaches for Municipalities to help manage water issues. For example, finding a way to increase holding capacities for municipal water storage and slow the pumping release.
    - Water Conservation and Education for Municipalities
    - Encouraging all municipalities to implement water conservation plans

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - Education/Outreach to all users of all ages by utilizing media outlets and publications.
    - Additional cost-share funding for producers and irrigators
    - Funding for additional personnel to provide additional assistance to water users in the state
    - Expansion of technologies similar to Vand Water (Chase Larson) to all users in the state.
    - Expansion of incentive programs that encourage producers not to irrigate
- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?
- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
    - State lead initiative to monitor and test water quality, simpler to the one previously let by KGS several years ago.
    - Having a program, possibly through KWO, to do rate analysis and provide assistance to municipalities and all water users for water conservation.
    - Having an individual to come out and work with producers/users individually about how to be more efficient with their water use and to help them better conserve
    - Cost-share for CAFOs to convert constant flow water valves

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee
    - Putting a value on water so that an equitable user fee could be assessed
    - State run program for weather modification for data collection (not a consensus)

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Upper Smoky Hill

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - Opportunity to participate in a Water Technology Farm/WISE Farm
    - GMD1 Wichita County LEMA is in the 3rd year and exceeding expectations
    - GMD1 Four County LEMA is in the 1st year with 10% reductions across the board
    - Wichita County WCA in its last year and has exceeded it's 29% reduction
    - Statewide House Bills, HB 2279 and 2302
    - Acknowledgement in legislature that there is a need for engineers and technical experts for state water agencies
    - The increased number of individuals in the region bringing in new ideas
    - Encouraging water conservation in regional municipalities.

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Since irrigation use accounts for 94% of the total water use in our region, we recommend continued financial and technical support for the following initiatives:
        - Providing cost-share funding and technical training and support for practices that increase irrigation efficiency and reduce unnecessary irrigation applications. Examples include soil moisture monitors, crop stress indicator technology, conversion to subsurface drip irrigation, and production of crops that require reduced water quantities for irrigation.
        - Development of crop varieties that require less water for production, with specific emphasis on sorghum varieties with high feed value.
        - Provide financial incentives to cease irrigated crop production from low-yield wells. These wells are typically kept in production by substantially increasing the irrigation season and by inefficient irrigation during the winter.
    - Incentives to reduces water use, such as water right retirement and voluntary reduced pumping
    - Increasing communications with all end users/stakeholders
    - Increasing education for users for K-12 and beyond to educate all users/stakeholders
    - Conserving and extending the high plains aquifer with locally driven solutions
    - Increase awareness of Kansas water resources

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Activities that provide Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) a long-term supply to maintain a regional market
    - Address state policies related to water appropriation for CAFOs
    - Treat and successfully reuse waste water and making it economically feasible.
    - Programs and studies to implement waste water reuse
    - Cost-Share for irrigation for water conservation technologies
    - Looking into less water intensive crops and feed rations for CAFOs

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - Increased cost-share programs for additional water reclamation programs.
    - Playa restoration
    - Soil health programs and funding for cost-share for cover crops and increased outreach
    - WISE program increased funding
    - Increased education between all water users/stakeholder through WISE projects and partners

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?
    - Smaller communities have trouble paying for treatment systems to address water contamination issues.
    - Stockwater use accounts for only 5% of the total water use in our region. However, cattle feedyards, hog farms and dairies are by far the primary consumers of and market for the feed grains produced in our region. It is imperative that these facilities acquire stable and secure water supplies so that they can continue to operate and drive the local economy. This outcome requires intensive management of water resources in and around these facilities. We recommend financial and technical support for the following initiatives:
        - Provide cost-share funding and technical support for implementation of technologies that improve management of wells and storage tanks and reduce unnecessary overflows that produce wastewater.

        - Provide cost-share funding and technical support for implementation of technologies that treat wastewater to a quality suitable for reuse. Economically feasible treatment to a level suitable for livestock consumption would provide enormous benefits and could greatly prolong the life of the local groundwater supply. Confined livestock feeding facilities that are required to capture all stormwater runoff could at times treat and produce sufficient quantities of water to supply their consumption needs. This would reduce groundwater consumption and also reduce the amount of wastewater that must be managed in accordance with Nutrient Management Plans required by water quality permits.
        - Develop regulatory mechanisms that allow all the water rights and wells within a confined livestock feeding facility to operate under one overall quantity and rate limitation based on the summation of authorized rates and quantities. This flexibility will allow more efficient management of groundwater resources and will reduce limitations that cause regulatory compliance issues and water supply shortages during periods of extreme heat stress.
    - Municipal use accounts for 1% of the total water use in the Upper Smoky Hill region. However, local supply issues plague many of our communities. While water conservation initiatives are vital and must be implemented to some degree, there comes a point where extreme water conservation measures conflict with reasonable economic development and quality of life. It is recommended that funding for the planning, design and construction of infrastructure that treats municipal wastewater for reuse be made a priority for our region. Sources of treated water can support irrigation of recreational and other municipal facilities, such as golf courses, outdoor sports complexes, and parks. With limited tax bases, small municipalities usually do not have the financial resources to implement this kind of infrastructure.

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
    - Funding to test private wells

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee
    - Having a zoom option for KWA meetings

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Upper Arkansas

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
    - KWA set aside approximately $30,000 to do a water reclamation project for Garden City. As a result, that let to two additional reclamation projects following that. Through these projects, Garden City has been able to help sustain the needs for their community and continue to grow.
    - Dodge City is also pursuing projects to help expand their water reuse
    - Water Technology Farms in the region
    - Cost-Share Opportunities
    - Aid to conservation districts

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
    - Establish a diversified, usable water supply by 2030, to motivate a vibrant growing economy with conservation-minded stewardship focused on increasing the life of the aquifer, reestablishing streamflow in the Arkansas River, and accelerating recharge; benefiting: economic prosperity, wildlife, habitat, recreation, and all water users while protecting property rights and providing safe drinking water.
    - Achieving a sustainable water source
    - Ensuring all states comply with Compacts
    - Targeting investment opportunities where it would be impactful.
    - Promoting new management practices.
    - Addressing water quality issues
    - Well Construction and maintenance for water quality
    - Continuing research opportunities
    - Keeping management of the resource local and voluntary, while emphasizing stewardship and innovative conservation incentives.
    - Cost-share funds for conservation practices.

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?
    - Funding to KDHE to hire additional personnel to help with domestic well testing, specifically for uranium, or negotiate statewide contracts, whichever is the most cost-effective.
    - Additional engagement and involvement from local representatives and increasing the opportunities to have those bridge building conversations
    - Funding towards projects and organizations that are working to leverage additional funding from other sources
    - Ducks Unlimited phreatophyte work/removal in the Arkansas River corridor from Lamar, Colorado east to Dodge City, Kansas. Salt-cedar (Tamarisk spp.) is a deciduous, woody shrub that dominates much of the floodplains of the Arkansas River Watershed in Colorado and Kansas. See attachment for additional information.
    - Incentives to encourage water rights retirement.

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
    - Water Quality monitoring data collection
    - Augmentation and alternative sources of supply
    - Water supply stabilization for all water sources
    - Federal groundwater conservation programs/1985 Food Security Act
    - Leverage the benefits from our Compacts with neighboring states (i.e. Oklahoma)

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee
    - More emphasis on state water law

- Infrastructure such as rail facility to provide water and water intensive commodities instead of growing them locally that will leave room for less water intensive crops could be grown.
- We request a seat at the table for developing the formal process to establish goals and actions to: “halt the decline of the Ogallala Aquifer while promoting flexible and innovative management within a timeframe that achieves agricultural productivity, thriving economies and vibrant communities — now and for future generations of Kansans.” (quote from KWA 12-14-2022 mtg)

SWPF FY 2025 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input
Region: Verdigris

Recent Progress/Success

- Has there been progress of note on regional and/or statewide water resource issues which should be highlighted?
  Alternative methods to move sediment from reservoirs downstream. Dredging is a very expensive and time-consuming process.

  It is also important to reduce our vulnerability to extreme events, especially drought. Along with that, there is a need to work towards adapting to changing weather patterns and the practices that would help with this. Make use to the variability of weather patterns, taking advantage of high inflow times to mitigate low inflow times.

  We need to make use of the space and infrastructure that we currently have for water supply. Reduction of sediment to the reservoir and within the reservoir. There is enough, but we need to make sure we are storing and using it wisely. Support for alternative dredging pilot projects to remove/move sediment from reservoirs i.e. Water Injection Dredging.

  We want to acknowledge the positive awareness of water quality and quantity issues within the state legislature that has brought the additional funding for the SWPF.

State Water Plan Fund Priorities

- What type of activities would be most impactful under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
  Use state resource to leverage local, federal, and private funding.

  Program and goals to eliminate capacity loss to sedimentation. Creating a master plan for addressing this issue.

- What type of activities would be of highest priority under any/all of the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?
  Secure protect and restore Kansas reservoirs

  Reduce vulnerability to extreme events.

  Use state resource to leverage local, federal, and private funding.

Program and goals to eliminate capacity loss to sedimentation. Creating a master plan for addressing this issue.

- What do you feel is an appropriate proportional level of funding to go towards each of the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles?

- Where do you feel current priority activities would best fit within the 5 KWP Guiding Principles and/or noted actionable items?

- Are there opportunities for "low hanging" issues or priorities to be addressed?
  Constructing new watershed dams.

- Are there urgent emerging issues/priorities or unique opportunities to be addressed?
  Minimal stream flow on the Fall River, barely going over the dam. Algae bloom downstream which is degrading water quality in segment on Fall River before converges with Verdigris.

- Are there any activities you feel are missing at the current time which should be considered for future SWPF expenditures?
  There are huge costs to delaying planning and implementation. We need to plan for the future today and 20, 30, 40 years down the road.

  Include local conservation districts in budget input process.

  Need to reevaluate the priority of recreational uses of water, especially with current conditions. Current day look and evaluation of use priority. Looking at recreation as any other economic activity and make sure that it has appropriate weight in decision making.

- Other RAC input/feedback to highlight for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee.

2023 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input Summary

Regional Advisory Committee	Conserve and Extend the High Plains Aquifer	Secure, Protect, and Restore our Kansas Reservoirs	Improve the State's Water Quality	Reduce our Vulnerability to Extreme Events	Increase Awareness of Kansas Water Resources
Smoky-Hill Saline			x		x
Kansas		x	x	x	x
Verdigris		x		x	
Missouri	x	x		x	
Neosho		x	x		
Red Hills			x	x	x
Great Bend Prairie	x				x
Equus-Walnut				x	
Solomon Republican			x	x	
Marais des Cygnes		x			x
Cimarron	x			x	x
Upper Smoky Hill	x				x
Upper Republican	x		x	x	x
Upper Arkansas	x		x		
Total	**6**	**5**	**7**	**8**	**8**

BUDGET ATTACHMENT 4

2023 Regional Advisory Committee Budget Input Summary

Regional Advisory Committee	Alternative Crop Research	Drought Planning	Incentive-Based Conservation Programs	Soil Health	Aid to Conservation Districts	Aid to Small Municipalities	Water Reuse	Workforce Development	Structural Practices	PFAS Mitigation	Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation
Smoky-Hill Saline									x	x	
Verdigris											
Missouri											
Neosho							x	x		x	x
Red Hills										x	
Great Bend Prairie			x		x					x	
Equus-Walnut					x	x (Extreme Event Mitigation)	x				
Solomon Republican					x						
Marais des Cygnes				x					x		x
Cimarron	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Upper Smoky Hill	x		x				x			x	
Upper Arkansas			x								
Upper Republican		x	x	x		x (General Conservation Education and Implementation Assistance)				x	
Kansas		x		x		x (Drinking Water Protection Program and Extreme Event Mitigation)		x	x		
Total	**2**	**3**	**5**	**4**	**4**	**3**	**4**	**2**	**3**	**6**	**2**

BUDGET ATTACHMENT 4

Kansas Water Authority
FY 2025 State Water Plan Fund (SWPF)
Budget Recommendation Descriptions

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Contamination Remediation
The Orphan Sites Program (OSP) in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE) Bureau of Environmental Remediation uses money from the SWPF for the assessment and remediation of contaminated sites where the responsible party is unknown or unable to undertake the necessary cleanup action. The purpose of this program is to protect human health while protecting the environment from the effects of hazardous chemicals or pollutants to soil, sediment, groundwater, surface water, or other natural resources of the state.

Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP)
SWPF support for LEPP provides funding and technical assistance to enable local authorities to develop water protection plans that complemented other water quality efforts being implemented by state and federal agencies. At the core of each plan is the adoption and enforcement of county environmental codes with an emphasis on onsite wastewater systems and private water wells. The LEPP works to ensure Kansas communities have access to support to ensure the proper and safe treatment of contaminated water for both human health and environmental health.

Nonpoint Source Program
This program provides technical assistance as well as funding for demonstration projects to help address water quality impairments impacted by nonpoint source pollution in targeted areas across Kansas.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Initiatives
The Clean Water Act requires states to identify all water bodies where state water quality standards are not being met. Every two years, a list of impaired waters is submitted to the EPA for approval, utilizing water quality data associated with the KDHE targeted stream, biological and lake monitoring networks. The waters listed in the list require a TMDL. The TMDL sets a limit for the maximum amount of a contaminant that a water body can receive and still meet standards. A variety of local, state, and federal programs utilize the list and TMDLs to establish watershed restoration, protection, and funding priorities to address contributing pollutant sources, particularly sediment, nutrients, and pathogens.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (cont.)

Drinking Water Protection Program
KDHE's Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) has two components:

- Ensure all Kansas communities have a clean, healthy, affordable drinking water source by planning and implementing strategies to prevent and mitigate contamination.
- Analyze the impacts of naturally-occurring minerals on water used for hu- man consumption from private water wells in some Kansas regions.

Watershed Restoration Protection Strategy (WRAPS)
The WRAPS Program implements a voluntary targeted watershed-based program funded by the Clean Water Act 319 and SWP. This program seeks citizen and stakeholder input and participation in identifying watershed protection issues and restoration needs, establishing watershed protection and restoration goals, developing 9-Element Watershed Plans to achieve established goals, and implementing fully developed plans. The WRAPS Program targets Best Management Practices for watershed restoration activities in impaired watersheds designated as high priority for implementation through Total Maximum Daily Loads. KDHE 9-Element Watershed Plans identify and outline priority areas for BMP implementation as well as needed pollutant load reduction amounts to improve water quality and remove waterbodies from KDHE's List of Impaired Waters.

Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot
The Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) mitigation pilot project investigates and demonstrates in-lake treatment options to reduce the frequency and duration of these blooms. The objective is to assess the effectiveness of such treatment options at minimizing the impact of HABs in Kansas public lakes.

Surface Water Trash Removal
This program provides enhanced state support for stakeholder-driven events, programs, and education to address trash impairments to Kansas streams. Trash is the most publicly apparent impairment to Kansas streams. Environmental advocates and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have sponsored a number of stream clean-ups over the years and are looking for enhanced state support and participation in these efforts, as well as public education. Additionally, much trash is delivered to rivers through runoff from urban areas. Practices installed and managed by local public works departments with state assistance could reduce those loadings. This request is the continuation of a pilot effort to assess the effectiveness of these approaches in improving river aesthetics.

Arkansas River Ditch Lining
While the source of pollutants found in the Arkansas River emanate from Colorado; Kansas has seen the impacts of that poor quality water interacting with historically good quality ground water some distance from the river via leakage from the irrigation ditches that distribute river water to upland areas. Studies by KGS have documented the migration of high concentrations of sulfate and, to a lesser degree, uranium, throughout the alluvium and upland areas, particularly north of the river. An initiative to line or seal portions of those ditches to lower the loss of poor quality river water to the underlying ground water is contemplated in areas of Hamilton, Kearny and Finney counties.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (cont.)

Aquifer Recharge Basin
An additional initiative looks to encourage the infiltration and percolation of high quality rainwater into the poor quality ground water, for example, as seen in Hamilton county, through development of artificial playas, upland detention terraces and depressions with Hickenbottom injection wells. The concept is to build a freshwater front at the outer reaches of the river valley that would migrate downgradient toward the river and mitigate the spread of poor quality water from the river or within the alluvium. The resulting ground water should be more acceptable for domestic and irrigation usage in the valley.

Ground Water Quality Monitoring Network
Agency partners in coordination with the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) propose the re-establishment of an ambient groundwater quality monitoring program (absent since the early 2000s) across the state. This program will 1) collect baseline data to identify areas of the state where groundwater quality is already at risk or exceeding health standards and allow detection of future deterioration and 2) create a public data platform that integrates groundwater quality data across agencies and links with existing KGS water databases. Analysis of these data will help Kansans identify source water protection actions and management options that can best protect our aquifers from future decline while providing information to state and local governments for managing public water supply wells and domestic wells.

WRAPS Effectiveness Monitoring
Investments made in watersheds to abate non-point source pollution require management of water quality under wet weather conditions. Data collected under those conditions are typically widely variable and the ability to see the signal in improved quality amidst the “noise” of the ambient data require large sample sizes to be statistically sound. The monitoring networks of KDHE do not collect such data at that finer resolution either temporally or spatially within any given watershed. This initiative would focus outsourced monitoring efforts to collect water quality data in an intensive manner to better evaluate the true impact of the watershed practice investments that are now implemented.

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Interstate Water Issues
Kansas is a party to four interstate river compacts that allocate water in major interstate rivers. This SWPF provides the Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources modeling, data analysis and compliance resources to support Kansas interstate compact efforts. Funding is used primarily associated with the Kansas-Colorado Arkansas River Compact and for the Republican River Compact. This SWPF provides the Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources modeling, data analysis and compliance resources to support Kansas interstate compact efforts. Each year, Kansas DWR staff reviews reports of water use and conservation activities in Colorado and Nebraska. For the Arkansas River, this includes not only data review, but also field verification of acres dried up. For the Republican River, the work primarily focuses on data review of water use and modeling results that determine compact compliance. A portion of the time in both cases are spent monitoring boards and meeting in neighboring states.

Kansas Department of Agriculture (cont.)

Subbasin Water Resources Management
This program supports the establishment of Water Conservation Areas and Local Enhanced Management Areas. WCAs are a simple, streamlined and flexible tool that allow any water right owner or group of owners the opportunity to voluntarily develop a management plan to reduce withdrawals in an effort to extend the usable life of the High Plains Aquifer. Flexibilities include elements such as multi-year water right allocations, moving allocations between enrolled water rights, and allowing for new uses of water. Funding from this program line is also used to support some field activities related to compliance and enforcement with a focus on areas such as meter accuracy, overpump verification, and conservation implementation. This program line also supports complex aquifer modeling work.

Water Use Database Modernization
In recent years, funding from this SWPF line has been used to create, manage, and update the state's online water use reporting portal. Now more than 90 percent of the water use reports are received online through the portal with a higher degree of accuracy and more complete reports. DWR is in the process of having outside firms look at permitting and inspection process for both our water appropriation and water structures programs. The responses and recommendations we have received so far include a strong recommendation that we need to update our existing databases, automate our data collection processes, develop online application portals, and provide better opportunities for public online access to data.This will be a multi-year effort to modernize our entire data collection, storage, handling, and analysis systems. The funding will be used primarily to hire outside developers to implement individual tasks or applications.

Water Resources Cost Share
This program provides financial assistance to landowners for the establishment of conservation practices in the form of cost-share contracts. The primary goals are to prevent soil erosion, reduce sedimentation, reduce nutrients, pesticides, and fecal coliform bacteria in targeted public water supply reservoirs, as well as increase irrigation efficiency through irrigation technology initiatives. Some of the most common practices are terraces and waterways, ponds, pasture and rangeland planting, filter strips, cross fencing, water wells and pumping plants. Irrigation technology such as automated soil moisture probes, mobile drip irrigation systems and remote monitoring systems are offered through special initiatives implemented by the Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Conservation (KDA-DOC).

Nonpoint Source Pollution Assistance
This program is administered through the KDA-DOC and provides financial assistance to landowners for the establishment of conservation practices. The primary goals are (1) water quality protection and restoration in watersheds with TDMLs, (2) information and education for adults and youth, and (3) other water quality issues. Some of the practices implemented through the Non-Point Source Pollution Assistance Program include:

- Abandoned-well plugging
- Ponds
- Pasture and rangeland planting
- Cover Crop
- Cross fencing
- Livestock waste management
- Nutrient management grid sampling with variable rate fertilizer application

Kansas Department of Agriculture (cont.)

Aid to Conservation Districts
The State Aid to Conservation Districts program provides funds that the KDA-DOC requests through the State Water Plan Fund budgeting process, for conservation district activities implementing local, state and federal programs identified in the Kansas Water Plan. The KDA-DOC requests up to $25,000 per district of SWP funds to match the amount of funding provided each district by the county in which the district is located. Program funding is utilized by conservation districts to assist landowners in implementing the KWP, including best management practices that improve natural resources, as well as to provide information and education reaching all ages through field days, workshops, and school visits.

Dam Construction Rehabilitation
There are roughly 2,600 regulated dams within the state of Kansas of varying size, age, and condition. Rehabilitation of dams needing attention is costly and often beyond the financial capacity of the owner. A recent national report completed by the Association of Dam Safety Officials put the total estimated costs for all dams in Kansas at $11.69 billion and for dams with a High Hazard Potential classification at $650 million. Failure of a High Hazard Potential dam could lead to significant loss of life and property damage. This program utilizes cost share with owners of dams that have the most pressing need for repair or rehabilitation.

Riparian and Wetland Program
This program provides planning assistance to local conservation districts in the development of protection plans to restore riparian areas, wetlands, and wildlife habitats.

Water Transition Assistance Program/Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
The purpose of the Water Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) is to reduce Historic Consumptive Water Use (HCWU) in targeted areas by permanently retiring irrigation water rights with incentive-based cost-share. Priority areas are targeted and approved by the KDA-DOC, with recommendations from GMDs in applicable areas. The CREP is designed to permanently retire water rights in the Upper Arkansas River Basin, a 13-county project area in western and south-central Kansas, while also providing other related benefits such as soil conservation, water quality protection, energy savings, and wildlife habitat enhancement. A landowner is compensated for agreeing to enroll in continuous CRP, permanently retire related irrigation water rights and plant a permanent cover (e.g. prairie grass or wildlife habitat mixture) on the contracted land.

Irrigation Technology
This funding is used to improve irrigation efficiency and reduce water use by providing cost-share assistance to landowners for irrigation technology. The Irrigation Technology program is currently focused all Kansas Groundwater Management Districts. The program is currently working in conjunction with the Kansas Groundwater Management Districts to increase effectiveness and leverage additional resources to improve technology utilization across high water level decline areas in the High Plains Aquifer.

Kansas Department of Agriculture (cont.)

Crop and Livestock Research
SWPF Crop and Livestock Research support provides research funding for the agricultural sector to evaluate current areas of research need, support ongoing research efforts, and create opportunities for new research projects to address priorities and needs identified within the Kansas Water Plan. Research project identification and selection has taken place in collaboration with a research coordination work group which includes representatives from K-State Research and Extension, Kansas Geological Survey, Kansas Biological Survey, the University of Kansas, U.S. Geological Survey, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Water Office (KWO).

Soil Health
Soil Health funding provides resources to the KDA – DOC for soil health-related initiatives across Kansas. FY 2023 accomplishments include sponsorship of Soil Health U podcasts that feature innovative farmers and ranchers educating others on the benefits of soil health and regenerative agricultural practices. These funds have also been used as leverage in partnership with the NFWF/ADM Midwest Cover Crop Initiative that in turn accounted for 100,000 of cover crops being planted in Kansas.

Streambank Stabilization
Streambank stabilization continues to be a key component in the reduction of sediment entering our water supply reservoirs. The KDHE, KDA-DOC and KWO coordinate efforts, resources and pooled funding to accomplish streambank protection aimed at reducing erosion in priority watersheds. Streambank Stabilization efforts continue to be concentrated in three priority Kansas watersheds above Federal reservoirs: Tuttle Creek Lake, Perry Lake, and John Redmond Reservoir

Kansas Water Office

Assessment and Evaluation
The Assessment and Evaluation funding line is used to contract for a variety of data collection and studies. The overall objective of Assessment and Evaluation support is to provide the state water planning process with the background information necessary to make decisions and improve implementation. These resources are currently utilized to support efforts such as High Plains Aquifer Index Wells; aquifer model development and maintenance; and water quality data collection and assessment for surface and groundwater resources across Kansas.

MOU-Storage Operations & Maintenance
The KWO utilizes MOU Storage Operations & Maintenance funds within the State Water Plan Fund to pay the annual operation and maintenance costs of water storage space in the following reservoirs in accordance with the associated water storage purchase agreements between the state of Kansas and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The funding request is based on the anticipated costs communicated to the KWO by the USACE for the noted fiscal year. Invoices are annually submitted by the USACE to the KWO for payment.

Kansas Water Office (cont.)

Stream Gaging

The KWO contracts with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to operate a network of stream gages in Kansas that have been collecting data for more than 100 years. These streamflow stations, in combination with reservoir level stations supported by other USGS funding partners, continue to provide real time data for streamflow and lake conditions. These data are used in making operational decisions regarding water rights; minimum desirable stream flows; flood monitoring; reservoir management; and water quality monitoring and analysis. In addition, this information is used to help operate the Water Marketing and Water Assurance Programs.

Conservation Assistance for Water Users

The KWO is charged by statute to provide technical assistance for water users required to adopt and implement conservation plans and practices (K.S.A. 82a-733 et seq.). On-site technical assistance is currently provided by contract with the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA). Assistance is available to PWS personnel on operations, maintenance, finance, management, regulatory requirements, water quality and public health concerns and/or other critical issues. Additional funding beyond current contractual obligations would support development of a municipal water conservation incentives pilot program.

Reservoir and Water Quality Research

SWPF Reservoir and Water Quality Research support provides funding for reservoir and water quality-related data collection and analysis to evaluate current areas of research need, support ongoing research efforts, and create opportunities for new research projects to address priorities and needs identified within the Kansas Water Plan. Research project identification and selection has taken place in collaboration with a research coordination work group which includes representatives from K-State Research and Extension, Kansas Geological Survey, Kansas Biological Survey, the University of Kansas, U.S. Geological Survey, Kansas Department of Agriculture, the KDHE and the KWO.

Water Quality Partnerships

Current and future Milford Lake Watershed RCPP efforts have demonstrated the benefit of having SWPF resources available for leveraging with federal, local, and private resources to address water quality issues of regional or statewide priority. This SWPF budget line provides increased state funding for leveraging opportunities which support overall efforts to improve our state's water quality. These leveraging opportunities provide the potential for additional watershed conservation practice implementation benefiting surface and groundwater quality as well as development and enhancement of partnerships to facilitate enhanced conservation practice implementation with a goal of improving Kansas water quality.

Kansas Water Office (cont.)

Kansas Water Plan Education & Outreach Strategy

During development of the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas as well as the more recent Kansas Water Plan, stakeholders statewide have highlighted the need for increased education and outreach on state water resources for all ages to help develop and promote a culture of water conservation across Kansas. More recently, this recognition of the value of water-related education and outreach as well as the need of resources to dedicate towards advancing efforts to increase the awareness of Kansas water resources has been a topic of discussion with members of the House Water Committee as well as Regional Advisory Committees across Kansas. Education and outreach activities to supported by these SWPF resources could include:

- Launching and maintaining a statewide marketing campaign and water resource information sharing through a public information campaign and website;
- Partnering with the Kansas Department of Education and other water resource partners to develop and implement Kansas-water related education resources and curriculum; and
- Establishing and hiring an Education & Outreach Specialist position within the Kansas Water Office.

High Plains Aquifer Partnerships

The KWO's Water Innovation Systems and Education (WISE) initiative and other efforts across the High Plains Aquifer continue to show the benefit of partnerships and the opportunities for partnerships to advance water conservation efforts across the region. · These partnership resources provide increased state funding for leveraging opportunities which support overall state efforts to conserve and extend the High Plains Aquifer in Kansas. This includes, but is not limited to, the opportunity to enhance and showcase conservation efforts which benefit the overall viability of the High Plains Aquifer for multiple water use groups (i.e. irrigation water use, dairies & feeders, municipalities & utilities) as well as development of new partnerships to demonstrate emerging tools & technologies which promote water conservation in the High Plains Aquifer Region of Kansas.

Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative (KRPI)

The KRPI provides financial assistance to producers within targeted watersheds to implement conservation practices which reduce sediment runoff. Current eligible watersheds for the KRPI include Fall River, Hillsdale, John Redmond, Kanopolis, Perry, Pomona Tuttle Creek Lake watersheds. The resulting watershed conservation practice implementation which takes place within priority watersheds above key reservoirs helps to protect water supply storage and improve water quality through the reduction of sediment. The KRPI is an interagency coordination effort between the KWO, the KDA-Division of Conservation and KDHE along with local conservation districts, local Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) program staff and Regional Advisory Committee representatives.

Kansas Water Office (cont.)

Equus Beds Chloride Plume Remediation Project
Groundwater in the Burrton area of western Harvey County continues to be impacted by elevated chloride concentrations, primarily caused by historic oil field operations in the region dating back to the 1930s. The plume of high chloride groundwater is expanding and migrating southeast in the Equus Beds Aquifer, threatening to impact a larger area of the aquifer which is used for municipal, industrial, and agricultural water supplies. There was collaboration with KDHE on framework development for a pilot treatment project within the Equus Beds Aquifer to remediate the plume. Burns & McDonnell presented a final report in 2020 to demonstrate the most cost-effective way to utilize contaminated groundwater in the region, while protecting existing freshwater resources. The report identified extremely expensive options. Local engagement is taking place to find next steps utilizing the report recommendations.

Flood Response Study
The 2019 Special Legislative Committee on Flooding recommended funding for evaluation of flood risks in Kansas. The KWO is continuing efforts to leverage federal resources for completion of studies in flood prone areas of Kansas. Flood study efforts look to identify areas of recurring flooding, determine economic loss from these events, and identify potential mitigation projects that can lessen future flood damage. Funding to support future flood study-related efforts would be supported by KWO Assessment and Evaluation funding.

Arbuckle Study
The KWO was directed to facilitate a stakeholder group focused on initiating a study of the Arbuckle formation. This group has worked towards consensus regarding a study plan that addresses fundamental data needs to characterize the storage capabilities of the Arbuckle, emphasizing south-central Kansas as the primary study area. The KGS completed an interim report on the feasibility study in spring of 2023, which was shared with the Arbuckle Study Group. The Arbuckle Study Group met again in June 2023. The KGS presented updates on recent seismicity; Class I and II well testing; data collected from three additional Class II wells; proposed candidate wells for further data collection; additional analysis of disposal volumes and static fluid levels, including an assessment of the potential vulnerability of the Equus Beds; and future study plans. This funding would support future data collection and analysis efforts associated with overall Arbuckle Study efforts.

Water Injection Dredging (WID)
The KWO has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Kansas City District and the USACE Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) to pursue a WID (Water Injection Dredging) demonstration at Tuttle Creek Lake. The demonstration would evaluate if injecting water into the reservoir bed to resuspend sediment and allowing it to be discharged downstream through the low-level outlet, using WID, is a viable means of sustaining long-term use and water storage at Tuttle Creek Lake and other reservoirs. No additional Tuttle Creek WID-related funding is being requested for FY 2025.

HB 2302
HB 2302 allocated an additional $18.0 million to the State Water Plan Fund each year for the next 5 years. This line items serves as the holding space for those additional funds. The KWO Office will transfer the amounts recommended by the Kansas Water Authority to the appropriate line items within the State Water Plan Fund.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program
Aquatic nuisance species (ANS), also referred to as aquatic invasive species (AIS), are non-native species that threaten the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters. Some goals of the ANS Management Plan include: prevent introductions of ANS to Kansas; prevent dispersal of established populations of ANS into uninfested waters in Kansas; eradicate or minimize the adverse ecological, economic, social, and public health effects of ANS in an environmentally sound manner; educate all aquatic users of ANS risks and how to reduce the harmful impacts.

University of Kansas - Kansas Geological Survey

These SWPF resources are utilized by the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) for Ogallala Aquifer Support. This includes, but is not limited to, updated water balance/qstable analysis for GMD review and in support of LEMA efforts within GMDs 4 and 1 as well as work with KDA-DWR for water balance/qstable analysis for various feedlots and water right holders. Additional funding requested would help provide funding at a level last approved for FY 2009.

Kansas Water Plan Budget Guidelines
June 2023

Water Plan Funds should be allocated to maximize accomplishing the goals and objectives established by the Kansas Statutes, the Kansas Water Authority and the Regional Advisory Committees. Fundamental to the budget process shall be a prioritization of expenditures that are required to do legally, necessary to implement the Kansas Water Plan, and discretionary expenditures that can be justified based upon defined benefits.

In particular, budgeted funds should be allocated with the following principles:

- Statutory Obligations shall be met first.
    - For instance, K.S.A. 82a-2101 requires that proceeds from the Clean Drinking Water Fee be allocated by providing not less than 15% to provide on-site technical assistance for public water supply systems, with the remainder being used to renovate and protect lakes which are used directly as a source of water for such public water supply systems
- All budgeted funds should be tied to one of the projects and initiatives established by the Kansas Water Plan. Allocation of funds should be supported by appropriate metrics and benchmarks, which clearly demonstrate the past (where applicable), current and future benefit of such expenditures.
- Per K.S.A. 82a-951, State Water Plan funding "shall not be used for . . . replacing full-time equivalent positions of any state agency." Chapter 59 of the 2023 Session Laws of Kansas allows the Kansas Water Authority to recommend to the Legislature to appropriate up to 10% of the unencumbered balance of the State Water Plan fund to supplement salaries of existing state agency FTE positions and for funding new FTE positions created to implement the Kansas Water Plan. Such appropriations will not replace State General Fund, fee fund or other funding for positions existing on July 1, 2023. However, the Kansas Water Authority should continue to encourage funding for staff positions supporting State Water Plan programs and projects to be from the State General Fund removing any confusion and allowing additional funds to be used for implementation activities.
- Funds raised through fees on specific users, such as K.S.A. 82a-954, K.S.A. 2-1205 and K.S.A. 2-2204 should be used to fund projects or initiatives that benefit the users paying those fees, or mitigate environmental impacts caused by said users, including:
    - Agricultural users
    - Public water supply systems
    - Industrial users
    - Stock watering

  Specifically, Chapter 59 of the 2023 Kansas Session Laws states the Kansas Water Authority shall encourage the creation of grant programs for stock water conservation projects and such grant programs shall prioritize the use of stock water fees allocated to the State Water Plan Fund.
- Allocation of funds should be reasonably related to:
    - The source of the funds,
    - Geographical balance (i.e. NE, NW, SE & SW), including consideration for RAC Regional balance
    - Hydrological (ground water vs. surface water) resource balance
    - An equitable mix of rural vs. urban interests.

  Exceptions will be considered for high-priority or time-sensitive cases requiring significant funding for the implementation of an individual priority project.
- Priority must be given to long term contractual, or multi-year obligations such as:
    - Contracts with the Corps of Engineers for O&M costs of federal reservoirs
    - Contracts with the USGS for stream gages

- Consideration may be given to projects or initiatives that involve cost shares from other sources, such as Federal, state, local and private funding.
- Consideration may be given to expenditures that can be justified based upon emerging threats to water resources, including appropriate research initiatives.
- Chapter 59 of the 2023 Kansas Session Laws states the Kansas Water Authority will encourage requests from state and local entities that cooperate with qualified non-profit entities.
- Chapter 59 of the 2023 Kansas Session Laws states if at least two conservation districts present a joint proposal for position(s) to provide shared services to those districts, funds may be recommended to supplement the salaries of those position(s).