

Word from the Street



Tracy Streeter, Director

In this issue of the WaterFront, you'll find an article announcing that half of the terms of our Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) will be expiring in August. If you recall, when the Kansas Water Authority appointed over 160 members to the RACs in August of 2015, 50 percent of each committee was appointed to a two-year-term and the other half to a four-year-term.

The past two years have flown by and each of the 14 RACs has accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time. More than 60 action plans have been developed in total and there have been numerous public meetings providing education on conservation, irrigation technology, crop insurance as well as a study examining the feasibility of new reservoirs. RACs have also provided input on significant policy issues including funding for the Kansas Water Vision and comments on the Missouri River Environmental Impact Statement just to name a few.

Each of the RAC members appointed to two-year-terms have received notice from our office of the August expiration. I encourage each of you to consider serving another term and we have made your online re-application process as simple as possible. This is also an opportunity for other

members of the public to consider applying for these expiring terms. A press release announcing the vacancies will be distributed statewide in the near future.

As you know, our work in implementing the Kansas Water Vision and State Water Plan has really just begun. As the Vision states "Kansans act on a shared commitment to have the water resources necessary...." The Kansas Water Authority, state and federal agencies and local governments cannot carry this Vision out without strong, active Regional Advisory Committees. I look forward to sharing a great pool of RAC applicants with the Kansas Water Authority in August for their consideration.

See more information for RAC Membership opportunities on page 3 or visit our website at www.kwo.org

Save the Date for the August Kansas Water Authority meeting in Pittsburg, August 16-17, 2017

The 2017 Legislative Session has convened for the Veto Session, and we are awaiting the final budget and appropriations recommendations from the House and Senate. Many of you know that water has definitely been a well-discussed issue this year, and much of that is due to the engagement each of you have had with the legislators and decision makers. Thank you again for your efforts.



The House Water and Environment Committee ended their regular committee work with the recommendation of funding items for a potential SGF/EDIF allocation. KWO provided a list of potential funding items on behalf of the Kansas Water Authority, as did many other stakeholders and agencies. The list that was forwarded to House Leadership from Chairman Sloan had some of the KWA items on it as well as others not

prioritized by KWA. This list, divided into three “Tiers” of funding priorities, will be a resource if any additional funds would be appropriated for the upcoming fiscal year. The Senate Ways and Means Committee also had detailed discussion on budget priorities within KWO, Kansas Department of Health and Environment-Bureau of Water, and Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources. The conversation about funding and the sustainability of the State Water Plan Fund as currently structured has been discussed throughout the session. KWA has presented legislators with a consistent message: the \$8 million in statutory State General Fund (SGF) / Economic Development Initiatives Funding (EDIF) should be restored in order to meet future water supply needs.

Most recently, a proposal came forward to assess a \$2.25/residential and \$10.00/commercial fee on utility customers, including water, as well as a \$120 water right permit fee, in order to fund K-12 education. The proposal was included in SB 251, now the Senate Substitute for HB 2186, “Creating the Kansas school equity and enhancement act.” The utility and water right fee proposal was removed from the legislation during the meeting of the Senate Select Committee on Education Finance, and was not included in the final legislation passed out of the committee. Gary Harshberger, on behalf of the KWA, submitted written testimony in opposition to the creation of these fees for education funding. The bill and testimony can be accessed on the website at <http://www.kwo.org/LegislativeNews.html>.

Meet New KWA Member - Ted Nighswonger

Ted Nighswonger grew up in Graham County, attended Hill City High School and graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Agriculture Economics. He returned to the family farm and has been a self-employed farmer for 38 years now and has been involved in water and conservation issues.

For more than 25 years he has served at the local and state level for the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) and represents Area I on the State Conservation Commission. In 2011 he received the Outstanding Conservation District Supervisor.

“I am concerned about all natural resources but being a farmer from

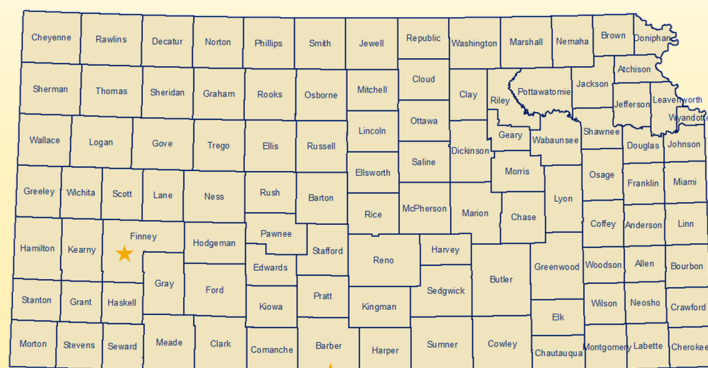


western Kansas, water is a very important part of our economics and livelihood,” said Nighswonger. “I look forward to representing all conservation districts of the state as I have northwest Kansas on the State Conservation Commission.”

He is married to Linda, who is a science teacher at Hill City Junior/Senior High School. They have two children and two grandchildren they enjoy spending time with.

The Kansas Water Office (KWO) and the City of Garden City applied for a Grant with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for Water Reclamation Research and it was recently announced the applications were among the highest ratings and being considered for the financial assistance agreement.

The KWO project agreement, totaling \$199,175, would involve the treatment of produced oil field water to a quality standard acceptable for agricultural irrigation and the watering of livestock. Funding from the grant will provide a means to operate the equipment necessary to treat the pro-



duced water and also allow periodic testing of the effluent.

This project would take place near Hardtner, KS. It would help implement one of the Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee goals to help diversify the water supply and provide flexibility during water shortages. In addition it would implement action items within the Additional Sources of Supply section of the Kansas Water Vision.

The City of Garden City study is a WaterSMART Feasibility proposal for their Strategic Plan for Reuse Effluent Water Resources. This study location is within Garden City and the surrounding vicinity. The agreement is for \$65,368 and would provide them information to best utilize their effluent water resource as well as protect the resources required for potable water use. The grant would allow them to:

- Determine most cost effective method to reuse the maximum quantity of water with the lowest cost impact for long-term availability
- Establish reuse partners
- Evaluate existing water conservation practices and policies
- Provide data for infrastructure development as well as water rights

The BOR plans to announce the final approval in early August.

RAC Membership and Upcoming Series

Membership For more than 30 years, citizen advisors have been a vital voice for water resource issues in Kansas. The Kansas Water Office is currently accepting applications from those who would like to participate as a member of one of the 14 Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) which are established by the Kansas Water Authority (KWA).

These committees play a key role in advising the KWA on implementation of each region's water supply priorities as part of the *Vision for the Future of the Water Supply in Kansas* as well as provide advice on the identification of water-related problems, issues and concerns. The committee selection process will ensure all of the water users and interests within the region are represented.

Interested persons can find the application [here](#). The application deadline is July 15, 2017.

Kansans can have a definite lasting impact on the future of water resources through RAC membership. For further information please visit www.kwo.org or call: (785) 296-3185 or 1-888-526-9283.

State of the Resource Series *The Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas* (the Vision) calls for an annual review of each of the 14 regional planning areas. Specifically, an annual public meeting shall be held in each region to highlight the current ground water, surface water and water storage conditions, as well as the progress towards achieving the regional goals. This "State of the Resource" will be a great opportunity to highlight success while recognizing the ongoing efforts needed to fulfill future water supply needs.

Look for these events to take place towards the end of July – early August with more information to come soon. As they are scheduled we will list them on our website calendar of events.

We hope you will plan to attend and engage with the Regional Advisory Committees, state agencies, local, state, and federal agencies and other stakeholders to help ensure progress continues.

For comments or questions on The WaterFront please contact
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June

7- Verdigris RAC Meeting, Madison, Kansas
14 - Neosho RAC Meeting, Burlington, Kansas
22 - Missouri RAC Meeting, Atchison, Kansas
29 - Marais des Cygnes RAC Meeting, Overbrook, Kansas

July—August

TBD - State of the Resource Regional Series, 14 locations

August

16-17 - KWA Water Authority Meeting, Pittsburg, Kansas



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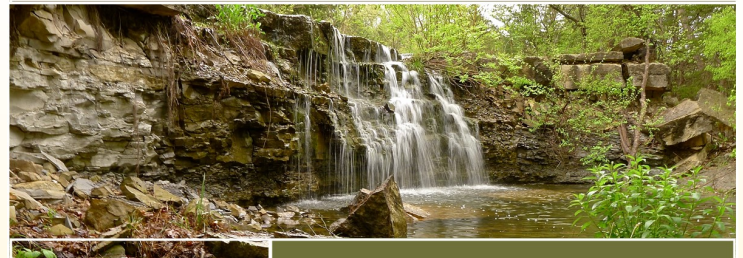
Meet Tammy

Tammy Matchett joined our team following Kelly Freed's retirement and is one of the voices you will hear when you call KWO.



She has experience in accounting, human resources and customer service. She was previously with the Kansas Board of Technical Professions working in public service administration. She and her husband live in Topeka and have five kids.

Governor's Water Conference



SAVE THE DATE!



Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas

November 8-9, 2017

Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Kansas

www.kwo.org



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

Thank you to our dedicated sponsors who have committed so far!!