

# The Waterfront



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## Word From The Street

As I reflect on this past year and the amount of work accomplished by so many of you who are part of the *Water Vision* and other priority water projects, I am in awe of your efforts and I can't express my gratitude enough to each of you.

First what an undertaking by our Regional Advisory Committees this past year to develop the action steps to achieve their region's top water supply priority goals. The effort, dedication and detail given to these plans were above and beyond what I thought was possible! In addition, the completion of the John Redmond dredging project, the development of Water Conservation Areas, Water Technology Farms as well as the completion of numerous streambank stabilization and watershed protection projects. These are just a few that top the list of many *Water Vision* implementation achievements this year.

As we all reflect on our work over the course of a year, I recognize that some days are "have to" days and some are "get to" days. Recently, I experienced several "get to" days. During the Thanksgiving holiday, the KWO was called to assist the Division of Emergency Management, KDHE and others respond to the explosion and fire in Neodesha that resulted in water contamination affecting several communities on the Fall and Verdigris Rivers. It was very gratifying to work with the Corps of Engineers in utilizing releases from our reservoir system in the Verdigris River Basin to mitigate the contaminant levels and ensure a safe water supply for those affected communities. I was also privileged to sign a contract selling Kanopolis Reservoir storage to the Lower Smoky Water Supply Access District. You can read more about this on page 3, but I was proud to sit beside the Mayor of Salina and Vice-President of the Lower

Smoky Irrigation District and sign the storage purchase contract. This contract is the culmination nearly six years of planning that allows municipal and agricultural water users to work together to meet their water supply needs while maintaining a healthy river and conserving precious water supply storage.

I look forward to working with each of you next year and trust that with your continued commitment to the *Vision*, 2017 will every bit as good as or better than 2016! Happy Holidays!



Tracy Streeter, Director

## Legislative Update

The year 2017 brings a new Kansas Legislative Session, and with it come many new faces in the Capitol building. Leadership elections have taken place, and House and Senate Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs have been appointed. There are a couple of Committee changes to note. On the Senate side, the former Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture are now combined into one Committee, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Senator Dan Kerschen, Garden Plain, will

Chair the newly combined Committee. On the House side, the KWA will be working with the newly-formed Committee on Water and Environment, to be chaired by Representative Tom Sloan, Lawrence. The Session begins on January 9, and Governor Sam Brownback will deliver the State of the State address on January 10.

On January 24, the KWA and RACs will be in Topeka to visit with Legislators about a variety of water issues and

topics, many of which are highlighted in the KWA's Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature. KWO staff will also be available at a booth in the capitol rotunda with information regarding the Vision implementation activities across the state. It is always great to engage with Legislators and fellow Kansans on water!

## Meet our New Corps Liaison:

The Kansas Water Office is very fortunate to have a Corps Liaison program. Christina Ostrander is the third liaison to work with KWO on priority issues.

She has served with the Corps of Engineers for 26 years, initially with Tulsa District and then Kansas City District. She worked across mission areas including environmental programs, installation support for Military installations and spent the past 10 years serving as a project manager and planner for civil works projects. Christina earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy from Oklahoma State University and has completed course work toward a Masters in Environmental/Civil Engineering.

“I am excited to serve in the liaison role this year with the Kansas Water Office and the Corps of Engineers Kansas City and Tulsa Districts,” said Christina. “I hope to facilitate good communication between our respective agencies regarding roles and responsibilities and opportunities for improvements in our management and delivery of water resources.”

Both entities know there are many water resource challenges ahead and some solutions will involve Corps federal

projects such as reservoirs and flood risk management projects. Christina also shared, “It is important to be working together to leverage state and federal resources in order to provide the best outcomes.”

On a personal side she is married to Rex Ostrander, her husband of 38 years. Together they have raised two daughters, Michelle (married to Matthew Lay) and Monica. They have one grandson, Ethan. She loves spending time with family and traveling.

KWO looks forward to working with Christina and the rest of the Kansas City and Tulsa USACE District staff. Over the past few years, KWO and USACE have worked to strengthen the partnership between our agencies. This liaison position is one such effort. Other efforts include annual meetings District and Division level USACE staff, coordination between neighboring states of Oklahoma and Texas, and inclusion in planning efforts related to the Vision and other projects. Our federal reservoirs are important state and federal assets, and it takes everyone working together to ensure they are healthy and meeting the needs of all users.

These relationships and working partnerships during activities such as long-term planning efforts, funding discussions and executing operations agreements are key. Often the real value of these relationships is seen during times of crisis, such as the Neodesha explosion affecting water supply in south-east Kansas last month. The communication between KWO and USACE partners was crucial in a quick response to ensure water supply needs were met in the region. We hope there aren't frequent crises to deal with, but it's great to know we have the ability to quickly respond with coordinated efforts with our federal partners.



## Lower Smoky Access District:

In 2006 there was an extreme period of drought that greatly affected Kanopolis Reservoir and the surrounding area. Following this drought, a group of irrigators along the Smoky Hill River downstream of Kanopolis Reservoir, the city of Salina, state agencies and others came together to discuss what steps could be taken to help ensure water was available for use during future drought conditions. Over the next several years many different steps and conversations among stake-

holders eventually helped lead to the development of legislation which opened the door for the recently incorporated Lower Smoky Hill Water Supply Access District (Access District) become a reality.

In 2011, legislation was passed for the Lower Smoky Hill Water Supply Access Program, which was a step toward drought contingency for surface water users below Kanopolis. The legislation allowed surface water right holders below

Kanopolis and the city of Salina to voluntarily join together to obtain storage in the lake to cover the desired portion of their authorized water right quantities.

Formation of the Lower Smoky Hill Irrigation District on December 18, 2013, was another step in the process for gaining Kanopolis storage to use during drought times. This allowed the irrigation community to join with others to form the Special Access District to purchase water

# Lower Smoky Access District cont.:

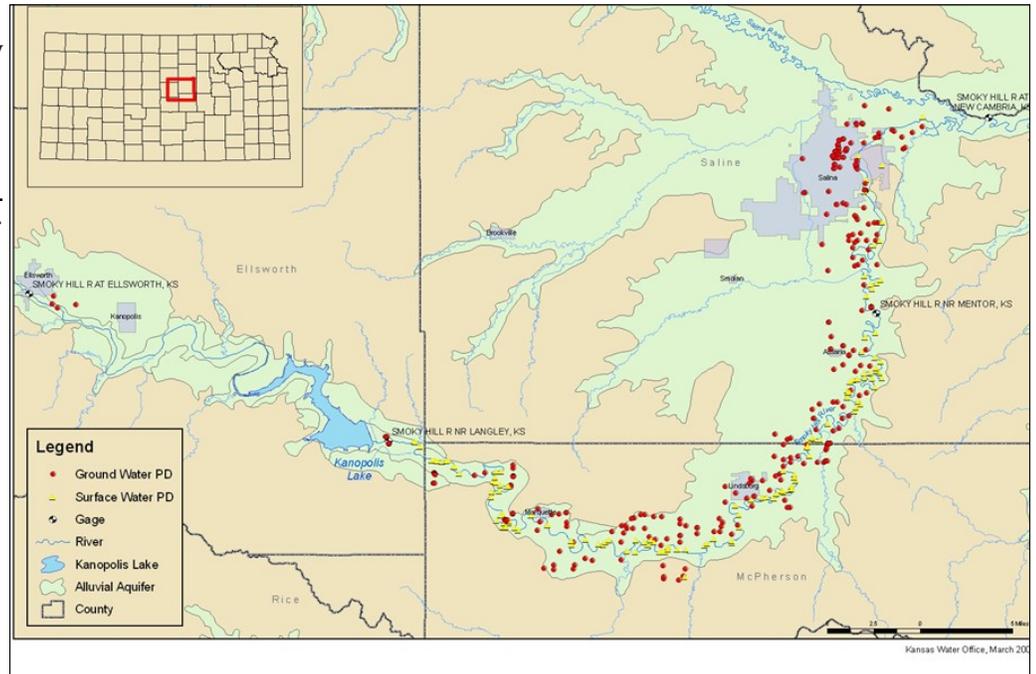
storage in Kanopolis. This water will then be available to be released to meet downstream needs by those participating in the district.

The next step needed to provide help provide water surety during drought was the formation of an Access District. The Access District will be able to negotiate and contract with the KWO for water supply storage in Kanopolis. The Access District can include the irrigation district, municipalities, industries as well as recreational water right holders and would provide some level of water storage to be used by members when natural flows are insufficient to meet the surface water right demands. The geographic area included within the Access District is the Smoky Hill River below Kanopolis to the confluence of the Smoky Hill and Saline Rivers near New Cambria (Figure 1). Earlier this month on December 5, the Access District was formally incorporated at a special work session of the Salina City Commission. On December 15, 2016, the Kansas Water Authority approved the Director of the KWO to negotiate a contract with the Access District for purchase of storage space in Kanopolis, which is anticipated to be signed before the New Year.

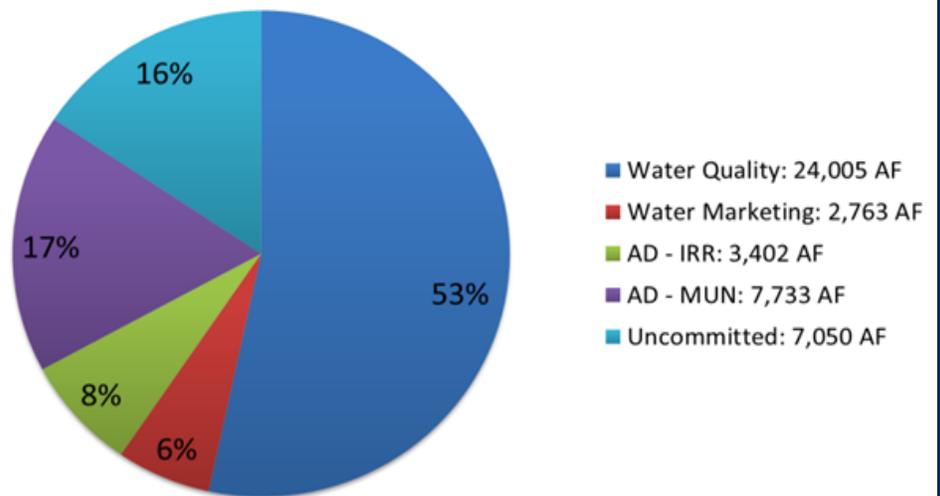
The final step for this to be complete will be to develop an operations agreement between the KWO, Division of Water Resources and the Access District. The agreement will implement the policies and responsibilities regarding the coordination, operation, management, and protection of releases from Kanopolis to meet downstream water supply demands and streamflow requirements.

After sale of storage space to the Access District is complete there will be approximately 16 percent of uncommitted storage remaining in the reservoir as illustrated in Figure 2.

**Figure 1. Points of Diversion, Geographic Area of Access District**



**Figure 2. Kanopolis Storage Breakout w/ Proposed Access District Purchase (2016)**



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

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## January

- 11- Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee Meeting - Scotty City, KS
- 10 - Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting - Colby, KS
- 24 - KWA Day on the Hill KWA Meeting - Topeka, KS
- 25 - KWA Meeting - Topeka, KS
- 31 - Water Talk Series 2017, Concordia, KS

## February

- 1 - Water Talk Series 2017, Goodland, KS
- 2 - Water Talk Series 2017, Sharon Springs, KS
- 13 - Water Talk Series 2017, St. John, KS
- 14 - Water Talk Series 2017, Garden City, KS
- 21 - Water Talk Series 2017, Ulysses, KS

## Kansas Water Authority

### Future KWA Meeting Dates

- **January 24-25, 2017**

Ramada Inn Convention Center, Downtown  
Topeka, Kansas in the Grand Ballroom

Legislative Visits will be held January 24

KWA meeting held January 25

- **May 17-18, 2017**

Clarion Inn, Garden City, Kansas

*Happy Holidays* to you from all  
of us at KWO and Walter!

