Word From The Street

The Governor’s 5th Annual Water Conference will be here before you know it. This year it will be held November 14-15 in Manhattan. I would like to extend a big thanks to our sponsors who have signed up to support this year’s event. Most of you have been generous supporters all five years and our sponsor partnerships are what make this conference a success and allow us to keep the prices of the conference affordable for attendees! This year, we had to begin the conference on a Monday. I regret that many will need to travel on Sunday to attend. As a result, we are planning a Sunday evening pre-conference social and entertainment.

Much has transpired since last year relative to the Governor’s 50 Year Water Vision implementation and we’re excited to update you on all the projects and studies occurring across the state. We’re very close to having all our plenary speakers lined up, including American Water Works Association (AWWA) Executive Director David LaFance, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment Mike Teague and Denise Hickey, Public Relations Coordinator for the North Texas Municipal Water District. We’re also accepting nominations for the 2016 “Be the Vision” honorees. Hardly a week goes by without seeing or hearing about someone or some entity that is taking extraordinary measures to conserve, reuse or better manage our water resources. If you have someone you think is deserving of “Be the Vision” recognition, please let us know as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing all of you in Manhattan in November!

Vision Update

August/September
Regional Advisory Committees finalize action plans and KWA meets to approve these plans

September 8
Education and Outreach Coordinating Team finalizes action plans and present to RACs

September 19
Blue Ribbon Task Force completes draft fund proposal

October 18
KWA meets to approve remaining action plans and Governor’s Water Conference proposal

This meeting is scheduled to be at Acorns Resort at Millford Lake, 3710 Farnum Creek Rd.

October 15
Photo Contest deadline for Governor’s Water Conference

November 14-15
KWO hosts the Governor’s Water Conference in Manhattan

Tracy Streeter, Director
Water Technology Farms

T&O Farms LLC, the first Water Technology Farm, hosted more than 200 attendees to demonstrate technologies implemented that focus on irrigating effectively from a depleting water source.

The Water Technology Farm concept was developed as an action item within the Kansas Water Vision which Governor Brownback called for in 2013 to address the state’s water supply issues.

“It’s time to be passionate about our opportunities in western Kansas. These types of technologies are vital to helping us preserve and extend the aquifer for as long as we can,” said Gov. Brownback. “It’s time to think about the aquifer as a bank account and having an account that you’re passing on to your children or grandchildren.”

Owner of T&O Farms LLC Tom Willis shared his vision for the three year project as well as the future of water supply in western Kansas.

“My motivation is two-fold, not only do we have an ethanol business here but I farm. I want to pass this farm to my son when he returns from serving our country,” said Willis. “My goal for this three year project is to prove it is possible to grow more with less and see this duplicated all over the aquifer.”

Director of the Kansas Water Office, Tracy Streeter, was appointed to lead the Water Vision Team. Two years ago the team developed the Water Technology Farm concept and knew in order to be successful it had to be based on public-private partnerships.

The farm has 24 sponsors showing the drive for Kansans wanting to conserve water.

“This farm is a product of two action items in the Vision, Water Technology Farms and Water Conservation Areas,” said Streeter. “It is exciting to stand here today and say not only is this farm one of the three WCAs in Kansas but to also share to date these technologies have demonstrated the potential for a minimum of at least 3 inches of water conservation in the first year of this three year project.”

Attendees heard comments and technical briefings from Jonathan Aguilar of K-State Research and Extension, Loren Seaman and Scott Schechter of Seaman Crop Consulting, Monty Teeter of Teeter Irrigation and Mike Meyer of the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources.

The technologies were also demonstrated firsthand to the attendees.

Participants observed the irrigation systems in place, which includes four fields equipped with Dragon-Line™, a technology that delivers water and nutrients directly into the soil rather than spraying the whole canopy and field, and four equipped with low pressure spray nozzles. Each field also has two soil moisture probes to sense the current soil moisture and if or when water application is needed. The systems are fully automated and link water use, groundwater levels and moisture sensor data.

There are two other Water Technology Farms in Kansas. Both farms have field
Aug. 2 field day showcases implemented technologies

days planned in August. One for Innovative Livestock Solutions was Aug. 24 south of Larned, and an event for Duane Roth Farms is set for Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 9 a.m. west of Garden City. More Water Technology Farms are being planned for the 2017 growing season.

For more information about the farms or WCAs visit the Water Technology Farm page at www.kwo.org.

Field Day Sponsors
T&O Farms, LLC (Tom Willis)
Kansas Water Office
Sorghum Checkoff
Kansas Corn Commission
Seaman Crop Consulting
SW GMD #3
Kansas Department of Agriculture
Conestoga Energy Partners
Teeter Irrigation
Dragon-Line
Helena
Ogallala Aquifer Program
Syngenta
Hortau
Servi-Tech
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas State University Mesonet
Aquatix
Kansas Grain Sorghum
CropMetrics
Netafim
Valley
Presley Solutions

Mark your calendars!
August 30 – 9 a.m.
Duane Roth Farms, Garden City

By the NUMBERS to date

33%
sent reduction in T&O’s water use over the growing season

48%
T&O’s current proportion of normal average water use this season compared to the last decade

3”
amount of water conserved in the first year of the three-year project

70%
Expected depletion of the Ogallala aquifer by 2064 at current pumping rates

40%
Amount of water lost to evaporation in traditional irrigation systems that never reaches the plants

Mike Meyer, KDA-DWR, checks a meter for T&O’s WCA. Meyer briefed attendees on conservation areas at the field day.

Dragon-Line delivers water directly to the soil in one of T&O’s demonstration fields.

An irrigation pivot with Dragon-Line attached runs at T&O Farms, while sensors measure soil moisture.
For comments or questions on the WaterFront please contact Katie Patterson-Ingels at: Katie.Ingels@kwo.ks.gov

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AUGUST
31 – KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING — EMPORIA, KS

SEPTEMBER
1 – KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING — EMPORIA, KS
8 – KANSAS RAC MEETING — TOPEKA, KS
19 – BLUE RIBBON FUNDING TASK FORCE MEETING — MANHATTAN, KS
20 – EQUIUS-WALNUT RAC MEETING — NEWTON, KS
22 – MISSOURI RAC MEETING — ATCHISON, KS

OCTOBER
7 – KANSAS RAC MEETING — TOPEKA, KS
18 – KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING — MILFORD, KS

NOVEMBER
14-15 – GOVERNOR’S WATER CONFERENCE — MANHATTAN, KS

DECEMBER
15 – KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING — WICHITA, KS

Govemor’s Conference


The Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas is scheduled for November 14-15, 2016, in Manhattan, Kansas, at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center.

Topics for the 2016 Conference include:

• Vision Implementation - Funding and Education Outreach

• The Value of Natural Resources and Water

• Federal Policy and Infrastructure

• Federal and State Resource Cooperation for Water Planning

• Keeping the Kansas Water Vision Momentum

KWO is currently accepting abstracts for presentation at the conference. Student proposals are due October 24 and professional presentation proposals are due October 3.

Registration opens September 7 for the event.

Accepting “Be the Vision” Nominations

www.kwo.org/Projects/Governors-Conference

Photo Contest

The Kansas Water Office is accepting water photos for the inaugural KWO Photo Contest.

Photos should pertain to water in Kansas including bodies of water, irrigation and agriculture, recreation and fun or water infrastructure.

Worthy entries will be on display at the Governor’s Water Conference, where the winning photo will be chosen by vote. The overall winner earns feature photo at the 2017 Governor’s Conference and, along with second and third place, will be on display at KWO.

Entries are due by October 15, with a maximum of five entries per person. They should be sent in .jpg, .png. Or .gif format to

www.kwo.org/WaterPhotoContest

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