

Word From The Street



Tracy Streeter

Seven weeks from now, a new Kansas Governor will be elected. Come January, our new Governor will take the reins and will begin implementing their agenda for Kansas. I hope our water vision will be part of this agenda. From all I've heard and read, each candidate is aware of the ongoing five year effort to develop and implement *A Long Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas*.

There will be changes in state government personnel, in the membership of the Kansas House of

Representatives, and at least one new member in the Kansas Congressional delegation. To insure our efforts to build, fund and implement the Water Vision are not diminished, we've got work to do. If you have an opportunity to visit with the gubernatorial candidates about water, please do so. Same with the candidates for the other elected positions in your area. I've heard some of you have already been bending the ears of our candidates and that's awesome. Keep it up!

Whoever is elected will have a full plate of issues they've heard during the campaign. Let's make sure water is one of them!

Legislative Update

At the August Kansas Water Authority meetings recommend restoration of the full \$8 million State General Fund and Economic Development Initiatives Fund transfers. The majority of these recommendations built on the success in the Legislature during both the 2017 and 2018 sessions where \$1.2 million and \$3.25 million were restored respectively.

The recommendations of the KWA focused on projects that would implement *The Long Term Vision for the Future of the Water Supply in Kansas*. Acknowledging that there is a need for staff to carry out many of the programs and projects, the KWA also supported requests for additional funding of \$1.36 million from the State General Fund for positions with the Kansas Department of Agriculture and Kansas Water Office. These positions are a mix of existing staff whose

funding had been reduced in previous budgets, and new positions focused on Vision implementation and improving customer service. The following table shows the KWA recommendations for the \$8 million transfer usage in FY 2020.

Program/Project	KWA FY2020	KWA FY2021
Streambank Stabilization	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000
Milford Lake Watershed RCPP	\$ 600,000	\$ -
Vision Education Strategy	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Watershed Conservation Practice Imp	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000
Real Time Water Management	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000
Reservoir and Water Quality Research	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
Crop and Livestock Research	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Irrigation Technology	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Water Tech Farms	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Water Supply Restoration Program	\$ -	\$ 300,000
Contamination Remediation	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Drinking Water Protection	\$ 350,000	\$ 800,000
Equus Beds Chloride Plume Project	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Storage Purchase	\$ -	\$ 1,350,000
Water Injection Dredging	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -
Total State Water Plan Expenditures	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 8,000,000

Kansas Group Tours ERDC Facility in Vicksburg, Mississippi

On August 30, Kansas Water Office (KWO) staff members, along with other state partners, visited the Coastal Hydraulics Laboratory operated by the Corps of Engineer's Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). The facility, located in Vicksburg, Mississippi, is one of seven across the U.S. at which ERDC conducts research in support of various federal and state-sponsored projects.

The tour included a visit to the Sediment Lab where a demonstration of the concept behind water injection dredging (WID) was conducted using a sample of reservoir sediment. This same testing is currently being conducted by ERDC on sediment samples taken from Tuttle Creek Lake in support of the proposed Tuttle Creek Lake WID Demonstration Project. The WID demonstration project is currently in the planning phase, and includes close coordination between the KWO, ERDC, Corps of

Engineers KC District staff, and other state agency and local partners.

The tour also provided an opportunity for the Kansas group to discuss some of the major water supply and water quality issues currently facing Kansas, and how ERDC and the Corps can support these efforts through continued collaboration and potential funding opportunities.

KWO will continue to have additional discussions with ERDC staff this fall to move the project forward.



Water Technology Farms

Water Technology Farm Field Tours started on August 7 and proceeded through August 31. The Kansas Water Office (KWO), along with many producers from the surrounding areas and agencies toured Water Technology Farms across the Ogallala-High Plains Aquifer.

The program began with three farms and now three years into the program there are 10 Water Technology Farms on more than 30 fields. In addition to being Water Technology Farms, most of them are also Water Conservation Areas (WCA), which is a water savings account for the future and a tool that allows flexibility between wells on a farm.

Most of the Water Technology Farm producers have been able to see impressive results with the technologies and concepts being implemented such as different irrigation application methods, cropping patterns, soil moisture probes, mapping tools, aerial imagery and more. The farms have been successful with the partnership of more than 80 sponsors.



Water Technology Farms Continued

Nick Hatcher owner and operator of Hatcher Land and Cattle shared with attendees, “We as producers need to be doing more, the things that we have going on here are just a small example of what I know we do to help save our water for future generations.” After seeing the farms first year results he says, “We have to conserve and regulate ourselves and technology like this is the way to go.”



The Garden City Company/Roth Farm has seen very impressive results and this year to date have only used 5.7” total inches, barely half of the WCA allocation. “The probes on this farm showed us there is more water in the soil than we realized. In the past we were over-watering, but now not only are we saving water but having record yields,” said Dwane Roth.

Producer Matt Long has a Water Technology Farm in Wichita County which is also part of the Water Conservation Area agreement. He is one of 24 producers who agreed to be part of a 7-year plan and voluntarily took a 29%

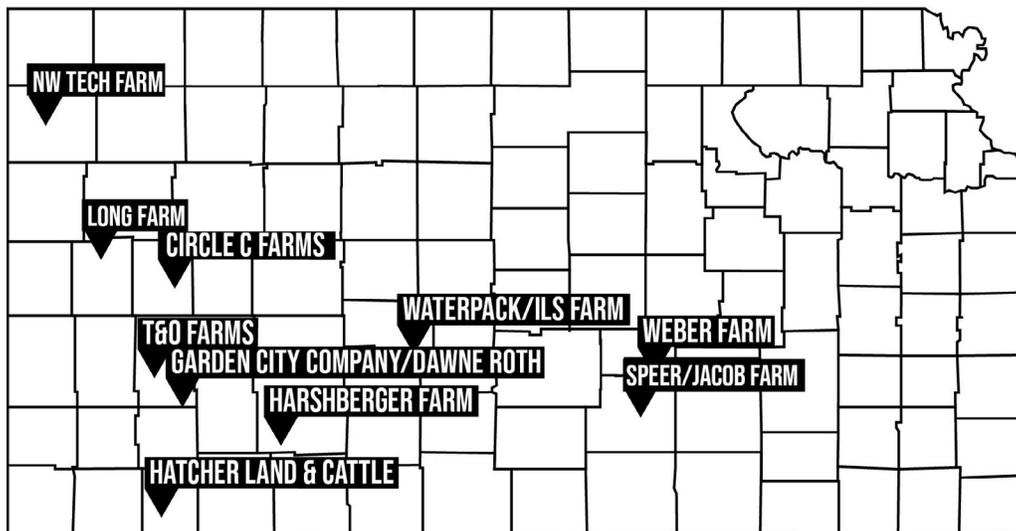
reduction in irrigation. To date he has only put on 4 inches on one half of his field and 6 inches on the other, banking water for the future. Matt shared with those who attended his field day the soil moisture probes have been key by stating, “Since I’ve started using the probes I’ve been able to cut my water use in-half.”

Two year Water Technology Farm producer Steve Compton of the Circle C Farm also talked of his experiences with soil moisture probes by stating, “We’ve found lots of value in the soil moisture probes. They’ve enabled us to turn the sprinklers off when we wouldn’t have in the past. It’s led to a different mindset and it feels good to know we are making a difference on the aquifer.”

Now three years old, the T&O Farm was the first Water Technology Farm in Kansas. “So far this year we’ve only used eight inches across the farm, this is only 64% of our 3-year WCA allocation,” owner Tom Willis shared. “Also from 2016-2018 we have seen stabilized static level water drops at this farm.”

First year Water Technology Farm producer Gary Harshberger found the technology has shown him the soil moisture profile was good. He shared, “This is important because in the past a producer would want to turn on the water when it simply isn’t needed. “Ultimately I want to show we can do more with less.”

For more information about the farms, WCAs or sponsors visit the Water Technology Farm page at www.kwo.ks.gov





THE WATERFRONT CALENDAR

September

- 20- Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, Atchison, KS
- 26- Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, Colby, KS
- 26- Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, Madison, KS

October

- 1-Marais Des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, Pomona, KS
- 11- Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, Newton, KS
- 15- Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, Topeka, KS

November

- 13- Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Manhattan, KS
- 14- Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Manhattan, KS

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

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Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas

Registration is Now Open



November 13-14, 2018
Hilton Garden Inn
Manhattan, Kansas

Get Involved:

Submit Professional Abstracts [HERE](#)

Submit Student Stories [HERE](#)

Submit Photos to Contest [HERE](#)

Nominate Application for Legacy Award [HERE](#)

Nominate Application for Be the Vision [HERE](#)