

2023 Governor's Water Conference Agenda

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

4:00 p.m. – Early Registration & Vendor Set-up (4 pm - 6 pm) (Hallway/Kings A,B,C)
6:00 p.m. – Welcome Event (6 pm – 7:30 pm) (Flint Hills)

DAY 1

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

7:30 a.m. – Registration/Tour Exhibits (Kings A,B,C)

8:30 a.m. – Opening Session/Welcome (Ballroom 1)
Connie Owen, Kansas Water Office Director

8:45 a.m. – Welcome (Ballroom 1)
Mayor Pro Tem Wynn Butler

9:00 a.m. – Governor's Office (Ballroom 1)

9:10 a.m. – Water Legacy Award Presentation (Ballroom 1)

9:30 a.m. – Break/Tour Exhibits (Hallway/Kings A,B,C)

9:45 a.m. – Tom Buschatzke, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources (Ballroom 1)

10:45 a.m. – Break/Tour Exhibits (Hallway/Kings A,B,C)

11:00 a.m. – Dr. Peter Gleick, Author, Co-Founder, Pacific Institute (Ballroom 1)

12:00 p.m. – Lunch (Ballroom 1)
12:30 p.m. "Success Stories" Presentation

1:00 p.m. – Release for dessert

1:20 p.m. – Jasmin Moore, Director of Sustainability and Impact, Earthjustice
"Ripples of Change: Water and Environmental Justice"

2:10 p.m. – Break/Tour Exhibits (Kings A,B,C)

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Afternoon Breakout Session One:
Indigenous Voices (Kaw Nation/Big Basin)
Moderator: Jancita Warrington, Kansas Native American Affairs Office
Edward Fite, Grand River Dam Authority
Timothy Rhodd, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
Christina Haswood

Water Innovation Systems and Education (Flint Hills)
Moderator: Weston McCary, Kansas Water Office
Ryan Brady, Quarter Turn, Inc
Pat Janssen, WaterPACK-ILS
Jack Polifka, Northwest Kansas Technical College
Lee Wheeler, Wheeler Engineering

3:30 p.m. – Break/Tour Exhibits

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3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. – Afternoon Breakout Session Two:

Environmental Justice (Kaw Nation/Big Basin)

Moderator: Jasmin Moore, Earth Justice

Jeff Severin, Heartland Environmental Justice Center

Beto Martinez, Clean Air Now

Kate Gleeson, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Collaborating for State Conservation Funding (Flint Hills)

Moderator: Laura Downey, Kansans for Conservation, Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education

Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau

Ben Postlethwait, The Nature Conservancy

Jordan Martincich, Pheasant Forever, Inc. and Quails Forever

Erika Devore, Kansas Recreation and Parks Association

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Evening Social at Flint Hills Discovery Center

Thursday, November 16, 2023

7:15 a.m. – Registration

Student Poster Set Up

Breakout Session 1 (Concurrent Sessions) 8:00am-9:15am

A. Water Quality Monitoring and Trends (McDowell/Tuttle)

Moderator: Erin Seybold (University of Kansas)

- *Water Quality Responses to Recent Crop Conversion in Northeastern Kansas* – Amy Hansen, University of Kansas
- *Water-Quality Trends in the Kansas River, Kansas since the Clean Water Act, 1972 through 2020* – Thomas Williams and Brian Klagar; U.S. Geological Survey
- *An Assessment of Lake Springfield Dam and Lake Water Quality* – Priya Iyengar and Matt Bardol, Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

B. Education and Outreach (Big Basin)

Moderator: Keri Harris (Franklin County Conservation District)

- *Public Participation and Water Resources Management* – Andrea Gebhart and Alyssa Vaughan, JEO Consultants
- *4-H Water Ambassadors* – Holly Dickman, City of Hays; Jessica Feyerherm, 4-H Water Ambassadors
- *IN THE MOOOOOD FOR LIVESTOCK WATERING OPTIONS?* – Stacie Edgett-Minson and Herschel George, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources & the Environment

C. Drought Assessment & Planning (Kaw Nation)

Moderator: Matthew Sittel (Kansas State University)

- *Monitor or Mitigate: Making Drought Plans Actionable* – Mary Baker and Phil Luebbert, JEO Consulting Group
- *Modernizing Missouri's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan* – Brian Shepard, CDM Smith
- *Leveraging In-Situ Soil Moisture Information to Improve the Assessment of Drought Conditions* – Andres Patrignani, Kansas State University

D. Groundwater Monitoring, Planning, and Reporting (Konza Prairie)

Moderator: James Butler (Kansas Geological Survey)

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- *Southwest Kansas GMD No.3's Irrigation Climate and Resource Evaluation Project* – Brownie Wilson, Kansas Geological Survey; Trevor Ahring, Groundwater Management District #3; Shannon Dick, Finney County Economic Development Corporation
- *Status of the High Plains Aquifer in Kansas* – Donald Whittemore, Kansas Geological Survey
- *Optimal Irrigator Strategies and Adaptive Decision-Making Under Groundwater Pumping Restrictions and Uncertain Conditions* - Qiuyun Cecilia Yu, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

E. Kansas Irrigation Updates (Flint Hills)

Moderator: Weston McCary (Kansas Water Office)

- *Addressing the Future of Irrigated Agriculture in the Context of Variable Supplies and Competing Water Needs through Comprehensive Watershed Planning Efforts in Kansas and Nebraska* – Jim Schneider, Olsson
- *The Value of Irrigation Groundwater Right Attributes* – Nathan Hendricks and Gabriel Sampson, Kansas State University
- *Status of Irrigation Systems in Kansas: Road Survey Report* – Johnathan Aguilar and Jacob Thompson, Kansas State University

Break for student posters 9:15am-9:30am

Breakout session 2 (Concurrent Sessions) 9:30am-10:45am

A. Kansas Healthy Watersheds (Big Basin)

Moderator: Libby Albers (Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams)

- *Watershed Wide Soil Health: The Next Frontier in Catching Rain Where it Fails to Improve Climate Related Hazard Resiliency* – Scott Satterthwaite, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- *Soil Health in NRCS* – Candy Thomas, National Resources Conservation Service
- *Kansas Healthy Watersheds: Land Use Incentives for Our Soil and Watershed Planning* – Brian Rast, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

B. Water Conservation Measures (Kaw Nation)

Moderator: Shannon Kenyon (Groundwater Management District #4)

- *Policy, Hydrological, and Economic Factors and Outcomes Underlying the SD-6 LEMA's First Decade* – Malena Orduna Alegria, Kansas Geological Survey
- *Creating Fresh Approaches to Water Use Efficiency for Communities and Wildlife in the Rattlesnake Creek Basin* – Heidi Mehl, The Nature Conservancy; Carol Baldwin, Kansas State University
- *Water Recycling and Conservation: A Critical Path towards Sustainable Resource Management* – Jas Dale, Western Kansas Irrigation; Aviv Vered, Amiad Water Systems

C. Tuttle Creek Lake Water Injection Dredging (Konza Prairie)

Moderator: Josh Olson (Kansas Water Office)

- *Update on the Tuttle Creek Lake Water Injection Dredging Demonstration Project* – John Shelley, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- *Tuttle Creek Lake Water Injection Dredging Demonstration Biological and Water Quality Monitoring Plan* – Logan Rowley, Kansas State University; Keith Gido, Kansas State University; and Marvin Boyer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- *Effect of Water-Injection Dredging Operations on Water Quality Downstream from Tuttle Creek Reservoir: Pre-Water-Injection Dredging Water-Quality Assessment* – Ariele Kramer and Thomas Williams, Kansas Water Science Center

D. Tools in the Agricultural Toolbox (Big Blue River/Fort Riley)

Moderator: Katie Durham (Groundwater Management District #1)

- *Technology Tools and Management Strategies* – Jack Polifka, Northwest Kansas Technical College

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- *Farming through Playas: A Look into the Costs & Benefits* – Jude Kastens, Kansas Biological Survey
- *DropXL Sorghum: A Toolbox for Water Smart Crop Seed Technologies* – Mohammed Abdullah al Bari and Sarah Sexton-Bowser, Kansas State University

E. Surface Water Algae Bloom Monitoring (McDowell/Tuttle)

Moderator: Dan Wells (Kansas Department of Health and Environment)

- *Monitoring Effects of Bioremediation in a Kansas Urban Pond with Persistent Toxic Cyanobacterial Bloom* – Lydia Zeglin, Kansas State University
- *A Framework for Evaluation Monitoring Data and Application to State-wide, Long-term Algae Monitoring in Kansas* – Victoria Reed, PEC
- *Are Harmful Blue-green Algae Blooms Increasing in Kansas Lakes?* – Ted Harris and Jennifer Moody, Kansas Biological Survey

F. Navigating Challenges with Perseverance and Partnerships (Flint Hills)

Moderator: Mike Armstrong, Kansas Water Authority

- *A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step- How a diverse group of stakeholders working together with the Corps of Engineers to protect the Missouri River* – Darci Meese, WaterOne; Tom Jacobs, Mid-America Regional Council; Jennifer Switzer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (former)

Break for student posters 10:45am-11:00am

Breakout session 3 (Concurrent Sessions) 11:00am -12:15pm

A. Extreme Events and Mitigation (McDowell/Tuttle)

Moderator: Jude Kastens (Kansas Geological Survey)

- *2D Watershed Modeling: Flood Risk Identification and Beyond* – Sarah Smith, Johnson County; Tom Morey, Stantec
- *Training the Missouri River: 140-Year History of the Missouri River Navigation Project from Rulo, Nebraska to Its Mouth* – Kari Bigham, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- *By the Numbers: Severe Weather Events & Disasters in Kansas* – Kenneth Ekpeterere and Jude Kastens, Kansas Biological Survey

B. Municipal Water Resources (Big Basin)

Moderator: Dwight Haney (Water Assurance District #1)

- *Preparing Kansas Communities for Economic Development* – Lindsey Douglas and Jake White, Burns and McDonnell
- *Toilet to Tap – The Water Supply of the Future?* – Daryn Martin and Jason Solomon, Kansas Rural Water Association
- *Environmental Justice: Tips for Municipalities to Benefit from New Federal Tools for Addressing Water Resources, Climate and Resilience Needs in Underserved and Underrepresented Communities* – Julie A. MacLachlan, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

C. Erosion and Reservoir Sedimentation (Kaw Nation)

Moderator: Kristin Kloft (Division of Conservation)

- *Evaluation of Streambank Stabilization Structures on Upstream and Downstream Bank Erosion* – Corben Monzon, Kansas State University
- *Sediment Fingerprinting of Sources of Reservoir Infilling in an Eastern Kansas Basin, USA* – Admin Husic, University of Kansas; Kyle Juracek, Kansas Water Science Center
- *Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study – A Shared Vision for the Future* – Laura Totten, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

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D. Emerging Issues (Konza Prairie)

Moderator: Tony Stahl (Kansas Department of Health and Environment)

- *NEON in Kansas: Aquatic Data and Resources to Understand Changing Ecosystems* – Amber Arias, National Ecological Observatory Network, Battelle
- *Development of Passive PFAS Samplers for Detection in Natural Waters* – Edward Peltier and Nathaniel Sheehan, University of Kansas
- *Maximizing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* – Vanessa Lamoreaux, Kansas Department of Transportation; Matthew Hanson, Witt O'Brien's

E. Groundwater Modeling & Data (Flint Hills)

Moderator: Richard Rockel (Kansas Water Office)

- *Recent Improvements in Groundwater Modeling for Southwest Kansas GMD 3* – Gaisheng Liu, Brownie Wilson, Jim Bulter, Kansas Geological Survey
- *Evaluating Irrigator-driven Groundwater Conservation Practices using Remotely Sensed Evapotranspiration Data* – Sam Zipper, Kansas Geological Survey
- *Approaches to Groundwater and Fate and Transport Modeling to Incorporate Climate Change and Basin Management* - Maria Vishnevskiy and Julie Chambon, Geosyntec Consultants

Break for student posters 12:15pm-12:30pm

12:30 p.m. – Lunch

1:15 p.m. – Student Poster Awards

1:40 p.m. – Closing Remarks

Dawn Buehler, Chair, Kansas Water Authority

Connie Owen, Director, Kansas Water Office