

Connie Owen is the Acting Chair of the Kansas Water Authority and was appointed by Governor Kelly the summer of 2019.

Connie is a licensed attorney and has practiced Kansas water law for more than 25 years. As an administrative hearing officer for the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources, (KDA-DWR) since 2004, she presided over the initial hearings for the first two Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMAs), as well as numerous hearings addressing abandonment of water rights, water law enforcement actions, applications for new water rights and change aspects of existing rights.

Prior to this role, Connie served as legal counsel for KDA-DWR, advising the Chief Engineer and staff on water law administration and enforcement and conducting all administrative and intrastate litigation before the Kansas District Courts and Kansas Appellate Courts.

Connie previously served as a research attorney and motions attorney for the Kansas Court of Appeals and the late Kansas Supreme Court Justice Robert E. Davis. A lifelong Kansan, Connie earned her B.S. degree from Emporia State University in 1981 and her law degree at the University of Kansas in 1988.

Connie and her husband, Dan live in Overland Park and have two sons.

"My experience has exposed me to real-life water issues that affect individuals and families, as well as businesses and municipalities," Connie said. "As Chair of the Kansas Water Authority, I welcome the opportunity to apply the knowledge and expertise of the board members, professionals in our state agencies and stakeholders throughout Kansas to protect our water resources for current and future generations."