



Kansas Water Plan Budget Guidelines

Water Plan Funds should be allocated to maximize accomplishing the goals and objectives established by the Kansas Statutes, the Kansas Water Authority and the Regional Advisory Committees. Fundamental to the budget process shall be a prioritization of expenditures that are required to do legally, necessary to implement the Vision/State Water Plan, and discretionary expenditures that can be justified based upon defined benefits.

In particular, budgeted funds should be allocated with the following principles:

- Statutory Obligations shall be met first.
 - For instance, K.S.A. 82a-2101 requires that proceeds from the Clean Drinking Water Fee be allocated by providing not less than 15% to provide on-site technical assistance for public water supply systems, with the remainder being used to renovate and protect lakes which are used directly as a source of water for such public water supply systems
- All budgeted funds should be tied to one of the projects and initiatives established by the 50-year Water Vision/State Water Plan. Allocation of funds should be supported by appropriate metrics and benchmarks, which clearly demonstrate the past (where applicable), current and future benefit of such expenditures.
- Per K.S.A. 82a-951, State Water Plan funding “shall not be used for . . . replacing full-time equivalent positions of any state agency.” Positions have been added for programs to implement the Kansas Water Plan. The Kansas Water Authority should encourage funding for staff positions supporting State Water Plan programs and projects to be from the State General Fund removing any confusion and allowing additional funds to be used for implementation activities.
- Funds raised through fees on specific users, such as K.S.A. 82a-954, K.S.A. 2-1205 and K.S.A. 2-2204 should be used to fund projects or initiatives that benefit the users paying those fees, or mitigate environmental impacts caused by said users, including:
 - Agricultural users
 - Public water supply systems
 - Industrial users
 - Stock watering
- Allocation of funds should be reasonably related to:
 - The source of the funds,
 - Geographical balance (i.e. NE, NW, SE & SW), including consideration for RAC Regional balance
 - Hydrological (ground water vs. surface water) resource balance
 - An equitable mix of rural vs. urban interests.

Exceptions will be considered for high-priority or time-sensitive cases requiring significant funding for the implementation of an individual priority project.
- Priority must be given to long term contractual, or multi-year obligations such as:
 - Contracts with the Corps of Engineers for O&M costs of federal reservoirs
 - Bonded indebtedness for projects such as the 15-year bond issue for the 2018 dredging of John Redmond Reservoir
 - Contracts with the USGS for stream gages
- Consideration may be given to projects or initiatives that involve cost shares from other sources, such as Federal, state, local and private funding.
- Consideration may be given to expenditures that can be justified based upon emerging threats to water resources, including appropriate research initiatives.