

**Kansas Water Authority Meeting
Conference Call / GoToMeeting
2:00 p.m. – June 17, 2020
Agenda**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>KWA Advice</i>	<i>KWA Decision</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
2:00 pm	Call to Order/Roll Call	Connie Owen	--	--	--
2:05 pm	Approval of Meeting Minutes	Connie Owen			
	May 20, 2020 Meeting (Conference Call/GoToMeeting)			X	2
2:10 pm	KWA PWS Committee	John Bailey			4
	CY 2021 Water Marketing Rate	John Bailey		X	
2:20 pm	KWA RAC Operations Committee	Jeremiah Hobbs			5
	RAC Membership	Jeremiah Hobbs		X	
2:30 pm	Vision/Kansas Water Plan Update	Bobbi Luttjohann	X		
	Schedule for KWP Update & Outline of Sections	Bobbi Luttjohann	X		6
	Neosho Regional KWP Template <i>DRAFT</i>	Bobbi Luttjohann	X		
	Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Section <i>DRAFT</i>	Kirk Tjelmeland	X		
	MDC RAC Goals/Action Plan revisions <i>DRAFT</i>	Keri Harris Angela Anderson	X		8
	Missouri RAC Goals/Action Plan revisions <i>DRAFT</i>	Chris Griffin Kirk Tjelmeland	X		9
	Upper Republican RAC Goals/Action Plan revisions <i>DRAFT</i>	Mike Schultz Keadron Pearson	X		12
3:20 pm	KWA Budget Committee	Mike Armstrong	X		13
	SWPF Budget Discussion/Update	Cara Hendricks	X		
3:35 pm	Federal Updates				14
	Missouri River 2019 Survey Results	Matt Unruh	X		
	WRDA Update	Matt Unruh	X		
3:45 pm	Federal Cooperative Agreements (USGS)	Josh Olson		X	15
	Streamgaging Network	Josh Olson		X	
	Kansas River Water Quality Monitoring	Josh Olson		X	
	Neosho River Sediment Monitoring	Josh Olson		X	
	WQ Monitoring on Big Blue River below Tuttle Creek Lake	Josh Olson		X	
	WQ Monitoring on Republican River at Clay Center	Josh Olson		X	
3:55 pm	Director's Report	Earl Lewis	X		
4:05 pm	New Business				
4:10 pm	Adjourn				

Upcoming Kansas Water Authority Meetings: July TBD

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Minutes

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY

May 20, 2020

Topeka, Kansas

Conference Call

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Connie Owen called the **May 20, 2020**, Kansas Water Authority conference call to order at **1:02** p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Connie Owen - Chair; Mike Armstrong, John Bailey, Randy Hayzlett, Alan King, Chris Ladwig, Carolyn McGinn, Allen Roth, Allan Soetaert, Jean Steiner, David Stroberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lynn Goossen, Jeremiah Hobbs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

PRESENT: Susan Duffy, Dan Devlin, Earl Lewis, Chris Beightel, Sara Baer, Rolfe Mandel, Brad Loveless, Tom Stiles, Patty Clark, Scott Carlson

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Beam

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion No. 05-20-01 It was moved by **Jean Steiner** and seconded by **Mike Armstrong** to approve the April 14, 2020 Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority as presented and approve the April 30, 2020 KWA conference call minutes as presented. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

AGENCY UPDATES ON COVID-19:

- Earl Lewis** gave an update for the Kansas Water Office
- Brad Loveless** gave an update for Kansas Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
- Susan Duffy** gave an update for the Kansas Corporation Commission
- Patty Clark** gave an update for the Kansas Department of Commerce
- Scott Carlson** gave an update for the Division of Conservation
- Rolfe Mandel** gave an update for Kansas Geological Survey
- Tom Stiles** gave an update for the Kansas Department of Health & Environment
- Chris Beightel** gave an update for the Kansas Department of Agriculture – DWR
- Dan Devlin** gave an update for the Kansas State University
- Sara Baer** gave an update for the Kansas Biological Survey

KWA RAC Operations Committee:

RAC Message

Motion No. 05-20-02 It was moved by **Alan King** and seconded by **Allen Roth** to revise the proposed message and provide a response back to the Kansas RAC.

KWA RAC Operations Committee:

New RAC Membership

Motion No. 05-20-03

It was moved by Allan Soetaert and seconded by Allen Roth to approve the removal of Shane Gibbs from the PWS2 category with the Marais des Cygnes RAC and remove him from the Marais Des Cygnes RAC

Motion No. 05-20-04

It was moved by Randy Hayzlett and seconded by John Bailey to approve the appointment of Kyle Averhoff to the Dairy category for the Upper-Arkansas RAC.

KDHE Watershed Management Update:

Amanda Reed presented.

Legislative & Budget Update:

Earl Lewis gave an update.

Federal Update:

Matt Unruh gave an update.

Director's Report:

Earl Lewis gave an update.

New Business:

Earl Lewis gave an update.

ADJOURNMENT

The KWA adjourned at 3:20pm

MEMO



DATE: June 10, 2020
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: John Bailey, Chair, Public Water Supply Committee
Nathan Westrup
RE: Public Water Supply Committee Update

900 SW Jackson Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.org

Action Item:

- Set the CY 2021 Water Marketing Variable Rate

The Public Water Supply Committee met on June 10, 2020 to set the water marketing rate for calendar year 2021. The water marketing rate is determined based on the financial needs of the program and projected sale of water. The State Water Plan Storage Act requires the KWA take action by July 15th on the rate to be applied the following calendar year.

Water Marketing Program Variable Rate for Calendar Year 2021

At the meeting held on June 10, 2020, the PWS Committee acted to recommend that the KWA set the Calendar Year (CY) 2021 water marketing variable rate at \$0.436/1000 gallons, which is a 4.2% increase from the CY 2020 rate. This rate increase is 0.5 cents more than the projected water marketing program variable rate included in the previously approved 2017 Public Water Supply Comprehensive Capital Development Plan (CCDP). The 2017 CCDP can be accessed through the “Reservoir” tab at KWO’s website at www.kwo.ks.gov.

Calendar Year	2020	2021
Variable Rate (2017 CCDP)	\$0.418	\$0.431
Variable Rate (Recommended)	n/a	\$0.436
% Increase from previous CY	3.2%	4.2%
Change from 2017 plan		\$0.005

Deviation from the projected variable rate published in the 2017 CCDP was necessary due to increased program expenses and reduced projected revenue.

Based on the PWS Committee action on June 10, 2020, the PWS Committee recommends that the Kansas Water Authority set the CY 2021 Water Marketing variable rate at \$0.436/1000 gallons.



900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.ks.gov

MEMO

DATE: June 10, 2020
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Jeremiah Hobbs
RE: RAC Membership

The Kansas Water Authority (KWA) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Operations Committee met on June 10, 2020, via conference call. Discussion from the meeting included RAC membership concerning the Upper Smoky Hill RAC.

The KWA RAC Operations Committee reviewed and discussed the following application and offer the following recommendations to the KWA.

Upper Smoky Hill RAC: One application has been received to fill the Public Water Supply category position on the Upper Smoky Hill RAC:

- The applicant, Louis “Bo” Parkinson has applied for the Public Water Supply category.

Currently the Upper Smoky Hill RAC has four vacancies:

- Public Water Supply (cc) (expiration date – 2023)
- At Large Public (cc) (expiration date – 2021)
- Financial (expiration date – 2021)
- Agriculture Industry (expiration date – 2023)

Recommendation: The applicant Louis “Bo” Parkinson is qualified to fill the Public Water Supply category as he currently sits on Scott City’s City Council Water Commission. It is recommended that Louis “Bo” Parkinson fill the category of Public Water Supply (expiring 2023).

The KWA RAC Operations Committee recommends KWA approval of the application for membership on the Upper Smoky Hill RAC as follows:

Louis “Bo” Parkinson – Public Water Supply (expiration date – 2023)

MEMO



DATE: June 12, 2020
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Bobbi Luttjohann
RE: Kansas Water Plan Update

900 SW Jackson Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.org

The Kansas Water Plan (KWP) is statutorily required per 82a-903.

82a-903a. Same; formulation of state water plan; cooperation of state water agencies; advice of general public. [See Revisor's Note] In accordance with the policies and long-range goals and objectives established by the legislature, the office shall formulate on a continuing basis a comprehensive state water plan for the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state. Such state water plan shall include sections corresponding with water planning areas as determined by the office. The Kansas water office and the Kansas water authority shall seek advice from the general public and from committees consisting of individuals with knowledge of and interest in water issues in the water planning areas. The plan shall set forth the recommendations of the office for the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state, including the general location, character, and extent of such existing and proposed projects, programs, and facilities as are necessary or desirable in the judgment of the office to accomplish such policies, goals and objectives. The plan shall specify standards for operation and management of such projects, programs, and facilities as are necessary or desirable. The plan shall be formulated and used for the general purpose of accomplishing the coordinated management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state. The division of water resources of the Kansas department of agriculture, state geological survey, the division of environment of the department of health and environment, Kansas department of wildlife, parks and tourism, state conservation commission and all other interested state agencies shall cooperate with the office in formulation of such plan.

As stated in the statute, the KWO formulates, on a continuing basis, a comprehensive KWP. Therefore, the KWO is currently in the middle of updating the KWP. Part of that update is to incorporate the Long Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas (Vision) and work with the Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) to update their Regional Goals and Action Plans. Currently there are three RACs that have completed their updates, the Marais des Cygnes, Missouri, and Upper Republican. Included in this memo are those three RACs' updated Goals and Action Plans.

As we progress through the year into 2021, the KWP will be updated using the following timeline:

June - August

- RACs working on their goal and action plan revisions
- KWO staff revising and updating KWP sections
- Meet with agencies to discuss KWP and collect feedback
- Update the KWA with pieces of the KWP at each meeting
- Revised RAC goals and action plans due in August
- Drafting revised KWP with input from:
 - KWA
 - RACs
 - Agencies
 - Public

September - November

- Present a draft to the KWA in October (feedback/revisions)
- Present general information about update at the November Governor's Conference in Wichita

December:

- Final Draft KWP presented to the KWA (possible approval)
- Revise KWP based on recommendations (if not approved)
- Hold Public Hearing (if approved)

January 2021:

- Presentation of revised and final KWP to the KWA for approval
- Hold Public Hearing
- Post on the KWO webpage

Additional information on this process will be shared with the full KWA at future meetings.

This is for informational purposes only. No Kansas Water Authority action is necessary at this time.

Updated Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Goals and Action Plans:

Marais des Cygnes Regional Goals and Action Plans:

Priority Goal #1: Reduce cumulative sediment loads entering Melvern Lake, Pomona Lake, and Hillsdale Lake by 10 percent every 10 years to extend the life of existing infrastructure.

Action Steps:

- A collaboration between the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC), local producers, local WRAPS groups, local conservation districts, regional public Water Suppliers (PWS), the Kansas Water Office (KWO), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDH&E), and the Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Conservation (KDA-DOC) will secure funding and work to treat priority cropland, with no-till practices, cover crops, and other sedimentation and nutrient reduction farming practices by 2030 in the Marais des Cygnes Region above Melvern Lake, Pomona Lake, and Hillsdale Lake.
- This collaboration will provide education and share information concerning water and soil conservation and nutrient and sedimentation reduction, and demonstration farms will be established in the region above these three reservoirs.
- Encourage state and federal entities to participate in best management practices above federal reservoirs on state and federal lands and create a demonstration farm.
- The KWO will create a baseline sedimentation rate and review the sedimentation rate changes of these three reservoirs by conducting bathymetric surveys every 5 years to monitor the sedimentation rate and the progress and benefit of sedimentation reduction practices. The KWO will work to secure funding for this program.
- The KWO will evaluate possible technologies that may be feasible to remove sediment from the reservoirs.

Priority Goal #2: Ensure water supply storage in the Marais des Cygnes Region is able to supply for 110% of the projected demands through the year 2050.

Action Steps:

- The KWO will refine population and demand growth projections to ensure accurate projections are being utilized.
- The KWO will evaluate the need and feasibility of creating an interconnection with municipalities within an adjacent region to be a backup water supply source.
- The RAC and the KWO will work with the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) through their technical assistance contract to identify PWS that may not be sufficient to meet projected demands.
- The collaboration referenced in the Action Steps for Goal 1 will provide education and share information concerning water and soil conservation and water consumption reduction for the Marais des Cygnes Region.
- The KWO will evaluate possible technologies that may be feasible to remove sediment from the reservoirs if there becomes a need to in order to maintain and protect water supply.

Priority Goal #3: Continually work to prevent the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), including Zebra and Quagga mussels, into Kansas Lakes that are not currently infested, by working with the agencies focused on ANS.

Action Steps:

- The KWO and the RAC will work to prevent the spread of ANS into Kansas Lakes that are not currently infested, by working with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWP&T) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to install three Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination stations near the federal reservoirs within the Marais des Cygnes Region.
- The RAC will work with the KDWP&T and USACE on an ongoing basis to provide education for lake users concerning the spread of ANS and how to prevent it.
- The RAC will encourage funding for the ANS Program through the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF).

Missouri Regional Goals and Action Plans:

Preamble

Groundwater quality and groundwater quantity are closely related and the approaches to understanding each are similar. For that reason, the 2 goals and the overall guiding principle are recognized in this action plan.

Guiding Principle:

Over the next 50 years, there needs to be an adequate, sustainable and affordable quality water supply in the Missouri Region, while protecting Tribal water rights and sacred and cultural sites. All government agencies, local through state, shall vigorously uphold and enforce all water conservation and management rules and regulations throughout the state.

Priority Goal #1: Since groundwater quality is not well known, compile existing and collect additional data over the next 5 years to establish a baseline. Within 3 years after the baseline is established, a plan to implement best management practices will be developed to maintain and improve existing conditions. Monitoring and reevaluation of groundwater quality conditions and should continue at 5 year intervals.

Priority Goal #3: Collect additional information to improve safe yield estimate of groundwater and tributary streams within 3 years. Safe yield should be continuously monitored.

Action Steps:

- Evaluate what is known about groundwater quantity and quality in glacial, alluvial and bedrock aquifers in the Missouri Region.
 - Any and all available information about groundwater quality and quantity will be collected and compiled.
 - Digital database from the collected historical and online existing data would be constructed.
 - Digital maps of updated bedrock surface topography, saturated aquifer thickness, pre-glacial drainage ways, water use, and groundwater quality from digital databases would be prepared
 - An assessment report would be prepared that includes:
 - A determination of groundwater in storage and groundwater quality conditions in the glacial, alluvial and bedrock aquifers in the area.
 - A determination of the greatest needs for collection of additional data.
 - Recommendations on the need for, and number and location of wells to allow for well level and quality monitoring on a continuing basis.
 - This phase would be conducted by the KGS for at a cost of \$50,000. The work would take 12 months, beginning August 2016.
- Collection of additional data and re-evaluation of groundwater information
 - Based on needs as determined in the evaluation phase, obtain a scope of work on collection of additional data that would improve the characterization of the glacial, alluvial and bedrock aquifers. Main expected field activities would include: drilling, hydraulic testing, and groundwater sampling and analysis.
 - Enter new data into databases developed in the evaluation phase.
 - Re-evaluate groundwater recharge estimates at a more detailed scale than the currently available potential annual recharge estimates based on soils.
 - Combine existing and new data to establish safe groundwater yields and a groundwater quality baseline.
 - On the basis of future climate and water usage conditions, establish a plan to periodically update safe yield estimates of groundwater resources.
 - This phase would be a minimum of 18 months, as determined in the evaluation phase. Cost would be determined in Phase 1.
- Maintain and Improve groundwater quality conditions
 - Evaluate groundwater quality protection practices based on needs as determined in the assessment.
 - Within 3 years after the baseline is established, a plan to implement best management practices will be developed to maintain and improve existing conditions.
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation
 - Expand groundwater level monitoring wells as determined during Assessment phase.
 - Monitoring and reevaluation of groundwater quality conditions should continue at 5 year intervals.

Priority Goal #2: To ensure a reliable surface water supply in the future, best management practices will be implemented so surface water quality in identified drainages is maintained or improved using goals and milestones as identified in the Missouri Watershed Restoration and Protection Area 9 Element Plan.

Action Steps

- Collection of Additional Data
- Collect data on a voluntary basis to evaluate the benefits of tile outlet terrace systems within the Missouri Region. Prior to proposing any design changes to outlets of tile terraces in the Missouri Region, conduct research on cropland field input amounts (rates, dates applied, how it was applied, etc.) and collect water samples to evaluate the water runoff into the streams in the region. Collect data working with interested local landowners with assistance of area conservation districts, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other existing agencies. Collection sites will be: tile outlet terrace runoff, grass waterway runoff, land with no conservation work or no conservation tillage, and land with no conservation work but using no-till.
- Collect data on the benefits of capturing and reusing water on a producer's property.
- Gather existing information on the impact of extreme events (droughts and floods) on water quality and availability of water resources into the future in the Missouri Region.
- Assess what other interest groups, agencies and individuals locally and from states with similar topography and precipitation (Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Missouri,) can provide on alternative projects that could contribute to water quality in the Missouri Region.
- Encourage communication in the Missouri River Region through a developed communication network.

Implementation

- Support and encourage implementation of the best management practices (BMPs) in the adopted 9-Element Plan. Those BMPs are: No-till, cover crops, grassed and forested buffers, convert steep slopes, sediment basins, pasture management, nutrient management, livestock waste management, alternative watering supplies, streambank stabilization, onsite wastewater system repair, urban lawn management, pet waste management. The Plan should be updated every 5-years.
- Focus on finding local volunteers that are willing to adopt and promote new practices, including streambank stabilization.
- Ensure the value of maintenance of BMPs is understood to allow BMPs to have the desired long term effects, through education and outreach.
- Recognize the value of protection of water quality through education and outreach.
- Prevent sedimentation by using existing cost - share programs through the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (DOC); KDHE; and NRCS, to fund conservation practices in the Missouri Region.
- Continue to use the NRCS for technical assistance on implementation practices suited to the unique topography of the Missouri Region.
- Prioritize the existing ranking systems from agencies, to secure funding for protecting water quality and water supply in the Missouri Region.
- Raise awareness about water quality and the importance of proper urban lawn application.

Monitoring

- Determine if additional monitoring sites are needed to better characterize and prioritize project priorities in the Region.

Funding Needs

- To ensure water quality is maintained and improved, the state should fully fund the Kansas Water Plan for implementation of best management practices through programs of the DOC, KDHE and others as needed.
- Ensure continued and improved coordination with the NRCS to access and make the best use of funding for priority projects for water quality protection in the Region.
- Assess possible involvement of other agencies, businesses and interest groups to determine interest and possible funding of water quality projects in the Region.
- Continue to ensure that funding from the Clean Drinking Water Fee Fund for technical assistance for small public water supply systems is maintained at least at the current level.
- Include funding for streambank stabilization projects as identified in the WRAPS 9 Element Plan.
- Fully fund the 9-Element Plan implementation (approximately \$140,000/year).

- Develop a funding strategy within the next year for additional data collection and implementation as identified above in a phased manner in conjunction with DOC, NRCS, and KDHE and others as appropriate. Funding needs will then be reviewed on an annual basis and brought to the KWA.

Priority Goal #4: The State of Kansas should implement a strategy that includes funding and materials to deliver a comprehensive education and outreach program by 2023; to understand the basics of the water cycle, know basic water conservation principles and understand that actions impact water quality and water quantity. A component of the comprehensive program should include enhancing information and outreach on research, technology and management practices using social media and public information outlets.

Action Steps

- The RAC will establish an Education Subcommittee to coordinate education efforts.
- Water technology farms and PACE farms should be supported and utilized as part of the education program.
- Utilize partners that have education programs already developed to support water education initiatives. This includes but is not limited to schools, water providers, FFA, KACEE, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Corn Commission, Kansas Soybean Commission, Kansas Tribes, Conservation Districts, and Envirothon.
- The RAC and the Kansas Water Office work together to reach out to other private and public entities to aid in funding the development of educational programming and outreach
- The Kansas Water Office should reach out to American Royal.
- A line item for education should be included in the budget.
- Prepare video and other printed information on the activities of the KWA and Missouri RAC for presentation to community organizations, school and other interested groups.
- Provide presentations on Kansas Water issues to interested agencies, organizations and schools.

Upper Republican Regional Goals and Action Plans:

Priority Goal #1: In collaboration with other water agencies, the RAC will assist in developing and recommending a water conservation management plan that provides maximum flexibility while reducing overall actual use throughout the Upper Republican Basin to extend the aquifer life and economic wellbeing. To adopt conservation measures to lessen economic impacts and allow user transition, the Conservation Plan shall address all types of use while considering flexibility tools and overall actual reduction.

Action Steps:

- Support GMD 4 LEMA plan.
- Look outside the box for other possible funding sources necessary to improve water efficiency.
- Find samples of water conservations plans for the Upper Republican RAC to consider.

Priority Goal #2: In collaboration with other water agencies, the RAC will assist in enhancing current efforts on education of all water users for all age groups on sources of supply, water quality, quantity of supply, best management practices, etc. to help stakeholders understand, conserve and extend the life of the aquifer.

Action Steps:

- Continue to support KWO, KDA, GMD 4, and other entities in increased education of water technology farms.
- Support KDA in education of WCAs.
- Work with NRCS to evaluate effectiveness of RCPP program and find efficiencies.
- Participating in events for education of water conservation, that involve water agencies and schools.
- Support GMD 4 on the development of an irrigator/education program.

Priority Goal #3: In collaboration with other water agencies, the RAC will encourage the Republican River Compact administration to maintain compliance in the Republican River Basin.

Action Steps:

- Ensure KDA continually updates the RAC on the Republican River Compact, especially if any changes occur within the area.

Priority Goal #4: In collaboration with other water agencies, the RAC will actively encourage all water users to increase utilization and adoption of water conservation technologies and practices.

Action Steps:

- Support and promote conservation programs that offer incentives such as water savings technology cost-share programs, water technology farms, LEMA's, and increased data collections and disseminations.
- Actively assist in seeking annual funding to ensure successful achievement of goal.

Priority Goal #5: In collaboration with other water agencies, the RAC will work to increase awareness about source water protection to improve the long-term water quality in the region.

Action Steps:

- Support KDHE to help establish a baseline potable of water quality within the region.

MEMO



DATE: June 11, 2020
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Cara Hendricks
RE: Budget Committee Update

900 SW Jackson Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.org

The KWA Budget Committee has two upcoming meetings scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2020 at 2:00 pm and Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 9:00 am. The purpose of these meetings is to update the Committee members on the FY 2022 SWPF budget process and timeline, review the Kansas Water Plan Budget Guidelines that were approved by the KWA earlier this year, and provide an overview of the current programs and projects that are funded by the SWPF. The Committee will also discuss next steps in the development of the FY 2022 SWPF budget recommendations.

Agency representatives will be present at the meetings to provide information regarding the specific programs and projects. The discussion will include how the programs/projects tie into the Budget Guidelines and the agencies' total funding needs for that program/project.

The KWA Budget Committee will provide an update to the Kansas Water Authority at the June 17th KWA meeting.

No action is needed at this time. Information is provided for discussion purposes only.

MEMO



Water Office

900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404

Topeka, KS 66612

Phone: (785) 296-3185

Fax: (785) 296-0878

www.kwo.ks.gov

DATE: June 4, 2020
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Matt Unruh
RE: Federal Update

Missouri River Commercial Dredging

On April 30, 2020, the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) took action to submit comments on the proposed reissuance of commercial dredging permits on the Lower Missouri River as well as the concurrent Section 408 authorization. Among the concerns expressed by the KWA within the comment letter was that the permit reissuance and Section 408 process were proceeding forward without 2019 river channel hydrographic survey information being available for public review during the public comment period. In a document dated May 1, 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Kansas City District released the aforementioned 2019 river channel hydrographic survey report. Within the summary section of this report the following findings were noted:

“The downstream portion of the Kansas City segment (downstream from the Kansas River) exhibits significant new degradation. Numerous 5-mile reaches have exceeded the degradation thresholds (no additional degradation in the Kansas City segment and no more than 2 feet in all other segments). Applying the upstream and downstream buffers given in USACE (2020) to the reaches exceeding the thresholds incorporates significant portions of the St. Joseph (91.4 miles), Kansas City (34 miles), and Waverly (26.5 miles) segments including areas where dredging occurred in the current permit cycle, and portions of the Jefferson City (20.6 miles) and St. Charles (15 miles) segment where no dredging has occurred in the current permit cycle.”

The full hydrographic survey report as well as other information regarding Missouri River Commercial Dredging is available online under 2020 information at <https://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Branch/Missouri-River-Commercial-Dredging/>

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020 Update

During the May 2020 KWA webinar, information was provided regarding recent WRDA comments provided to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works by the National Water Supply Alliance (NWSA), an organization in which KWO is a member. More recently, KWO has been involved with providing additional comments to Senate Leadership as well as the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure through the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP). Copies of these recent letters which were submitted on May 29, 2020 can be found on the ICWP website at: <https://icwp.org/committee-activities/icwp-comments-on-wrda20-awia-submitted-to-senate-leadership-and-house-transportation-infrastructure-committee-may-2020/>.

No action is needed at this time. Information is provided for discussion purposes only.

MEMO



DATE: June 11, 2020
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Josh Olson
RE: Federal Cooperative Agreements – Streamgaging,
Kansas River Water Quality Monitoring, Neosho
River Sediment Monitoring, Monitoring on Big Blue
River Below Tuttle Creek Lake, Monitoring on
Republican River at Clay Center above Milford Lake
(USGS)

900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.ks.gov

There are five potential agreements between the KWO and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for review and consideration by the Kansas Water Authority (KWA). Approval by the KWA, under KSA 74-2622, is required before the Kansas Water Office (KWO) enters into agreements with the federal government.

Streamgaging Network (USGS)

The USGS, in cooperation with the KWO and other cooperators, maintains streamgages across the state. Under this Joint Funding Agreement (JFA), funding for the streamgaging program will be provided for SFY 2021. Streamgages provide near real-time information about stream and river conditions. This information is used daily by numerous local, state and federal agencies and research entities to plan, protect and conserve water resources.

The expected non-federal contribution to cover the part of costs necessary to continue operations in SFY 2021 is \$413,580 from the SWPF. As a portion of the administration and enforcement costs to the public water supply program, Water Assurance Districts pay for the streamgages that monitor flow in the Assurance Districts, and Water Marketing will pay for streamgages that monitor flow within marketing customer areas. These equal two gages per WAD and Marketing Program. Final agreement will be determined after further discussions with USGS.

Kansas River Water Quality Monitoring (USGS)

Through a JFA, the USGS, KWO, KDHE, and the Nature Conservancy, along with the cities of Manhattan, Topeka, Lawrence, Olathe, and Water District No. 1 of Johnson County have participated in the Water Quality Monitoring agreement to characterize the sources, frequency and causes of cyanobacteria and associated toxins and taste-and-odor compounds in the Kansas River. Previous contracts have included the operation of water-quality monitors on the Kansas River at De Soto, Wamego, and Topeka, routine sample collection at these 3 sites over a range of hydrologic conditions, event-based sample collection at reservoir outflows, and development of statistical relationships between collected samples and sensor values. This cooperative study is also evaluating the opportunity for an advanced notification system with sufficient lead time to alert water suppliers that use the Kansas River as a source of water supply of changing water quality conditions that may affect treatment processes or cause cyanobacteria-related toxin and taste-and-odor events.

The final scope and agreement for this year's monitoring will be determined after further discussions with the overall group and USGS. The expected KWO contribution to the project in SFY 2021 is \$10,000.

Neosho River Sediment Monitoring (USGS)

Through a JFA, the KWO and USGS will operate and maintain two water quality monitors and suspended sediment sampling at Plymouth and Neosho Rapids. The sites are used to evaluate the efficacy of streambank stabilization efforts on the Upper Neosho and Cottonwood rivers, as well as the overall sediment load entering John Redmond Reservoir.

The expected non-federal contribution to cover the cost of the necessary field and analytical work directly related to this program is \$71,630 from the KWO in SFY 2021. Final agreement will be determined after further discussions with USGS.

Continuous and Discrete Water-Quality Monitoring on Big Blue River below Tuttle Creek Lake (USGS)

Through a JFA, the KWO and USGS will collect water-quality and sediment data at the established streamflow station on the Big Blue River near Manhattan, Kansas, approximately 2.5 river miles downstream of the Tuttle Creek Lake outflow. The Tuttle Creek Lake Water Injection Dredging (WID) demonstration project, as proposed by the Corps of Engineers to increase reservoir storage, may affect downstream turbidity and suspended-sediment concentrations as disturbed bottom sediment is displaced and exits the reservoir. The purpose of the monitoring to be performed through this agreement is to provide an understanding of baseline turbidity and water quality conditions downstream of the lake, and to evaluate changes in water quality and suspended sediment concentrations caused by water-injection dredging activities.

The proposed agreement is for a multi-year study. For Year 3 (SFY 21), the following major tasks are proposed:

- Operate and maintain continuous water-quality monitoring at the USGS streamflow station on the Big Blue River near Manhattan, Kansas, to measure temperature, specific conductance, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen.
- Collect, process, and review sediment, total and dissolved organic carbon, and nutrient samples at the Big Blue River below Tuttle Creek Lake (8 samples and 1 QA/QC sample for each parameter in SFY 21).

The expected non-federal contribution to cover the cost of the necessary field and analytical work directly related to this program is \$66,560 from the KWO in SFY 2021. Final agreement will be determined after further discussions with USGS.

Continuous and Discrete Water-Quality Monitoring on Republican River at Clay Center (USGS)

Through a JFA, the KWO and USGS will collect water-quality, nutrient, and sediment data at the established streamflow station on the Republican River at Clay Center, Kansas. This data will provide an understanding of baseline suspended-sediment, nutrient, and water-quality conditions on the Republican River at Clay Center, the primary inflow into Milford Lake and closest streamgaging site not to experience backwater conditions from the lake. This will allow for better understanding of sediment and nutrient concentrations, and characterization of water-quality conditions entering Milford Lake. This agreement helps to expand the monitoring network currently supported by the USGS, KWO, KDHE and communities along the Kansas River as part of the overall Kansas River Water Quality Monitoring study, and also supports monitoring efforts associated with the Milford RCPP project.

The proposed agreement is for a multi-year study. For Year 3 (SFY 21), the following major tasks are proposed:

- Operate and maintain water-quality monitoring at existing USGS streamflow station at Clay Center to measure temperature, specific conductance, pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity.
- Collect, process and review biweekly (May – Oct) and monthly (Nov – Apr) sediment and nutrient samples (18 total) on the Republican River at Clay Center

The expected non-federal contribution to cover the cost of the necessary field and analytical work directly related to this program is \$97,240 from the KWO in SFY 2021. Final agreement will be determined after further discussions with USGS.

The Kansas Water Office recommends the KWA give approval to the Director to enter into agreements with the U.S. Geological Survey for the Streamgaging Network, Kansas River Water Quality Monitoring, Neosho River Sediment Monitoring, Monitoring on Big Blue River Below Tuttle Creek Lake, and Monitoring on Republican River at Clay Center above Milford Lake.
