

Minutes

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY

August 10, 2022

In-person Meetings

Salina, KS

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dawn Buehler called the **August 10, 2022**, Kansas Water Authority (KWA) water policy discussion held in-person to order at **10:05 a.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Buehler, Mike Armstrong, John Bailey, Randy Hayzlett, Jeremiah Hobbs, Carolyn McGinn, Allen Roth, Jean Steiner, David Stroberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lynn Goossen, Alan King, and Allan Soetaert

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

PRESENT: Earl Lewis, Scott Ishman, Susan Metzger, Steve Adams, Sara Baer, Leo Henning, Mike Beam, Andrew Lyon, Kayla Savage, Ryan Hoffman, Connie Owen

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

ABSENT: All were present

OPENING REMARKS: Dawn Buehler gave opening statements including a welcome message, description of the purpose of the meeting, and started introductions.

Susan Metzger went through the meeting guidelines and self-introductions. All members of the discussion and open audience introduced themselves and named their favorite body of water.

Connie Owen presented an overview of the Kansas Water Plan.

FUNDING KANSAS WATER PLAN PRIORITIES:

Susan Metzger spoke about the first topic of the day. She asked all participants what they and their stakeholders would say are their funding priorities for the Kansas Water Plan. Time was then given for the stakeholder representatives and the audience to break into smaller groups for discussion.

After group discussion the room was called back to order and transitioned to a room-wide open discussion of what each group had spoken about in their smaller group.

BREAK FOR LUNCH 12:15

ORGANIZATION & STRUCTURE TO ADDRESS KANSAS WATER PLAN PRIORITIES:

Susan Metzger spoke about the second and final topic of the day: organization and structure to address the Kansas Water Plan priorities. Again, she had the room break into small groups to have a discussion on how they or their stakeholders would feel about this topic.

After group discussion the room was called back to order and transitioned to a room-wide open discussion of what each group had spoken about in their smaller group.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Susan Metzger opened the floor for any sort of discussion that any stakeholder wanted to bring up or have more discussion on. This included the Ogallala Aquifer, agency structure, and publicly available programs.

WRAP UP: Susan Metzger wrapped up the meeting and Dawn Buehler gave her closing statements.

ADJOURNMENT: Dawn Buehler adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Dawn Buehler, Chair

Connie Owen, Secretary

Minutes

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY

August 17, 2022

In-Person Meeting

Manhattan, KS

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dawn Buehler called the **August 17, 2022**, Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting held in-person to order at **09:04 a.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Buehler, Michael Armstrong, John Bailey, Lynn Goossen, Randy Hayzlett, Jeremiah Hobbs, Carolyn McGinn, Allen Roth, Allan Soetaert, Jean Steiner, David Stroberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan King

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Ryan Hoffman, Earl Lewis, Jay Kalbas, Susan Metzger, Steve Adams, Leo Henning, Mike Beam, Andrew Lyon, Kayla Savage, Connie Owen, Jude Kastens

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: All present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Motion No. 08-17-01 It was moved by Allan Soetaert and seconded by Allen Roth to approve the June 22, 2022, Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority with a correction to the Arkansas River Water Quality Summit's name. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

KWA PWS COMMITTEE:
John Bailey & Nathan Westrup gave a presentation for the Public Water Supply (PWS) Committee and what goes into considering Water Purchasing Contracts.

Water Purchasing Contract 22-1

Motion No. 08-17-02 It was moved by John Bailey and seconded by Lynn Goossen to approve Water Purchasing Contract 22-1 with the City of Independence. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

Nathan Westrup then presented on the Water Marking Program's Comprehensive Capital Development plan.

Dawn Buehler opened the floor for discussion. Comment was made that the Comprehensive Capital Development plan is intended to be in place for the CY24 rate discussions.

Jay Kalbas introduced himself to the Kansas Water Authority as the new Director of the Kansas Geological Survey.

KANSAS WATER PLAN: Connie Owen started the discussion on the Kansas Water Plan. Reminded the room that approval of the Kansas Water Plan was subject to editorial edits. Connie then opened the floor for discussion.

Items that were discussed:

- Adding wording to the document that recommends accountability. A

formal process will be initiated to create specific targets, metrics and goals to implement recommendations in this section through a collaborative process through state agencies, regional advisory committees, local stakeholders, and the Kansas Water Office.

- Adding Bill Golden’s work in the Aquifer guiding principles. Adding wording that talks more specially about professor Golden’s work.
- Making a section that talks about incentives of using less water from the aquifer
- Adding chemicals specific to water producers to the either the surface water or water quality sections - Leo Henning to provide wording
- Being more direct and firm about funding issues
- Adding the Equus Beds to the Aquifer section
- Adjusting wording for the Aquifer section. Reservoir section is listed as “Conserve, protect, and restore reservoirs.” Should we change the Aquifer Section to something similar?
- Adjustment of wording or creation of a committee to consider sustainability as part of the guiding principals in addressing the conservation of the High Plains Aquifer.
- Working on more practices that reduce sediment - as dredging is a short-term solution. If all we do is dredge will the supply be able to keep pace with the population growth?
- Kansas Corporation Commission opportunities to provide remediation support of the salt bloom in the Equus Beds.
- Making it more explicit that this is in fact a planning document and not an implementation document.
- Encouraging legislation to make conservation plans a requirement for all municipal water suppliers

Approval of the 2022 Kansas Water Plan

Motion 08-17-03

It was moved by **Jean Steiner** and seconded by **Jeremiah Hobbs** to approve the 2022 Kansas Water Plan subject to editorial changes and with the addition the following items. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

1. Add as a recommendation to the guiding principles:
 - a. “A formal process will be initiated to create specific targets, metrics and goals to implement recommendations in this section through a collaborative process involving state agencies, regional advisory committees, local stakeholders, groundwater management districts, and the Kansas Water Authority”
 - b. “The Kansas Water Authority shall create a committee to consider sustainability as part of the Guiding Principle addressing the Ogallala Aquifer.”
 - c. “Educate producers on the increased profitability that can be achieved through reduced groundwater usage, as documented in Professor Bill Golden’s economic analyses.”
2. Add a reference to Professor Bill Golden’s research.
3. Add the following language to the Water Quality Section:
 - a. “Nitrates, phosphorus. Atrazine, bromides, uranium, chlorides, and other contaminates are impacting surface water quality. The Kansas

Water plan will continue to promote activities and fining to address and reduce the impacts to surface water quality.”

KWA BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Michael Armstrong presented on the FY 2024 budget. Then, Matt Unruh presented on the FY 2024 State Water Plan Fund budget.

Dawn Buehler opened the floor for discussion. Discussion was had about every agency’s enhancements.

FY 24 State Water Plan Fund Budget

Motion 08-17-04

It was moved by Michael Armstrong and seconded by Carolyn McGinn to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 State Water Plan Fund Budget recommendations. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING ON WATER POLICY DISCUSSION:

Dawn Buehler spoke about the August 10, 2022, Kansas Water Authority special meeting on water policy. She then opened the floor for discussion. Items that were discussed included:

- Coming up with three primary policy/position talking points for KWA legislative visits during the 2023 Legislative Session.
- Review of current water funding/fee statutes to see if they need to be adjusted to reflect updated funding.

Matt Unruh then presented a draft letter of support for salary increases for professional State employees to send to the Governor and Legislators that was discussed at the June 22, 2022, Kansas Water Authority Meeting. The KWA discussed and provided edits to the draft letter.

Support for Salary Increase for Professional State Employees

Motion 8-17-05

It was moved by Allen Roth and seconded by Lynn Goossen to approve the edited Letter of Support for Salary Increases for Professional State Employees and to send it to the whole Kansas Legislature as well as the Governor’s Office. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes. Carolyn McGinn abstained from the vote.** Information found in meeting materials.

KANSAS WATER SUCCESS STORY:

Chris Steffen gave a presentation on a Kansas Water Success Story. He presented on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) and what Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is doing to combat and stop the spread of these species in all bodies of water in Kansas.

KANSAS WRAPS UPDATE: Travis Sieve from Kansas Department of Health and Environment gave an update on the Watershed Restoration Protection Strategy (WRAPS).

AGENCY UPDATES: Ryan Hoffman gave update from the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Kayla Savage gave update from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Steve Adams gave an update from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Earl Lewis gave an update for the Division of Water Resources.

Andy Lyon gave an update for the Department of Conservation. He also introduced Rod Vorhees, the Chairperson of the State Conservation Commission.

Leo Henning gave an update for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Mike Beam gave an update for the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Jay Kalbas gave an update for the Kansas Geological Survey.

Jude Kasten gave an update for the Kansas Biological Survey.

DIRECTORS REPORT: **Connie Owen** gave a Director's Report from the Kansas Water Office.

NEW BUSINESS: **Dawn Buehler** reminded everyone that the next Kansas Water Authority meeting will take place on October 19, 2022, near Wichita, Kansas. At that meeting the KWA will set the 2023 meeting dates.

ADJOURNMENT: **Dawn Buehler** adjourned the meeting at **4:04 p.m.**

Dawn Buehler, Chair

Connie Owen, Secretary

Capital Development Plan – Water Marketing Program fiscal policy

The committee continued the review Water Marketing Program financial forecasts and some initial thoughts on developing parameters of fiscal policy related to revenue generation in excess of basic expenses. Some of the critical fiscal policies to be developed will require additional information, such as estimates of future expenses related to reservoir sediment management.

The KWO has been pursuing identification of sediment management technologies (such as WID) but has not been able to develop the protection and restoration Master Plan, referenced in the 2017 Public Water Supply Comprehensive Capital Development Plan. The committee is supportive of generating revenue for research and development of innovative in-lake sediment management technologies through cost share studies with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The KWA Public Water Supply Committee recommends to the full Kansas Water Authority that the KWA encourage the Director of the Kansas Water Office to send a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asking for a Public Assistance to States (PAS) study targeting potential technical approaches to managing sediment and achieving sustainability of federal reservoirs in Kansas.

MEMO



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DATE: October 13, 2022
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Josh Olson
RE: Federal Cooperative Agreements – Reservoir
Sustainability and Water Quality PAS Agreements
(USACE)

There are up to three potential agreements between the KWO and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 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.

Several research projects that currently receive state funding through Reservoir and Water Quality Research (Research Coordination Workgroup) and Assessment and Evaluation have been identified as potentially eligible to receive federal match through Planning Assistance to States (PAS) agreements with USACE.

- Kansas River Alluvial Aquifer Observation Well Network Maintenance and Modeling
- Streambank Evaluation of the Cottonwood and Neosho Rivers above John Redmond Reservoir
- Sediment Coring for HAB Trends at Tuttle and Waconda Reservoirs
- Evaluating Long-Term HAB Trends at Wilson and Kirwin Reservoirs
- Kansas Real-Time Flood Inundation Mapping Tool Development
- KWO Bathymetry

The KWO is working with USACE to scope proposals for one to three PAS agreements and determine which KWO projects would be appropriate in each. The federal contribution is still being determined, but is anticipated to be related to reservoir sustainability and water quality as well. The expected KWO contribution in SFY 2023/24 is up to approximately \$800,000. The final scope, cost, and number of agreements will be determined after further discussions with USACE.

The Kansas Water Office recommends the KWA give approval to the Director to enter into PAS agreement(s) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Reservoir Sustainability and Water Quality.
