

## Minutes

### KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY

#### Hybrid Meeting

Pittsburg, KS

June 22, 2022

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Dawn Buehler called the **June 22, 2022**, Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting held in-person and Via Zoom webinar/call to order at **09:30 a.m.**
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dawn Buehler, Mike Armstrong, John Bailey, Lynn Goossen, Randy Hayzlett, Alan King, Carolyn McGinn, Allan Soetaert, Jean Steiner, David Stroberg
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeremiah Hobbs and Allen Roth
- EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Earl Lewis, Rolfe Mandel, Susan Metzger, Brad Loveless, Steve Adams, Jude Kastens, Leo Henning, Mike Beam, Andrew Lyon, Kayla Savage, Connie Owen,
- EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dwight Keen
- OPENING REMARKS:** Jay Beyers, Deputy City Manager of the City of Pittsburg, gave Welcome to Pittsburg opening remarks and a brief update on the city of Pittsburg Water Update.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
**Motion No. 06-22-01** It was moved by John Bailey and seconded by Jean Steiner to approve the April 20, 2022, Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority. **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. Nate spoke about unfunded liability, current debt, and gave an update on the 2022 legislative session in regards to debt paydown and the John Redmond Bond. He then presented on the Water Marketing Variable Rate process. Dawn Buehler congratulated the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Legislature on being able to secure monies to pay down debt, she then opened the floor for discussion and vote.
- Set CY 23 Water Marketing Variable Rates*  
**Motion No. 06-22-02** It was moved by Lynn Goossen and seconded by David Stroberg to set the CY23 Water Marketing Variable Rate at \$0.473/1000 gallons. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.
- KWA RAC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**  
Angela Anderson gave an update on the KWA RAC Operations Committee. She went through an application for the Solomon-Republican RAC and went through the RAC Operations Committee's recommendations.
- RAC Member Applications*  
**Motion No. 06-22-03** It was moved by Jean Steiner and seconded by Mike Armstrong to approve the following for the Solomon-Republican RAC. Shift positions for Stanley Kats to be moved from At-Large Public 3 to the vacant Irrigation, West

position, change the At- Large Public 4 position to be changed to Conservation/Environment 2 and that all the At-Large Public numbers be changed accordingly except At Large Public(cc), and to approve the RAC application for Amanda Johnson for Conservation/Environment 2. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

#### LEGISLATIVE:

**Matt Unruh** gave an update on 2022 Legislative session. He started with an update on HB 2686. He opened it to the floor for discussion. Rep. Lindsay Vaughn of the Kansas House of Representatives spoke up and gave an update on where HB 2686 stands post audit.

**Mike Armstrong** then suggested KWA should vote to send a letter of recommendation to continue the Water Committee for the 2023 Legislative session. Discussion happened about when exactly the letter should be sent. **Sen. Carolyn McGinn** requested a copy of the letter.

*Send a recommendation letter from the KWA to the Legislative Policy Committee*

#### **Motion No. 06-22-04**

It was moved by **Mike Armstrong** and seconded by **John Bailey** to send a letter of support for a Water Committee from the KWA to the legislative policy committee. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

#### WATER POLICY DISCUSSION:

**Dawn Buehler** asked everyone to Save the Date for a Water Policy Discussion on August 10, 2022 in Salina, Kansas. This will be an in-person only meeting.

#### FEDERAL CONTRACT UPDATE:

**Josh Olson** presented on 5 potential agreements between the Kansas Water Office and United States Geological Survey (USGS). They were agreements for the Streamgaging Network, Kansas River Water Quality Monitoring, Neosho River Sediment Monitoring, Continuous and Discrete Water-Quality Monitoring on Republican River at Clay Center, HABS in Rivers Study. Josh mentioned that for the Kansas River Water Quality Monitoring contract 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 2023 is \$30,000. **Mike Armstrong** amended the KWA motion to include that the KWO provide up to a \$50,000.00 contribution for this agreement.

*2023 USGS Contracts  
Motion No. 06-22-05*

It was moved by **Mike Armstrong** and seconded by **Allan Soetaert** for the KWA to authorize the Director of the Kansas Water Office to enter into agreement with the USGS for the Stream Gaging Network, Kansas River Water Quality Monitoring, Neosho River Sediment Monitoring, Monitoring on the Republican River at Clay Center Above Milford, and HABS in Rivers. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

#### WATER INJECTION DREDGING:

**Josh Olson** presented on Water Injection Dredging. He spoke about the history, how it works, where they are in the process of a demonstration at Tuttle Creek Lake, and where current funding stands. KWA discussed the issue. Suggested making sure that the local citizens were aware of this.



## **ARKANSAS RIVER WATER QUALITY SUMMIT:**

**Tom Stiles** gave a presentation on the Arkansas River Water Quality Summit that took place in April in both Kansas and Colorado.

## **BREAK FOR LUNCH**

Upon returning from lunch and due to time constraints **Rolfe Mandel** gave an update for the Kansas Geological Survey.

## **NITRATES IN KANSAS:**

**Tom Stiles** gave presentation on Nitrates in Kansas. He spoke about the challenges and obstacles that are involved with this issue. He then turned the presentation over to **Travis Seive** to discussion solutions.

KWA discussed the issue.

**Lindsay Vaughn** mentioned potential legislative attempt(s) to secure a grant to help with this issue.

## **KANSAS WATER SUCCESS STORY:**

**Earl Lewis** presented on DWR's Water Success story: data sharing of the water use report.

## **KANSAS DAM SAFETY UPDATE:**

**Earl Lewis** presented on the current status of dams in the Kansas. He also spoke about an emergency fund set up in case of dam disaster.

## **KWA OPEN DISCUSSION:**

**Dawn Buehler** wanted to speak about the hiring concern she has been hearing about from several State Agencies. It was brought up that there is both an issue of hiring employees and retaining the employees they can hire.

*Letter to Legislature about concern with the State's hiring process.  
Motion No. 06-22-06*

It was moved by **John Bailey** and seconded by **Jean Steiner** for the KWA to come up with a letter to send to the Kansas Legislative Body to express their concern for this matter. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes. Carolyn McGinn abstained from the vote.** Information found in meeting materials. Letter will be reviewed at the August 2022 KWA meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Andrew Lyon** gave an update from the Department of Conservation.

**Earl Lewis** gave an update from the Division of Water Resources.

**Leo Henning** gave an update from Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

**Brad Loveless** gave an update for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

**Jude Kastens** gave an update for the Kansas Biological Survey

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

## **DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Connie Owen** gave Director's Report from the Kansas Water Office.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Dawn Buehler** adjourned the meeting at **4:12 pm**



Dawn Buehler, Chair



Connie Owen, Secretary