

Minutes

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY

August 23, 2023

In-Person Meeting

McPherson, KS

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dawn Buehler called the **August 23, 2023**, Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting to order at **09:10 a.m.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

PRESENT: Susan Duffy, Earl Lewis, Jay Kalbas, Susan Metzger, Sara Baer, Leo Henning, Mike Beam, Andrew Lyon, Connie Owen

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Brad Loveless, Kayla Savage

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion No. 08-23-01 It was moved by Carolyn McGinn and seconded by Allen Roth to approve the June 7, 2023, Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

KWA PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE:

John Bailey reported for the Public Water Supply Committee. Nathan Westrup then presented an overview of the City of Independence Negotiation Authorization, the City of Marion Contract Approval, and the CNRBWAD#3 Contract Renegotiation. Dawn Buehler opened the floor for questions and comments.

Items that were discussed:

- Allen Roth asked if the City of Independence was required to have a municipal conservation plan. The committee noted that their plan is up to date.
- Dawn Buehler asked if the basin could support the additional water allocation in a drought year. The committee noted that a drought situation has been modeled by the KWO and shows that the basin would be able to support the additional contract.
- Jean Steiner asked if there would be a fixed rate for the new City of Marion contract. The committee noted that the new contract will have a variable rate.
- John Bailey discussed the possibility of a joint water treatment plant below the reservoir.
- Dawn Buehler asked if there would be potential to renegotiate the contract in the future. The committee noted that would be possible if there was a potential reason.

City of Independence Negotiation Authorization

Motion No. 08-23-02

It was moved by Allan Soetaert and seconded by David Stroberg to approve the Director's Request to begin contract negotiations with the City of Independence (Water Marketing Application No. 258). **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

Water Purchase Contract No. 23-1, City of Marion

Motion No. 08-23-03

It was moved by John Bailey and seconded by Jean Steiner to approve the Water Purchasing Contract 23-1 with the City of Marion. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

Renegotiation storage contract with the Cottonwood & Neosho River Basins Water Assurance District No. 3

Motion No. 08-23-04

It was moved by Mike Armstrong and seconded by Lynn Goossen to for the Kansas Water Authority to approve the Director's Request to begin contract renegotiations with the Cottonwood and Neosho River Basins Water Assurance District No. 3 for the purchase of additional storage space. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

KWA RAC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Jeremiah Hobbs reported for the RAC Operations Committee. He presented the slate of RAC applicants from the recent RAC Membership Drive. The drive filled all but 15 positions. The full membership slate can be found in meeting materials.

Dawn Buehler thanked everyone who applied or reapplied to a RAC. She opened the floor for questions and comments.

- Mike Armstrong asked why there were still vacant positions. The committee noted that open positions had either no applicants or the applications didn't meet the criteria.

It was proposed that there should be a RAC Chair present at all KWA meetings going forward. All members agreed with the proposal.

Approval of proposed RAC membership slate and appoint RAC Applicants for each RAC

Motion No. 08-23-05

It was moved by Allen Roth and seconded by Peter Loecke for the Kansas Water Authority to approve the proposed RAC membership slate and appoint those RAC applicants to each RAC. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

KWA BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Mike Armstrong reported for the Budget Committee. He presented the updated State Water Plan Fund FY 2025 Budget Recommendations, with each agency providing an overview of new/updated projects and initiatives funded by the additional \$18 million dollars transferred to the SWPF. Matt Unruh then presented an overview on the RAC budget input process for the SWPF FY 2025 budget.

Dawn Buehler opened the floor for questions and comments.

Items that were discussed:

- Mike Beam asked for clarification on the research coordination team.
- Mike Armstrong mentioned that projects should tie back to the Kansas Water Plan, prioritize urgent projects such as drought response and safety, and prioritize projects that can be implemented quickly to show use of money responsibly. This will tell a story and highlight metrics to the legislature.

- **Dawn Buehler** highlighted that RACs should be thinking about metrics for progress on goals and action plans for reporting to the legislature. She also mentioned that RACs should identify the low hanging fruit of the goals and action plans and start with those.

SWPF FY 2025 Budget Recommendations

Motion No. 08-23-06

It was moved by **Mike Armstrong** and seconded by **Carolyn McGinn** for the Kansas Water Authority to adopt the State Water Plan Fund FY 2025 expenditure recommendations. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

HAYS/RUSSELL WATER TRANSFER:

Connie Owen, Earl Lewis, and Leo Henning were absent from this discussion. **Matt Unruh** presented an update on the Hays/Russell Water Transfer and the KWA's potential for recognition as a commenting agency during the ongoing administrative hearing on the matter.

Dawn Buehler opened the floor for questions and comments.

Items that were discussed:

- **Jean Steiner** said acting as a commenting agency would allow the KWA to keep their options open.
- **Dawn Buehler** requested RAC input from the Smoky Hill-Saline RAC and Great Bend Prairie RAC be presented to the KWA at the October meeting. KWA support for this feedback

Motion No. 08-23-07

It was moved by **Lynn Goossen** and seconded by **Jean Steiner** for the Kansas Water Authority to approve the KWA Chair coordinate with the Assistant Director of KWO to appropriately submit a request for the KWA to be formally recognized as a commenting agency in the Hays/Russell Water Transfer administrative hearing. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.**

KWA EX-OFFICIO AGENCY UPDATES:

Jay Kalbas gave an update for the Kansas Geological Survey.

Susan Duffy gave an update for the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Susan Metzger gave an update for Kansas State University.

Sara Baer/Ted Harris gave an update for the Kansas Biological Survey.

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

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

Andy Lyon gave an update for the Department of Conservation.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Connie Owen reported for the Kansas Water Office. The KWO advised the Governor to release a new drought declaration Executive Order. Katie Goff, GIS Coordinator for the KWO, was recognized for a Special Achievement in GIS Award. New grant programs are in the works.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Carolyn McGinn and seconded by Allen Roth to adjourn. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** The meeting was adjourned at **2:33 p.m.**



Dawn Buehler, Chair



Connie Owen, Secretary