

Minutes

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY

April 19, 2023

In-Person Meeting

Kansas City, KS

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Dawn Buehler called the **April 19, 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, Jean Steiner, David Stroberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Allan Soetaert

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

PRESENT: Susan Duffy, Earl Lewis, Steve Adams, Sara Baer, Leo Henning, Andrew Lyon, Connie Owen, Mike Beam, Kayla Savage, Scott Ishman, Brian Olson

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS All were present

ABSENT:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion No. 04-19-01 It was moved by Allen Roth and seconded by Carolyn McGinn to approve the January 25, 2023, Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion No. 04-19-02 It was moved by Jeremiah Hobbs and seconded by Mike Armstrong to approve the March 3, 2023, Minutes for the Virtual Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

KWA BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Mike Armstrong reported for the Budget Committee. He applauded the work of the legislature for listening to the need for more funding. Victoria Potts then presented on the senate substitute for HB2302. Matt Unruh presented on the SWPF FY 2025 budget recommendation process.

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 Recommendation Process

Motion No. 04-19-03 It was moved by Mike Armstrong and seconded by Pete Loecke to approve the SWPF FY 2025 Budget Recommendation Process. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

KWA RAC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Jeremiah Hobbs reported for the RAC Operations Committee. Presented application for Dave Mann for the Agriculture 2 category to the Upper Republican RAC. **Dawn Buehler** opened the floor for questions and comments.

Application for Upper Republican RAC

Motion No. 04-19-04

It was moved by **Allen Roth** and seconded by **Lynn Goosen** to approve the applications for Dave Mann for the Agriculture 2 category to the Upper Republican RAC with a term expiration of June 2025. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

Jeremiah Hobbs then presented a message to the KWA from the Upper Arkansas RAC regarding the need to save the Ogallala Aquifer.

Upper Arkansas RAC Message to the KWA

Motion No. 04-19-05

It was moved by **Jeremiah Hobbs** and seconded by **Jean Steiner** to approve the following response to the Upper Arkansas RAC:
“The KWA has received this message. All RACS should be involved in the discussion on the Ogallala Aquifer. The KWA passes the message on to the Ogallala Committee.” **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

FEDERAL UPDATE:

Josh Olson presented an update on federal agreements with the USGS.

USGS Federal Cooperative Agreements

Motion No. 04-19-06

It was moved by **Mike Armstrong** and seconded by **David Stroberg** for the KWA to authorize the Director of the Kansas Water Office to enter into agreements with the U.S. Geological Survey for the Streamgaging Network, Kansas River Water Quality Monitoring, Neosho River Sediment Monitoring, Milford Reservoir and Clay Center Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring, and HABs in Slow Moving Waters Studies. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

WATER SUCCESS STORY: KANSAS ABANDONED WELL PLUGGING

Susan Duffy and **Ryan Hoffman** of the KCC presented on the efforts to plug abandoned wells in Kansas. The initial estimate for the number of wells to plug in Kansas is 2165 with an estimated budget of just under \$25 million. Between mid-January and the end of March, 453 wells have been plugged in the state. **Dawn Buehler** opened the floor for questions and comments.

SUSTAINABLE RIVERS PROGRAM:

Heidi Mehl, Director of Water & Agricultural Programs, presented on the Sustainable Rivers Program to discuss how the management of releases from federal reservoirs and dams can be used to mimic natural flow regimes to protect freshwater species and ecosystems.

DOC SFY 2024 STATE COST SHARE PROGRAMS UPDATE:

Andy Lyon, Director of the Division of Conservation, discussed program updates for the upcoming fiscal year for the agency.

KACD URBAN CONSERVATION CCGA:

Troy Munsch, of KACD, presented on the Urban Conservation CCGA and current research projects being done with Kansas State to discover barriers in communications with producers.

KDHE – WRAPS PROGRAM UPDATE:

Mike Beezhold, Unit Chief of Watershed Management, gave an update on WRAPS and the upcoming events and changes to the program, including a groundwater water quality meeting with Kansas and Colorado in May.

KWA EX-OFFICIO AGENCY UPDATES:

Kayla Savage gave an update for the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Susan Duffy gave an update for the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Scott Ishman gave an update for the Kansas Geological Survey.

Sara Baer gave an update for the Kansas Biological Survey.

Brian Olson gave update for Kansas State University.

Andy Lyon gave an update for the Department of Conservation.

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

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Connie Owen reported that the Kansas Water Office had a successful World Water Day celebration at the Capitol. The KWO has many upcoming RAC meetings. The WID pilot project and new WISE projects are moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS:


No new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Carolyn McGinn and seconded by David Stroberg to adjourn. Motion carried with no dissenting votes. The meeting was adjourned at **2:10 p.m.**



Dawn Buehler, Chair



Connie Owen, Secretary