

Dawn Buehler is the Chair of the Kansas Water Authority and was appointed by Governor Kelly in 2021.

Dawn is the Kansas Riverkeeper and Executive Director of Friends of the Kaw. In this role, she works with communities, landowners, and the public to educate about the Kansas River, manages school and recreational programs, and leads efforts towards large scale trash cleanups that forever improve the landscape of our river. Prior to this position, Dawn worked for both Douglas County Conservation District and K-State Extension. At the Douglas County Conservation District, Dawn learned the value of conservation programs that provide invaluable benefits to both the landowner and the landscape.

Dawn recently served as Chair of the Kansas Regional Advisory Committee for the Governor's Water Vision, a 13-person committee charged with writing goal and actions plans for the Kansas Basin. Dawn is also a member of the Stakeholder Leadership Team for the Lower Kansas WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy) Program, is a member of the Topeka Riverfront Advisory Council, is Governor Kelly's Appointee to the Oil and Gas Advisory Committee, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Land Trust and the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams.

Dawn was raised on a 2,000-acre vegetable farm in the De Soto river bottoms along the Kansas River in the Kaw River Valley. Dawn continued to help on the farm while attending college after high school, earning both a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Conservation from Oregon State University and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Baker University. Dawn has spent her career working as a conservationist, accountant and farmer.

As a 6th generation Kansan, Dawn's passion is watershed management and finding ways we can all work together to improve our watersheds. Dawn and her husband, Dennis, live south of Eudora and have a son, daughter-in-law, and two chocolate Labrador retrievers.

"My lifelong experiences have shaped and informed much of what I know today, which is that water is the most valuable resources that we have and must be a priority," Dawn said. "As Chair of the Kansas Water Authority, I look forward to this opportunity to apply the expertise of our state agencies, the experience of our communities, and the leadership of our board members to work on problems and collaborative solutions that protect our water resources."