

**Kansas Water Authority Meeting**  
**January 31, 2019**  
**Report by Marlene Bosworth**

**Bathymetric Surveys**

The current data is aged  
Goal is to survey 5-10 reservoirs in the first year  
Kansas water demand has been over estimated  
New “crossover” date to when supplies will be insufficient is 2064  
New surveys are essential to get a better handle on trends  
Bathymetric surveys could help answer questions about effectiveness of BMPs on sediment reduction (but what about “legacy loads” that are still being flushed into reservoirs during high rainfall events???)

***New administration has named new department heads:***

Dept. of Ag - Mike Beam (KLA background)  
KDWPT – Brad Loveless (KWA background)  
Dept. of Commerce – Patty Clark

**RAC Reports**

Missouri RAC asked for Kansas Geological Survey to conduct a study to answer questions about quantity and quality of water in their basin. MO RAC has concerns about decreases in stream flows and well pumping yields; much of this is anecdotal, heard from local people. A study would help answer if this is true with empirical data. 371 wells studied recently for nitrate levels and 1/3 tested higher than the 10 ppm N standard.

Study Phase 1 – digitizes existing data  
Study Phase 2 – gather information from water suppliers  
Study Phase 3 – get safe appropriation data

Note: Effects observed in Missouri RAC is very similar to what local people in northern Kansas Region have been experiencing, that is that wells are drying up from over use especially for irrigation

**Legislative Update**

Not much was going on yet in the legislature  
Budget discussions would begin in the next week or two

**Report on Water Vision Research (Sarah Sexton-Bowser)**

Research on sorghum continues as an alternative crop to other crops that require a lot of irrigation. 1/3 of sorghum is exported, 1/3 converted to ethanol and 1/3 used for livestock feed. However, some high value processors use it in cereal and other high value products. 50% of U.S. sorghum is produced in Kansas (wow!). It is a tough plant and can survive in weather stressed areas (like western KS).

**KDWPT Report** (Brad Loveless and Ed Miller)

Threatened and Endangered Species undergoing a 5 year review  
75% of species on the list are aquatic or semi-aquatic  
Endangered – 21 species  
Threatened – 30 species

In Need of Conservation – 83 species

**Milford Lake RCPP**

Receiving applications, December 21<sup>st</sup> was the 1<sup>st</sup> cut off date

Government shutdown is affecting the application evaluations, 25 apps so far

March 15 is the next batching period end

\$600,000 required for KWO to meet its obligation for match for the RCPP (used about \$400,000 in SFY 18 & 19)

**Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers**

Points presented by the Lt. Governor of note:

Education about water is very important

Water is the key to rural development

Stated that Governor Kelly understands the great importance of water; the new administration will prioritize a way to get high priority items done

Spoke about “stable revenues” and tax increases as needed to accomplish these high priority items

**KWO Report** (Earl Lewis)

Republican River Update

Kansas River Basin Study – approved, working on agreement with USACE which is taking longer than expected. There is a need to get a stakeholder’s group established.

The drought is officially over