

# MEMO



DATE: January 24, 2019  
TO: Kansas Water Authority  
FROM: Greg Graff  
RE: KWA RAC Operations Committee

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The KWA RAC Operations Committee met on January 24, 2019, via conference call. Discussion from the meeting included a message to the KWA from the Missouri Regional Advisory Committee from their most recent meeting. This RAC message to the KWA, along with pertinent background information, KWO staff input, and proposed resolution are included in this memo.

**Message:** The Missouri RAC requests funding to complete year two of Phase II of “Addressing Groundwater Goals of the Missouri Regional Planning Area” by the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS). Funding of the study would provide information directly related to Missouri RAC Goals #1 & #3.

**Background:** In March 8, 2018, the Kansas Water Office (KWO) entered into a five year contract on Phase II with KGS to document historical ground water quality and quantity for the Missouri Region. KGS scoped the entire study however only the first year of the contract was funded. Geoff Bohling and Don Whittemore reporting their initial findings to the RAC at the September 20th meeting, continuation of the study was recommended. The complete first year report is due in March 2019. The quantity of water in the unconsolidated material remains undetermined as well as water quality issues, especially nitrates in the groundwater. The drought of 2018 showed just how fragile the groundwater situation is in the Missouri Region. Multiple private domestic wells have ceased to function, low flows in streams and high nitrates have caused conflict between neighbors and communities with the ever expanding irrigation industry in the region. More information, certainty about safe yields and water quality will help mitigate these conflicts. The projected cost for year two of the study is \$38,000. This funding will be used to continue the water quantity and quality monitoring and analyses that began in year one and to install sensors and telemetry for continuous, real-time water level monitoring of the five existing wells.

**Staff Input:** Staff contacted Geoff Bohling (KGS) to discuss the study. KGS has identified ten (10) USGS wells in the region, and attempted to measure water levels and sampled water from these wells in August of 2018. Staff will return for repeat measurements in February 2019. Many of these wells are not in the aquifer material and do not represent the aquifer in the region. The existing wells are insufficient to provide any type of trend data or regionally based data to use for making management decisions. Also, this project helps to further advance Vision Regional Goal Action Plan implementation efforts for Missouri RAC Goals 1 & 3. With this project being multiple years and phases and directly connected to Action Plan implementation there is justification to continue funding support for these efforts.

**Proposed Resolution:** The KWO is committed to working with the KGS on advancing year two of Phase II “Addressing Groundwater Goals of the Missouri Regional Planning Area”.

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*The KWA RAC Operations Committee recommends KWA approval  
of the proposed resolution for the RAC message to the KWA from the Missouri RAC.*

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