Recent Successes in Kansas Water

By: Dawn Buehler, KWA Chair
Recent Successes in Kansas Water

Photo by: Lisa Grossman, Artist
Incremental Success should be celebrated:

- Kansas Water Plan Successes
- Funding Successes
- Boots on the Ground Successes
Kansas Water Plan

- Last updated in 2009, to be completed in 2022.
  - RAC goals and action plans
  - Extreme weather events

- Boots on the ground
  - 2019 launched Bathymetry and Storage Evaluation Program
  - Water Injection Dredging Pilot Progress
  - 15 streambank stabilization projects
  - Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative
  - Cover Crops!
  - Black Vermillion delisted for Total Suspended Solids Success Story
Funding for Water

- Steady increase since 2017 with $6.9M in 2021
- Gov budget statutory $8M; pay down debts
- Statehouse conversations successful and education is the key
- House Water Committee attention for water
- Kansans for Conservation
Boots on the Ground Successes – Are we moving the needle in Kansas? Partnerships are key.

- Ducks Unlimited, KDWP, WRAPS and City of Lawrence: Wetlands and water quality project at Clinton Reservoir
- The Nature Conservancy: Sustainable Rivers Program E-Flows and corporate partnerships for floodplain and oxbow reconnections
- Friends of the Kaw: Water quality project at Topeka with KDWP and City of Topeka as well as NatGeo project partnership with KACEE for water quality education
- Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams: Lower KS WRAPS, Middle KS WRAPS and Milford WRAPS successes
- KDWP: Invasive Species work on the Kansas River
- KDHE: Peer to peer education/outreach with EPA Grant.
- Corps of Engineers: Kansas River watershed study
Educating and advocating is crucial to future success.

• **Path to gain grassroots support:**
  • Educate, Advocate & Act
  • Your most important tool in your toolbox is your ability to communicate these issues and their urgency in your community.

• **You are the best experts on water in your communities. How can you use that knowledge to help your RAC area?**
  • Coordinate an outreach plan with your RAC members to go out into the community and discuss water.
  • Make a coordinated effort to talk to your legislators.
  • Hard look at action plans and find low hanging fruit – how can you further the conversation? Educate yourselves and others?
  • Continue to bring local issues to the RAC for discussion.
  • Continue to advocate on behalf of water in your community.
  • Celebrate successes!
Small progress, is still progress.

Thank you for all you do for water in Kansas! We are stronger when we work together.

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