Recent Successes in Kansas Water
By: Dawn Buehler, KWA Chair
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 Intiative
  • Cover Crops!
  • Black Vermillion delisted for Total Suspended Solids
Funding for Water

• Steady increase since 2017 with $6.9M in 2021

• Statehouse conversations successful and education is the key

• House Water Committee attention for water

• Kansans for Conservation
Boots on the Ground Successes

• 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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