



Recent Successes in Kansas Water

By: Dawn Buehler, KWA Chair





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



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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