

MEASURING SUCCESS WITH A REGIONAL APPROACH

Establishing goals will allow Kansans, by region, to define their future water needs and provide a benchmark for determining success. The road to setting the regional goals will include identification of regional goal leadership teams, facilitated public outreach and review by the Kansas Water Authority. Following is the proposed schedule and process for developing the regional goals of the Vision.

DEFINING REGIONAL PLANNING AREAS (NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2014)

Regional Planning Areas will be developed to represent the varied and unique water resource conditions that exist throughout the state. The map found on the following page represents draft Regional Planning Areas and is subject to further refinement based on public input.

The Regional Planning Areas were developed based on three criteria: regional hydrology, common issues and interests and existing regional water management entities.

The western planning areas are based first on the primary Ogallala Aquifer areas in Kansas recognizing that many of the activities and common interest follow county boundaries.

Issues in eastern Kansas are mainly surface water and reservoir related. As such, the draft Regional Planning areas are based on surface water hydrology as shown by watershed basins.

The central portion of the state is divided up on a combination watershed, county and groundwater management district boundaries. For the north central region, many of the primary issues surround either Bureau of Reclamation reservoir or surface and alluvial ground water management. The Equus Beds-Walnut Region combines both ground water and surface water and is based primarily around common interests and issues. The south central planning region has communities with similar issues and approaches.

Preliminary feedback on the proposed Regional Planning Areas collected during the 2014 Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas will be used to refine the areas. Final area boundaries may be refined during the full goal setting process.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL GOAL LEADERSHIP TEAMS (JANUARY 2015)

For each Regional Planning Area, up to an eleven-person Regional Goal Leadership Team will be identified to represent various water resource categories. A chair of each Regional Goal Leadership Team will be identified by the Kansas Water Authority. The role of the team is to participate in the public scoping process in their region, develop draft goals for their region based on public input and available resource condition information and present the draft goals to the Kansas Water Authority.

PUBLIC OUTREACH (*FEBRUARY – MARCH 2015*)

A minimum of one public outreach event will be hosted in each of the Regional Planning Areas. During each event, water resource conditions unique to the region will be shared by members of the Vision Team and Kansas Water Authority. A trained facilitator will be provided for each event to assist in the discussion and process towards developing potential regional goals. Each member of the five-person Regional Goal Leadership Team will attend the outreach events in their region to hear first-hand and participate in the discussion. Notes from each event will be posted on-line.

DEFINE REGIONAL GOALS AND PRESENT TO KWA (*APRIL – MAY 2015*)

Each Regional Goal Leadership Team will meet to review the feedback received during the public outreach events and develops draft goals for their regions. Teams will present the proposed draft regional goals to the Kansas Water Authority. The Kansas Water Authority will provide advice towards the further development of the regional goals.

PUBLIC COMMENT (*JUNE – JULY 2015*)

All draft regional goals and the corresponding Kansas Water Authority advice will be posted on-line for public comment for a minimum of 30 days.

INCORPORATE REGIONAL GOALS INTO VISION (*AUGUST 2015*)

The Kansas Water Authority will review feedback received during the public comment period and make decisions on the regional goals. Finalized regional goals will be incorporated into the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas.

PRESENT REGIONAL GOALS TO GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE (*NOVEMBER 2015 - JANUARY 2016*)

The final Regional Goals will be presented at the 2015 Governor's Water Conference and to the Governor and Kansas Legislature during the 2016 Legislative Session.

ANNUAL REVIEW (*BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2017*)

Following the first year of the goal setting process and annually thereafter, the Kansas Water Authority will evaluate progress towards meeting milestones and overall goals and will assess the need for further action. Annual public meetings will be held in each water resource planning region, highlighting the current ground water, surface water and water storage conditions. Additionally, progress towards achieving the goals will be assessed through the *Kansas Water Plan* every five years.

