PHASE I

1. Coordinate with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through tabletop exercises and workshops on a plan to improve operational efficiency of water supply reservoirs

2. Evaluate the level of minimum releases from Clinton, Pomona, Melvern and Hillsdale Reservoirs

3. Invest in research and development efforts of improving testing capabilities in reservoirs and rivers to allow a more advanced notice of potential water quality issues and coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in operation of the reservoirs to minimize conditions for algae blooms and avoid downstream impacts.

PHASE II

1. Assess the most suitable locations for the formation of additional Water Assurance Districts and/or Special Access Districts, in areas not currently served by Districts, to expand and improve coordination of the use of available supplies from Kansas reservoirs

2. Assist in the formation of special access districts and additional Water Assurance Districts, where appropriate and one does not already exist

3. Evaluate improved operational efficiencies at the state’s reservoir irrigation districts

4. Evaluate Minimum Desirable Streamflow (MDS) targets based on updated data and needs where determined that changes would improve water management

5. Modify target flows on the Kansas River to save water stored in Tuttle Creek, Milford and Perry Reservoirs

6. Reduce minimum releases and modify schedules at Clinton, Pomona, Melvern and Hillsdale Reservoirs to increase water supply yield
PHASE III

1. Change reservoir operations to bypass sediment during high-flow events while maintaining downstream water quality and flood control.

2. Evaluate appropriate level of drought risk at each reservoir and consider pros and cons of selectively increasing or decreasing risk at certain lakes.

OTHER REGIONS ACTION ITEMS

PHASE II

1. Develop background information necessary to assess future operation and management changes of the Kansas River basin reservoirs and their relationship to downstream surface water and ground water resources.
   - Evaluate alternative targets that meet downstream customer needs and perform comprehensive performance assessment of downstream Kansas River Water Assurance District customers’ intake at various river stages to ensure intakes have sufficient access to flow at alternative target flow.
   - Improve characterization of the Kansas River alluvial aquifer including installing and monitoring observation wells.
   - Develop a stream-aquifer model of the Kansas River alluvial aquifer from Junction City to the junction with the Missouri River to examine the effect of scenarios of future development and management on ground water and river water levels.
   - Evaluate potential effect of scenarios of future development and management on water quality conditions, recreation and wildlife and habitat.

IMPROVE INTERSTATE COOPERATION SO THAT KANSANS’ WATER NEEDS ARE MET AND PROTECTED

STATEWIDE ACTION ITEMS

PHASE I

1. Develop a long term strategy for representing Kansas in interstate water issues that best serves Kansas and its citizens.
   - Routinely coordinate interstate water issues within Kansas water agencies to ensure the state is best represented.
   - Improve opportunities for local stakeholders to engage in and provide input on interstate water issues.
• Host regularly scheduled public meetings to connect stakeholders with policy makers and those involved with advising and making interstate decisions

2. Ensure Kansas interstate water compacts are monitored and enforced and build upon existing working relationships with other compact states

3. Host a Governor’s Summit among the Ogallala Aquifer states to develop a regional vision with a focus on cooperative efforts and common goals across the states (Planning initiated in Phase I, to be held in Phase II)

4. Work with other states to address federal water related policy proposals that have negative impacts on the region

**PHASE II**

1. Develop additional agreements with other states to support interstate cooperation on water management

**RESERVOIR ACTION ITEMS**

**PHASE I**

1. Coordinate with other states that have federal reservoirs with water supply storage to influence national policy which supports local needs

**OTHER REGIONS ACTION ITEMS**

**PHASE I**

1. Host a Governor’s Summit between the Missouri River states to collaborate on river and reservoir management issues (Planning initiated in Phase I, to be held in Phase II)

**PHASE II**

1. Consider hosting a Governor’s level discussion with neighboring states targeted at developing viable solutions to interstate debates and common issues if needed

2. Consider the options for identifying existing funds to be earmarked for interstate litigation
INCREASE THE REGIONALIZATION OF WATER SUPPLY TO IMPROVE THE LONG-TERM WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY

STATEWIDE ACTION ITEMS

PHASE II

1. Conduct planning workshops to highlight successful case studies on development of regional water systems that provide examples of various approaches for implementation

2. Enhance public water supply planning assistance, including technical and engineering reviews of preliminary water supply proposals

3. Identify and recommend changes needed to state statutes and regulations that impede or prohibit regionalization and partnerships

4. Identify public water supplies with a single source of supply and, where appropriate, provide planning and financial assistance to develop secondary sources

5. Provide planning and financial assistance to water systems to facilitate interconnection opportunities among water supply systems to help address drought vulnerability

6. Require preliminary engineering reports to include regionalization alternatives when new water supplies are under consideration

7. Seek and promote opportunities for regional economic development and regional water supply planning to be developed based on water resource boundaries

8. Work with emergency and public water supply funding agencies to encourage proactive development of secondary sources by limiting or prohibiting funding for single source entities during an emergency

EVALUATE CHANGES TO THE KANSAS WATER APPROPRIATION ACT AND RULES AND REGULATIONS TO PROMOTE BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN EFFICIENT WATER USE AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT

STATEWIDE ACTION ITEMS

PHASE I

1. Develop a water right violation and enforcement process that is more transparent as well as consistent and is included in Rules and Regulations
   - Increase enforcement and implement more stringent fees and penalties for over pumping and other violations. This action will include a regulatory change with full comment period

2. Limit the movement of a point of diversion greater than 300 feet in areas where the source is ground water and resource is declining unless the applicant of the change application can demonstrate
hydrologic analysis or pump test results, that the new, proposed location does not adversely affect any current authorized nearby wells, including domestic wells. This change will include a regulatory change with full comment period.

3. Allow for the leasing of water rights to develop authority for the full beneficial use of the resource while protecting senior water rights.

4. Develop flexibility options for stockwater, municipal and industrial uses to improve management and evaluate current consumptive use regulations to ensure they are being applied properly.

PHASE II

1. Explore opportunities to establish Water Banks to promote trading of water amongst water right holders.
   - Create a model to run “mock banks” to test the banking concept for a specific geographic area.
   - Reduce barriers against and develop incentives for additional water bank creation.

2. Evaluate the water conservation potential and economic impacts of approving applications for reasonable quantity rather than maximum and eliminate perfection and certification process.

OTHER REGIONS ACTION ITEMS

PHASE I

1. Administratively close additional areas of the state to new appropriations where already fully allocated.

2. Propose legislation to modify Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) statute to allow roll forward of unused water when a water right holder re-enrolls into another five-year flex account.

3. Use the U.S. Geological Survey Model (USGS) to evaluate recharge values in Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 (GMD#2) to determine if areas are currently over appropriated and should be closed to new appropriations.
STATEWIDE ACTION ITEMS

PHASE I

1. Consider options for more effective organization of water related roles and responsibilities at the state agency level or identify ways to promote greater efficiency and continued collaboration between agencies within the current structure.

2. Develop stronger working relationships between local and state entities through improved communication, streamlined collaboration and realigned water cooperative strategies.

3. Improve customer service approach of the state’s water agencies by simplifying and streamlining processes and procedures to make them more customer friendly and easier to understand, prioritizing agency resources to better serve water right holders and other citizens, and utilizing stakeholder input to improve service activities.

PHASE II

1. Encourage discussions between local entities to evaluate local efforts and organizational structures.

2. When feasible, locate state employees at field offices or other locations where they are closer to those they serve and move processes to local offices.

3. Where possible synchronize permitting between agencies on specific projects.