

Comments of Allyn O. Lockner  
on the Draft Kansas Water Plan  
e-mailed to the Kansas Water Office on October 8, 2021

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Kansas Water Plan. Comments follow:

- I commend the Kansas Water Office (KWO) for using science and facts when explaining the challenges and features of water in Kansas. When water fictions and falsehoods exist, your work is vital to solving Kansas water problems!
- Page 11: “The Vision” reads more like a reality statement than a vision statement. An example of an overarching vision is “Water security for Kansans.” All water goals, actions, policies, programs, and projects focus for several years on how to make the vision the reality for Kansans.
- Page 12: The graph is hard to read. The scale colors are not vivid. It is difficult to match the scale with the graph. The scale is cutoff when printing the page.
- Page 13 (second paragraph): I recommend the Kansas Water Authority request the Kansas Governor and Legislature to appropriate for Fiscal Year 2023 \$80 million not appropriated for years from the State General Fund to the Kansas Water Plan Fund (KWPF). Also, add \$6 from State General Fund in current for Fiscal Year 2023 which when combined with \$2 from Economic Development Initiative Fund (EDIF), for a total of \$88 million. Revenue pressures on the State General Fund from other state agencies are less due to federal revenues it received to combat CO-VID and other federal programs. Receiving these revenues may increase favorable decisions by the Legislature and Governor for appropriating \$88 million.
- I recommend the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) design and obtain Kansas voter support for a statewide strategy to obtain dedicated, adequate, stable, and long-term revenues for undertaking vital, large and programs and projects contained in the KWP. KWA strategy would collaborate with the fifth Guiding Principle “Increase Awareness of Kansas Water Resources.”
- Until there is an increase in revenues for the KWP as discussed above, I recommend that the existing limited revenues for the KWP focus on water quantity conservation and water quality protection by all water users. If and when more revenues become available for KWP, increase the focus to the vital, large, and costly water programs and projects.
- Kansans live in urban, suburban, and exurban areas of the state. A significant percentage live in urban and suburban areas, and that is where the majority of votes are. These Kansans and their legislators vote for or against revenues of the KWP and they receive benefits from and pay costs of the KWP. KWP coverage of water conservation in urban and suburban areas its less than water conservation in the exurban (agricultural) areas. An example is wastewater treatment, storage, recycling, and reuse as drinking water and sanitation. The inclusion of urban and suburban preferences while maintaining exurban preferences would strengthen the KWP.

- Taken together, what is the meaning of the (statewide,?) long-range goals (and objectives?) on page 14 (KSA 82a-927), the five “Guiding Principles” on pages 16-76, and the prioritized regional goals and action steps (or action plans?) on pages 77-281?

What happens after the KWA reviews and revises the draft KWP, and approves the final KWP? A section that shows how the network of Kansas officials and agencies, and federal agencies interact to set and achieve water goals would strengthen the final KWP. An example follows.

The Kansas Water Plan (KWP) becomes a dynamic document when the network of elected and appointed officials and agencies in Kansas and federal agencies act and interact as follows:

1. Legislature establishes in Kansas Statutes Annotated (KSA) the Kansas Water Office (KWO) that writes five guiding principles which are the basis for in formulating and implementing best practices to meet current and future Kansas water needs.
2. Legislature meets current and future needs by enacting long-range state water goals and objectives in KSA.
3. Legislature establishes in KSA the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) which receives water problem and policy advice and support from KWO.
4. KWA approves KSA-authorized fourteen regional advisory committees (RACs) that adopt prioritized regional water goals and action steps which KWA reviews and approves.
5. State Executive water agencies (list?) formulate and implement best practices to solve current and prevent expected Kansas water problems specified in the KWP.
6. KWO, RACs and state Executive water agencies advise KWA on water problems and policies, and the availability of state and federal revenues.
7. KWA discusses priorities of water programs and projects in the KWP and advises the Legislature and Executive (Governor) on the amount of revenue appropriated to or designated for KWP for upcoming two fiscal years and how to spend KWP revenues.
8. Governor as chief Executive reviews KWA recommendations and recommends revenues for KWP to the Legislature.
9. Legislature reviews and appropriates or approves revenues which KWP spends for purposes approved by the Legislature.
10. KWO, state Executive water agencies, and RACs spend KWP revenues appropriated or approved by Legislature.
11. KWO, state Executive water agencies, RACs, and federal agencies (list?) interact during the conduct of water programs and projects receiving revenues from Legislature and federal agencies.
12. The network of officials and agencies repeats the above actions and interactions annually.

By showing the above actions and interactions in the final KWP, more KWP users and others would better know what elected and appointed officials and agencies do about setting and achieving goals that solve existing and prevent expected Kansas water problems.

Please contact me if you have comments or questions.

