

COMMENTS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL ON 10/14/2021 BY BILL HEATHERMAN

Dear Kansas Water Office,

Thank you for sharing the Kansas Water Plan for Public Comment.

The plan clearly reflect the collaboration and hard work of many citizens and agencies & institutions in Kansas, along with dedicated input and program work that he KWO staff.

The 5 Guiding Principles seem to really sum up the priorities for us to work on in the state. For the Manhattan and upper Kansas region, sedimentation of reservoirs has been a long concern, and we are aware of the pilot projects that have already been undertaken. It was excellent forethought in the 1950s and 1960s when Kansas purchased water supply rights as part of the Corps of Engineer's reservoir construction, and with good forethought and planning now we can conserve that resource for future generations.

Statewide, there are many other unique and special issues. Maintenance of the High Plains Aquifer is one that Kansans have fretted and talked about for decades. Work that is being done to build science-based regional solutions to water usage and conservation and build support for those measures seems well-advised. The Aquifer is vital to the state. Kansas State University is a cornerstone of agricultural science and practice in Kansas and what concerns farm families in western Kansas is near to our concerns also.

It is encouraging to see the emphasis given in the plan to natural systems and to incorporating more robust respect and appreciation for the need to work within our natural systems. The work that KWO, KDHE, KDA and others have done on the upper Cheney Lake watershed have garnered statewide attention, especially in agricultural circles, and I think you are on to something with the soil-health/water conservation relationship.

Lastly, there may be opportunities for even more collaboration between KWO and the associated regional action committees and the NPDES MS4 regulated municipalities in Kansas. Many of these same concerns about protection of water resources fit well within the MS4 framework.

Well done on the water plan, and wishing all the partners continued success in implementation.

**Bill Heatherman, P.E.**

**Manhattan**