

October 8, 2021

The Kansas Water Office  
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404  
Topeka, KS 66611-1249

**RE: KANSAS WATER PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dear Kansas Water Authority,

We are writing today to offer comments for the proposed 5-year update of the Kansas Water Plan. State Aid to Conservation Districts has been questioned repeatedly the last few years. For conservation districts it is easy to connect the pieces... no state aid = no district employee and therefore, no program implementation. All the programs that conservation districts manage and assist with related to the areas of water quality, water education, reservoir water supply and sedimentation; and groundwater initiatives serve as a reminder of why we need full funding from the Kansas Water Plan. Without State Aid, conservation districts would face dire situations impacting the programs and all we accomplish across the state with this extremely critical funding.

Ultimately this would impact the programs established through the Kansas Water Plan to address water quality, water education, reservoir water supply and sedimentation; and groundwater issues that are directly administered by the conservation districts.

Conservation districts have a proven track record of success in Kansas, with some districts having over 80 years of grass-roots leadership in soil and water conservation. Conservation districts are often looked to in Kansas, and across the nation, for the ability to offer boots on the ground service in every county. No other state organization or agency has this kind of network in place with staff ready and willing to answer the call to conserve our natural resources for the future and support the taxpayers who utilize our programs.

Sincerely,

THE COWLEY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD

Jim McClung Rick Cowlshaw Marvin Duncan Joy Branscum Justin Spielman

