

Word From The Street - Farewell



Tracy Streeter

As I spend my last few days cleaning out my office and contemplating my next move, I was reminded it was time to send out the KWO newsletter and write my final column. I really don't have any profound parting shots to share with you but I do want to say THANK YOU! Over the past month since announcing my upcoming

retirement, I received a number of congratulatory emails, cards and kind words bestowed upon me. While I very much appreciate those expressions of appreciation, I feel some embarrassment in the fact that accomplishments are rarely achieved alone. That is certainly the case with me and as such, I have some people to thank.

Let me first start by thanking my wife and family. To do this job required many nights away from home which required Denise to take care of everything in my absence. I'm very proud of Mitchell and Morgan and Denise deserves much of the credit for the outstanding adults they've become.

Next, I want to send a huge thank you to my current and former colleagues at the Water Office. What a great team of dedicated, caring individuals I had the

privilege to work with. I'm constantly amazed what this small agency has accomplished with this group of selfless public servants.

That said, the KWO cannot accomplish its' objectives without the help of a myriad of local, state and federal partners. Thank you for your willingness to leverage resources and collaborate on water projects throughout this state.

We cannot accomplish anything whether in the public or private sector, without resources. Thank you to the elected officials at all levels for recognizing the importance of water, appropriating the funds and adopting the policies to better address our water needs.

And finally, I want to thank our huge network of Regional Advisory Committees, Kansas Water Authority and local government board members that are giving of their precious time, with little or no compensation, to advocate for and implement the actions necessary to ensure Kansas has a long-term, reliable water supply. I have been blessed to work with so many who are living our Vision and *"acting on a shared commitment to have the water resources necessary to support the state's social, economic and natural resource needs for current and future generations."*

Federal – Kansas River Basin Study Approved

As part of its FY 2019 Work Plan, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently announced authorization of \$1.5 million in federal funds for the "Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study". It is anticipated that the study will be completed over five years, with total funding of \$3 million and a required 25 percent non-federal/sponsor cost share.

The overall purpose of the study is to cooperatively investigate water resource problems and opportunities in the Kansas River Basin, and to recommend

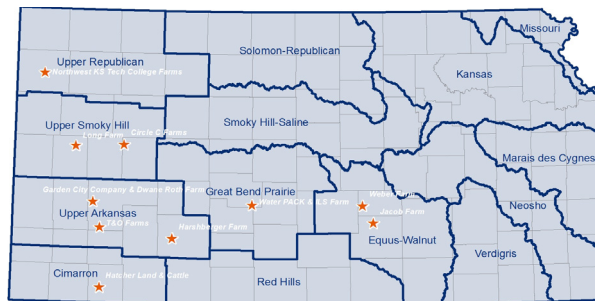
comprehensive long term solutions. Previous discussions regarding the general scope of study have included the evaluation of the Kansas River Basin system operating plan, lake operations and manuals, lake facilities and features, conditions upstream and downstream of the lakes, infrastructure, and other related needs in the system.

Next steps include the execution of a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) and the development of a Project Management Plan.

Water Tech Farms Update and Selection Process

Water Technology Farms have given producers the opportunity to demonstrate and determine if the advances in irrigation technology work better in the field at little to no cost to the land owners. This program allows for products such as mobile drip irrigation (MDI), soil moisture probes, and various more-efficient sprinkler nozzles to be tested and purchased by vendors and state agencies that support the technology. While not putting the landowner at risk to spending large amounts of money to test a product that may not work with his or her operations.

Water Technology Farms have come a long way since the program began in 2016. To date, there are 10 established Water Technology Farms and more are being requested across Kansas. In 2018, four more tech farms were established that included Long Farm in Wichita County, Harshberger Farm in Ford County, Weber Farm in Harvey County, and Jacob Farm in Sedgwick County.



Three farms are on their third and final year of the initial agreement (T&O, Circle C, and WaterPACK & ILS) but KWO is working with these producers to continue operations in order to get more data over a long term evaluation period.

For a producer to be considered for establishing a Water Technology Farm they should speak with a KWO employee to discuss goals and options. Establishing tech farms is determined on a year to year basis with funding available, but priority shall be given to land that has been enrolled in conservation programs, have met the December 1 deadline.

More information on Water Technology Farms can be found at <https://kwo.ks.gov/projects/water-technology-farms>

Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative

Protection of Kansas reservoirs which serve as water supply to municipal and industrial customers is a priority identified within the Vision and regional goal actions plans where they are located. Key to this overall reservoir protection effort is implementation of conservation practices which reduce sediment and nutrient run-off at the field, ultimately leading to decreased reservoir sedimentation rates. Recently, the State of Kansas took action to provide producers within select reservoir watersheds additional financial assistance to implement conservation practices to reduce the sediment available for deposition within four federal reservoirs: Tuttle Creek Lake, Fall River Lake, John Redmond Reservoir and Kanopolis Lake.

The 2018 Legislature included, as part of the \$3.25 million restoration of the State Water Plan Fund, \$900,000 of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019 funding for watershed conservation practice implementation. The KWO along with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas

Department of Agriculture – Division of Conservation (KDA-DOC) developed the programmatic framework for what became Year 1 of the Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative. Priority sub-watersheds within the Tuttle Creek Lake *(continued on page 3)*



Lt. Governor Mann and Andy Lyons, KDHE looking at turnips used for a cover crop

Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative Continued

(Kansas Region), Fall River Lake (Verdigris Region), John Redmond Reservoir (Neosho Region), and Kanopolis Lake (Smoky Hill-Saline Region) watersheds were the focus of conservation practice efforts associated with this funding. Representatives from each of the four RACs located in these targeted areas participated in the evaluation of applications and provided funding recommendations on eligible applications based on the estimated sediment reduction per dollar invested.

It is currently estimated that from 100 applications awarded funding from the initial signup period, more than 33,000 tons of sediment could be prevented from eroding on nearly 22,000 acres per year.



Producers shared different practices to help with field runoff on a recent tour near Axtell, KS with KWO and Lt. Gov. Mann

Milford RCPP Underway

Nearly 30 partners joined Lt. Governor Tracey Mann, KWO Director Tracy Streeter, and National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) State Conservationist Karen Woodrich to sign the Milford Lake Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project agreement during the Governor's Water Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas. This signified the beginning of public outreach events associated with Year One of the Milford Lake Watershed RCPP Project.

For more than a year KWO has engaged with NRCS and a partnership team including state government agencies, cities and public water suppliers, agricultural commodity groups and organizations, county conservation districts, non-profit organizations, and

businesses surrounding Milford Lake to develop the framework for a RCPP project. This project will provide additional financial assistance to producers to adopt conservation practices which reduce nutrient runoff within the Milford Lake watershed by 31,000 pounds per year, helping to reduce the nutrients available for the formation of harmful algal blooms within Milford Lake.

In November project planning efforts were able to proceed to implementation stage with the beginning of the application ranking period for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding which NRCS has made available for project efforts for the first application signup period. These application ranking cutoff dates are December 21, 2018 and March 15, 2019.

Project partner Kansas Farm Bureau, with support of two other partners - Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Soybean Commission - recently hosted a series of producer outreach events in Clay Center, Belleville and Randall. At these events, Kansas Farm Bureau, KWO and NRCS staff shared details of the project with interested producers.

For more information on the Milford Lake Watershed RCPP Project please visit www.kwo.ks.gov/projects/milford-rcpp and www.milfordwatershed.org



The ceremonial signing took place at the Governor's Water Conference



THE WATERFRONT CALENDAR

For comments or questions on
The WaterFront please contact
Katie Patterson-Ingels at
Katie.Ingels@kwo.ks.gov

Kansas Water Office
900 SW Jackson, Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: 785-296-3185
www.kwo.ks.gov



December

17-Solomon-Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, Downs, KS
19 Kansas Water Authority Meeting, Wichita, KS

January

8-Winter Water Technology Expo, Dodge City, KS
14-Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, Topeka, KS
23-Upper Republican & Upper Smoky Hill Joint RAC Meeting, TBD, KS
30-31 Kansas Water Authority Meeting, Topeka, KS

February

15-Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, TBD, KS
22- Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, TBD, KS

WINTER WATER TECHNOLOGY EXPO

WHEN/ January 8, 2019 4-8 PM

WHERE/ Boot Hill Conference Center
Dodge City, Kansas

4100 W Comanche St. Dodge City, KS
67801

For more information and to RSVP visit
<https://wwtexpo.wixsite.com/2019>