

Kansas Water Office Planning Overview

Interstate Council on Water Policy
Water Planning Committee
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Matt Unruh
Chief of Policy & Communications
Kansas Water Office
Topeka, Kansas



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

About the Kansas Water Office

The Kansas Water Office (KWO) was established in 1981 as the water planning, policy, coordination and marketing agency for the state.

The primary statutory function of the agency is the development and implementation of the Kansas Water Plan. State law requires the Kansas Water Office to "Formulate on a continuing basis a comprehensive State Water Plan for the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state". KWO in coordination with the KWA, also reviews all water laws and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for needed legislation to ensure water policies and programs address the needs of all Kansans.

Kansas Water Office Primary Responsibilities

As defined in Kansas Statute 74-2608

- Collect and compile information pertaining to climate, water and soil as related to the usage of water for agricultural, industrial and municipal purposes and the availability of water supplies in the several watersheds of the state;
- Develop a state plan of water resources management, conservation and development for water planning areas;
- Develop and maintain guidelines for water conservation plans and practices; and
- Shall establish guidelines as to when conditions indicative of drought exist.



WATER PLANNING IN KANSAS: THE KANSAS WATER PLAN

- KWO, in coordination with local, state, federal and interstate partners, updates the Kansas Water Plan (KWP) on a general 5-year update cycle.
- KWP one of the primary tools used by the State of Kansas to address current water resources issues and to plan for future needs.
- Statutory authority and basic guidance for formulating the Kansas Water Plan is contained in the State Water Resources Planning Act.

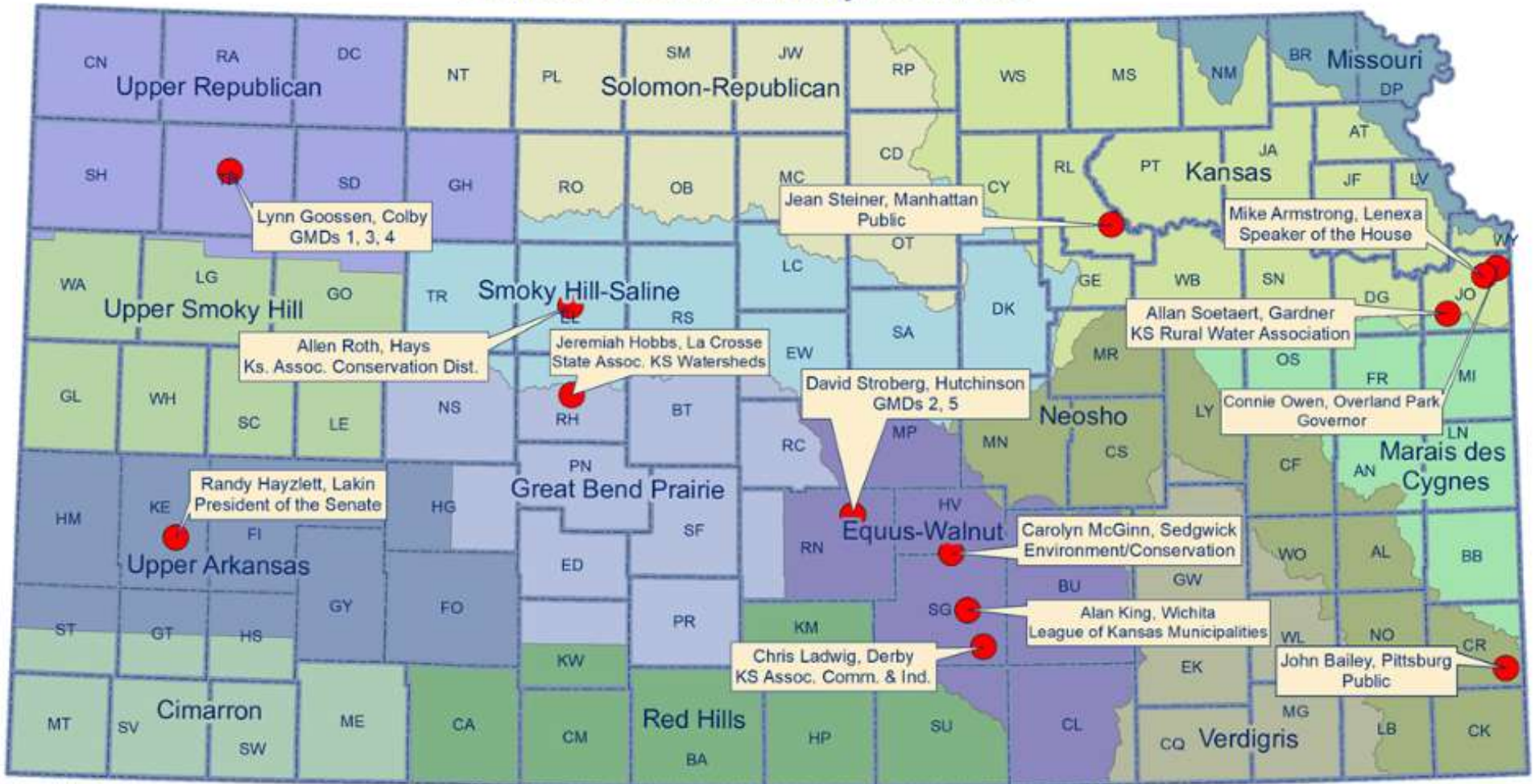


STAKEHOLDER INPUT IN WATER PLANNING PROCESS IN KANSAS

- Kansas Water Authority:
 - Provides leadership/oversight to ensure that water policies and programs address needs of all Kansans.
 - Responsible for advising Governor, Legislature and KWO Director on water policy issues and for approving the KWP, federal contracts, administration regulations and legislation proposed by the KWO.
 - 13 voting members appointed by Gov. & Legislature
 - 11 Ex officio members



Kansas Water Authority Members



Kansas Water Office

Kansas Water Authority Ex Officio Members

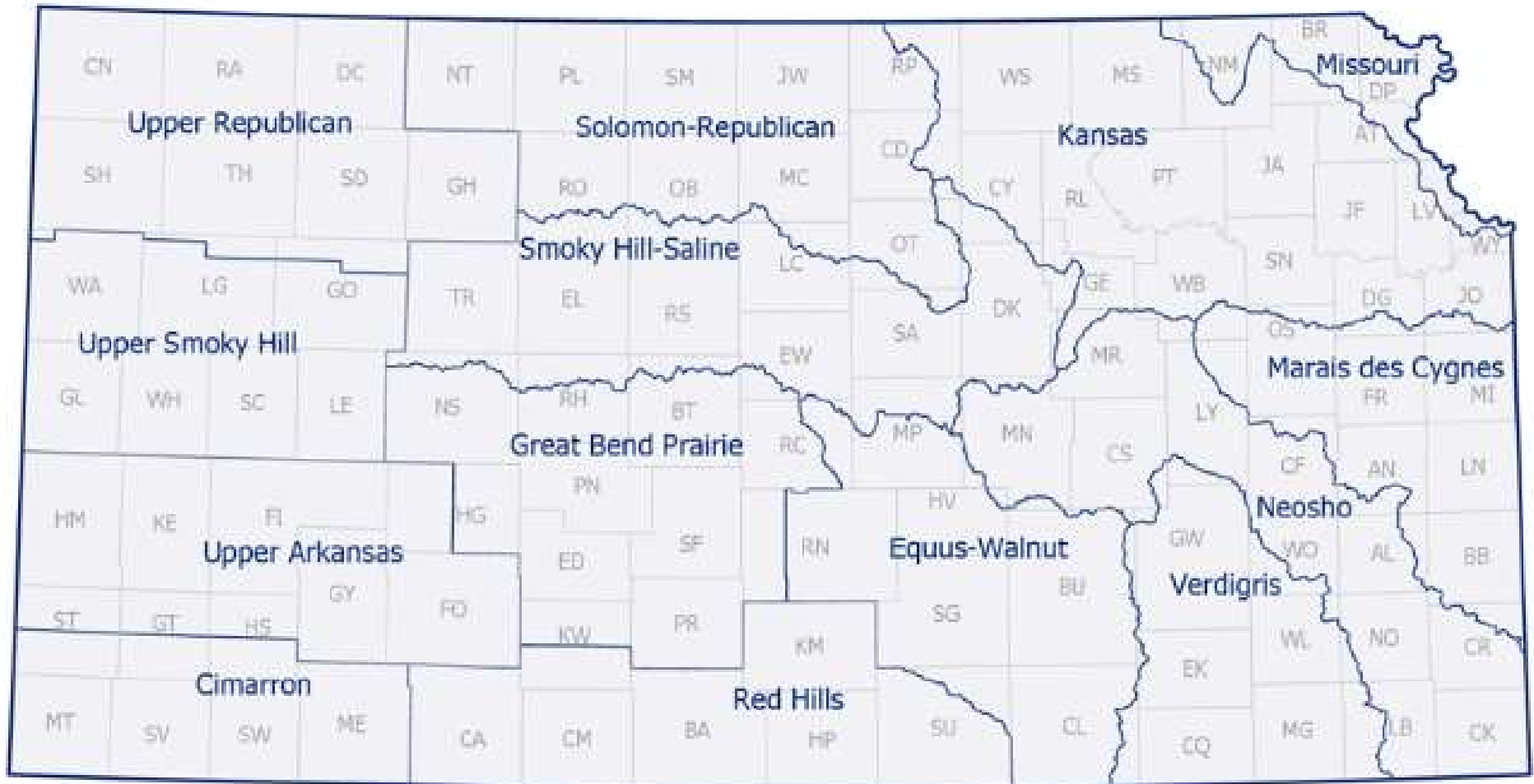
Chris Beightel Division of Water Resources KS Dept. of Agriculture	Ernie Minton Ag Experiment Station KS State University	Scott Carlson Division of Conservation KS Dept. of Agriculture	Leo Henning KS Dept. of Health & Environment
Brad Loveless KS Dept. Wildlife, Parks & Tourism	David Toland KS Dept. of Commerce	Sara Baer KS Biological Survey	Rolfe Mandel KS Geological Survey
Mike Beam KS Dept. of Agriculture	Earl Lewis KS Water Office	Susan Duffy KS Corporation Commission	

STAKEHOLDER INPUT IN WATER PLANNING PROCESS IN KANSAS

- Regional Advisory Committees:
 - Established in December 2014 by KWA in conjunction with the Long Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas (Vision).
 - Advise KWO & KWA on water resource issues within respective regions, development and implementation of KWP, and serve as link to public/groups/organizations at local level



REGIONAL PLANNING AREAS



LONG TERM VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF WATER SUPPLY IN KANSAS (VISION)

- October 2013, then Gov. Brownback issued call to action to develop a 50-Year Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas
- If no action taken:
 - Ogallala Aquifer within Kansas will be 70% depleted
 - Federal reservoirs will be 40% filled with sediment
- October 2013 through October 2016, Vision developed through a series of public input meetings across Kansas and regional goals and action plans developed



VISION/KWP INTEGRATION

- Approaching 5-year mark since completion of Vision
- Last piece of Vision development process:
 - Incorporating Vision Action Items into KWP to formalize the statutory process outline in State Water Resources Planning Act
- Currently engaging with RACs on review/revision of regional goals/action plans.
 - Increased water quality component
- Early 2021: process complete and KWP updated



CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION FOCUS

- Conserving and Extending the life of the High Plains Aquifer
- Securing, Protecting and Restoring Kansas Reservoirs
- Improving State's Water Quality
- Reducing Vulnerability to Extreme Events



Water Technology Farms

Water Technology Farms are three year pilot public-private partnerships where irrigation technology is demonstrated, related research is conducted on the field scale, and water conservation is supported. New irrigation technologies, management techniques, and cropping patterns can be tested on a larger scale on these farms. These public-private partnerships involve numerous agriculture vendors, agronomists, colleges and technical schools as well as other state agencies. The Water Tech Farm program has also provided an opportunity for agronomy research to be conducted by Kansas State Research and Extension.

The Water Technology Farm concept is a Phase II action item from the Ogallala-High Plains Aquifer section of the *Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas*. These farms have been valuable in expanding the conversation and education of producers and decision makers on water conservation in areas primarily overlying the depleting Ogallala Aquifer.

For producers interested in the Water Technology Farm program and the opportunity to apply for funding for the following year, please contact the Kansas Water Office by November 15. Funding is limited and farms currently enrolled in a conservation program, such as a Water Conservation Area (WCA), Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) or other documented program will be given priority. Access to land as well as annual crop and harvest data records will be required throughout the term of the Water Technology Farm agreement. This data will be shared in report each year.



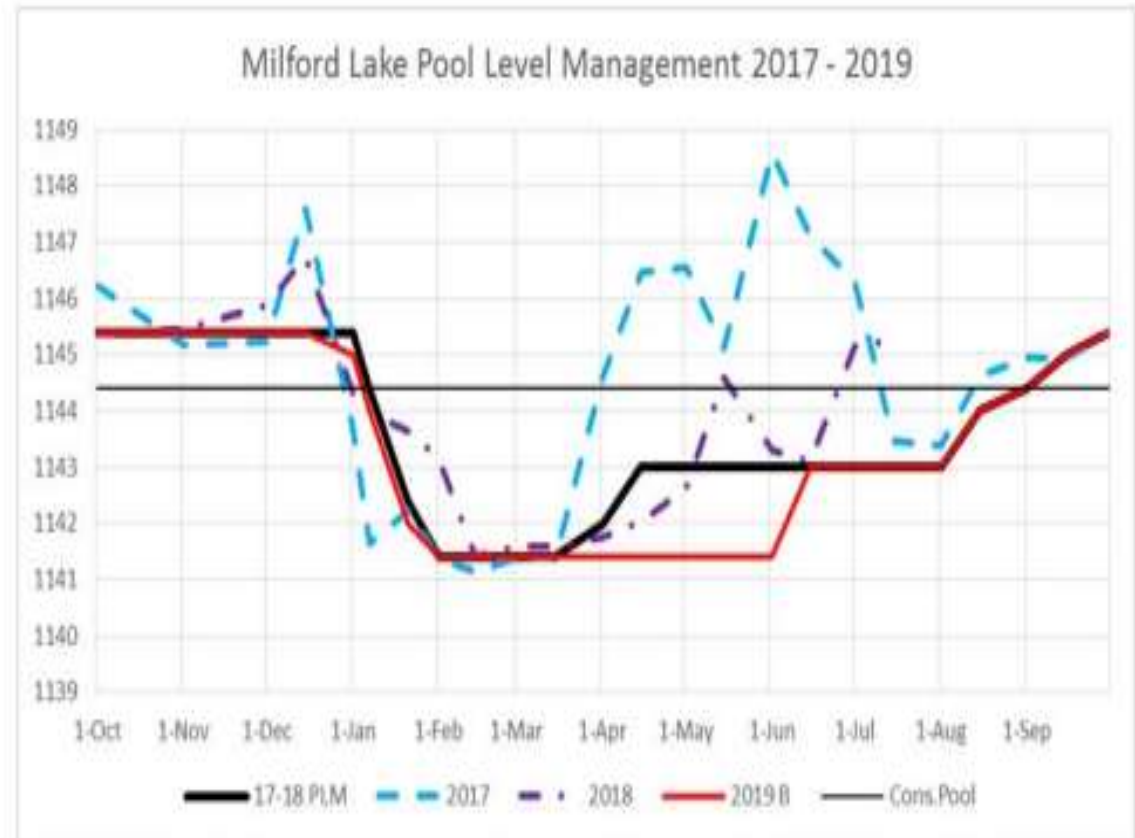
HAB Mitigation Strategies: CY2019 HAB Pilot in Kansas

Milford Lake

- Drawdown
- Vegetation
- Peroxide based algaecide
- Ultrasound
- Fish removal

Marion Lake

- Supplemental vegetation
- Peroxide based spot treatment
- Ultrasound
- Phosphorus binding feasibility study



KANSAS RESERVOIR PROTECTION INITIATIVE

Purpose

Protect water supply storage and improve water quality in reservoirs across Kansas that provide water to municipal and industrial customers. This will be done through implementation of watershed BMPs within Vision priority watersheds. These are individual or a combination of practices that are determined to be the most effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of controlling point and non-point sources of pollution at levels compatible with resource and economic goals. BMPs which can be utilized to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff in watersheds above water supply sources in Kansas include but are not limited to terraces, grassed waterways, and buffer strips. Water storage is being diminished over time due to reservoir sedimentation. Water quality is being impacted by nutrient runoff, potentially resulting in harmful algae blooms, taste and odor issues with drinking water, and impacts to recreation in Kansas.

Eligible Areas

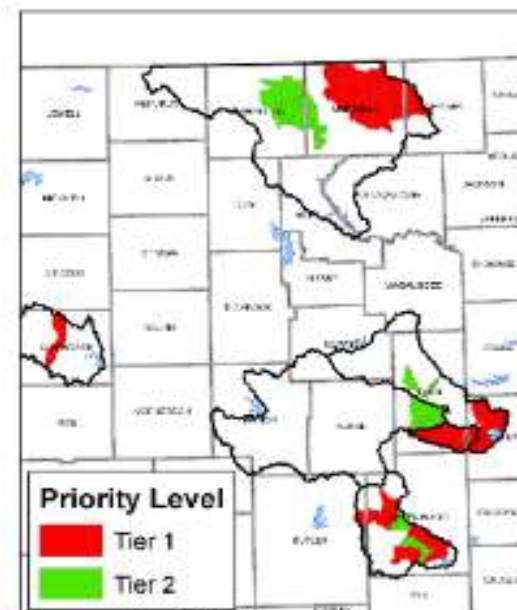
BMP implementation will be targeted in areas identified by using the most currently available assessment information that has been determined to yield the highest sediment reductions as well as have the highest impact on sediment inflows into these four reservoirs. See the map for targeted areas included within the [Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative](#) for SFY 2020.

Contacts

Landowners in eligible watersheds interested in participating in the Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative can contact their respective County Conservation District or local Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Project Coordinator. Please see the table below for contact information. For other inquiries regarding the Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative, please contact the Kansas Water Office at 785-296-3185 or by email at kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov.

[Conservation Districts & Local WRAPS Project Contacts](#)

Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative





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Kansas Water is Safe

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to develop and reports of bottled water shortages make headlines, the Kansas Water Office and Kansas Department of Health and Environment want to remind Kansans the drinking water provided by our public water supply systems is free of viruses and other pathogens.

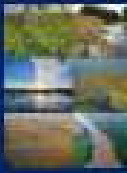
Read More

In accordance with Governor Kelly's Executive Order 20-29 and Phase 1 re-opening guidance, KWO continues operations in a telework capacity. To contact the office, please email kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov or call 785-228-3185 (toll free 1-888-828-0282) and KWO staff will answer if available and respond as soon as possible.



Water Technology Farms

15 new farms have now been established in Kansas focusing on water conservation and better management practices.



State of the Resources

These reports are intended to provide a background of regional issues and record the progress towards regional goals and the Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas.



Milford Lake RCPP

The Milford Lake RCPP Project seeks to address recurring HABs within the Lake. More info is available on the project website.

Connect with Us



Twitter feed snippet from @kwateroffice: The Kansas Water Office invites professional researchers, and citizens to submit abstracts for presentation at the 5th annual Governor's Water Conference. Deadline for submission is Wednesday.

News & Events

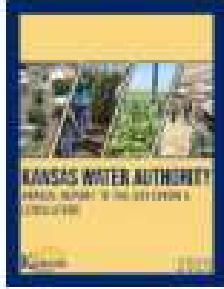


Click on the Calendar to see our upcoming events

Governor Appoints Roth, Hays, to the Kansas Water Authority

Full story

Quick Links



2020 Annual Report to the Governor & Legislature

KWO Website kwo.ks.gov



Thank You!

Matt Unruh

Kansas Water Office

matt.unruh@kwo.ks.gov

