

## Minutes

### KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY In-Person Meeting

August 17, 2022

Manhattan, KS

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Dawn Buehler called the **August 17, 2022**, Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting held in-person to order at **09:04 a.m.**
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dawn Buehler, Michael Armstrong, John Bailey, Lynn Goossen, Randy Hayzlett, Jeremiah Hobbs, Carolyn McGinn, Allen Roth, Allan Soetaert, Jean Steiner, David Stroberg
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alan King
- EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ryan Hoffman, Earl Lewis, Jay Kalbas, Susan Metzger, Steve Adams, Leo Henning, Mike Beam, Andrew Lyon, Kayla Savage, Connie Owen, Jude Kastens
- EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** All present
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
**Motion No. 08-17-01** It was moved by Allan Soetaert and seconded by Allen Roth to approve the June 22, 2022, Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority with a correction to the Arkansas River Water Quality Summit's name. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.
- KWA PWS COMMITTEE:**  
John Bailey & Nathan Westrup gave a presentation for the Public Water Supply (PWS) Committee and what goes into considering Water Purchasing Contracts.
- Water Purchasing Contract 22-1*  
**Motion No. 08-17-02** It was moved by John Bailey and seconded by Lynn Goossen to approve Water Purchasing Contract 22-1 with the City of Independence. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.
- Nathan Westrup then presented on the Water Marking Program's Comprehensive Capital Development plan.
- Dawn Buehler opened the floor for discussion. Comment was made that the Comprehensive Capital Development plan is intended to be in place for the CY24 rate discussions.
- Jay Kalbas introduced himself to the Kansas Water Authority as the new Director of the Kansas Geological Survey.
- KANSAS WATER PLAN:** Connie Owen started the discussion on the Kansas Water Plan. Reminded the room that approval of the Kansas Water Plan was subject to editorial edits. Connie then opened the floor for discussion.

Items that were discussed:

- Adding wording to the document that recommends accountability. A

formal process will be initiated to create specific targets, metrics and goals to implement recommendations in this section through a collaborative process through state agencies, regional advisory committees, local stakeholders, and the Kansas Water Office.

- Adding Bill Golden's work in the Aquifer guiding principles. Adding wording that talks more specially about professor Golden's work.
- Making a section that talks about incentives of using less water from the aquifer
- Adding chemicals specific to water producers to the either the surface water or water quality sections - Leo Henning to provide wording
- Being more direct and firm about funding issues
- Adding the Equus Beds to the Aquifer section
- Adjusting wording for the Aquifer section. Reservoir section is listed as "Conserve, protect, and restore reservoirs." Should we change the Aquifer Section to something similar?
- Adjustment of wording or creation of a committee to consider sustainability as part of the guiding principals in addressing the conservation of the High Plains Aquifer.
- Working on more practices that reduce sediment - as dredging is a short-term solution. If all we do is dredge will the supply be able to keep pace with the population growth?
- Kansas Corporation Commission opportunities to provide remediation support of the salt bloom in the Equus Beds.
- Making it more explicit that this is in fact a planning document and not an implementation document.
- Encouraging legislation to make conservation plans a requirement for all municipal water suppliers

#### *Approval of the 2022 Kansas Water Plan*

#### **Motion 08-17-03**

It was moved by **Jean Steiner** and seconded by **Jeremiah Hobbs** to approve the 2022 Kansas Water Plan subject to editorial changes and with the addition the following items. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

1. Add as a recommendation to the guiding principles:
  - a. "A formal process will be initiated to create specific targets, metrics and goals to implement recommendations in this section through a collaborative process involving state agencies, regional advisory committees, local stakeholders, groundwater management districts, and the Kansas Water Authority"
  - b. "The Kansas Water Authority shall create a committee to consider sustainability as part of the Guiding Principle addressing the Ogallala Aquifer."
  - c. "Educate producers on the increased profitability that can be achieved through reduced groundwater usage, as documented in Professor Bill Golden's economic analyses."
2. Add a reference to Professor Bill Golden's research.
3. Add the following language to the Water Quality Section:
  - a. "Nitrates, phosphorus. Atrazine, bromides, uranium, chlorides, and other contaminates are impacting surface water quality. The Kansas



Water plan will continue to promote activities and fining to address and reduce the impacts to surface water quality.”

#### **KWA BUDGET COMMITTEE:**

Michael Armstrong presented on the FY 2024 budget. Then, Matt Unruh presented on the FY 2024 State Water Plan Fund budget.

Dawn Buehler opened the floor for discussion. Discussion was had about every agency's enhancements.

#### *FY 24 State Water Plan Fund Budget*

##### **Motion 08-17-04**

It was moved by Michael Armstrong and seconded by Carolyn McGinn to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 State Water Plan Fund Budget recommendations.

**Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

#### **KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY MEETING ON WATER POLICY DISCUSSION:**

Dawn Buehler spoke about the August 10, 2022, Kansas Water Authority special meeting on water policy. She then opened the floor for discussion. Items that were discussed included:

- Coming up with three primary policy/position talking points for KWA legislative visits during the 2023 Legislative Session.
- Review of current water funding/fee statutes to see if they need to be adjusted to reflect updated funding.

Matt Unruh then presented a draft letter of support for salary increases for professional State employees to send to the Governor and Legislators that was discussed at the June 22, 2022, Kansas Water Authority Meeting. The KWA discussed and provided edits to the draft letter.

#### *Support for Salary Increase for Professional State Employees*

##### **Motion 8-17-05**

It was moved by Allen Roth and seconded by Lynn Goossen to approve the edited Letter of Support for Salary Increases for Professional State Employees and to send it to the whole Kansas Legislature as well as the Governor's Office. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes. Carolyn McGinn abstained from the vote.** Information found in meeting materials.

#### **KANSAS WATER SUCCESS STORY:**

Chris Steffen gave a presentation on a Kansas Water Success Story. He presented on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) and what Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is doing to combat and stop the spread of these species in all bodies of water in Kansas.

**KANSAS WRAPS UPDATE:** Travis Sieve from Kansas Department of Health and Environment gave an update on the Watershed Restoration Protection Strategy (WRAPS).

**AGENCY UPDATES:** Ryan Hoffman gave update from the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Kayla Savage gave update from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

**Steve Adams** gave an update from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

**Earl Lewis** gave an update for the Division of Water Resources.

**Andy Lyon** gave an update for the Department of Conservation. He also introduced Rod Vorhees, the Chairperson of the State Conservation Commission.

**Leo Henning** gave an update for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

**Mike Beam** gave an update for the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

**Jay Kalbas** gave an update for the Kansas Geological Survey.

**Jude Kasten** gave an update for the Kansas Biological Survey.

**DIRECTORS REPORT:** **Connie Owen** gave a Director's Report from the Kansas Water Office.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Dawn Buehler** reminded everyone that the next Kansas Water Authority meeting will take place on October 19, 2022, near Wichita, Kansas. At that meeting the KWA will set the 2023 meeting dates.

**ADJOURNMENT:** **Dawn Buehler** adjourned the meeting at **4:04 p.m.**



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Dawn Buehler, Chair



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Connie Owen, Secretary