

## Minutes

### KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY In-Person Meeting

October 19, 2022

Sedgwick, KS

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Dawn Buehler called the **October 19, 2022**, Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting held in-person to order at **09:09 a.m.**
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dawn Buehler, Michael Armstrong, John Bailey, Randy Hayzlett, Jeremiah Hobbs, Pete Loecke, Carolyn McGinn, Jean Steiner, David Stroberg
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lynn Goossen, Alan King, Allen Roth, Allan Soetaert
- EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Bollenback, Earl Lewis, Jay Kalbas, Susan Metzger, John Beckman, Sara Baer, Tom Stiles, Andrew Lyon, Kayla Savage, Connie Owen,
- EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Beam
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
- Motion No. 10-19-01** It was moved by David Stroberg and seconded by Randy Hayzlett to approve the August 10, 2022, Minutes for the Special Meeting on Water Policy Discussion & August 17, 2022, Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Kansas Water Authority **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. Dawn Buehler opened the floor for questions and comments. Variable Rates were discussed.
- Water Purchasing Contract 17-2*
- Motion No. 10-19-02** It was moved by Jeremiah Hobbs and seconded by Mike Armstrong to approve the amendment for Water Purchasing Contract 17-2 with Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.
- Nathan Westrup then gave update on drought status and reservoir operations.
- Dawn Buehler opened the floor for discussion. The Authority discussed if Kansas would be required to release water from our reservoirs in order to keep flows in the Mississippi Valley, draw downs from the Army Corps of Engineers on the Kansas Reservoirs, water contracts with the Army Corps of Engineers now that we have paid off debt, and if long term vision will be part of the decision-making process regarding drought.
- Nathan Westrup then gave update on Capital Development Plan.
- John Bailey spoke about funding for sediment control.
- Dawn Buehler opened the floor for discussion. John Beckman spoke about work Kansas Wildlife and Parks is doing to prevent/slow sediment capture. The Authority also discussed if there was any overlap between this issue and Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and

Sediment Study.

#### **KWA RAC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

**Jeremiah Hobbs** gave an update on the KWA RAC Operations Committee. He spoke about the continuation of membership for Keli Harbiger for the Solomon-Republican RAC and about a membership application they received for the Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee. He then spoke about a message they received from the Missouri Regional Advisory Committee. He said they will review it at their next KWA RAC Operations Committee Meeting and bring it to the Kansas Water Authority after that.

*Application for Cimarron RAC and membership of Keli Harbiger's membership:*

#### **Motion No. 10-19-03**

It was moved by **David Stroberg** and seconded by **Jean Steiner** to approve the application of Andrew Moser to the Cimarron RAC in the Agriculture (cc) category and to approve the continuation of membership for Keli Habiger on the Solomon-Republican RAC and. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

**Jordan Martincich & Rob Manes** gave a presentation form Kansas for Conservation. They spoke about what their plan and goals are as well as funding needs.

**Dawn Buehler** opened the floor for discussion. The Authority spoke about if the \$50,000,000.00 (mentioned in the Blue-Ribbon Task Force) was still a relevant number to complete necessary projects in today's standards, they went over acronym page from presentation, discussed rather there was political support, and who would be managing any fund that were received by the group. The Authority spoke about how it would be beneficial to have a coordinated plan/proposal to show how this would be beneficial for Kansas. They wrapped up the discussion by speaking about a potential federal funding source called Watershed Awareness to Watershed Action (WAWA).

#### **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.

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

**Dawn Buehler** gave an update on the Kansas Water Plan and Water Policy Discussion. It was suggested that we need to update the Blue-Ribbon Task Force list as well as look at design standards for stormwater as the traditional "100-500-1000" year storm is becoming more and more unreliable.

**Matt Unruh** gave a legislative update starting with the Special Committee on Water that took place in August. He opened the floor to any members of the Authority that also presented at the meeting. **Jay Kalbas** spoke about what the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) presented. **Andrew Lyon** spoke about his experience and the aftermath he has experienced.

**Matt Unruh** then gave an update on Legislative Budget Committee and the



Kansas Water Office's presentation to them on September 20, 2022.

**Matt Unruh** spoke about annual report to the Governor and legislative discussion. Items that were discussed

- Making sure it is communicated the importance of water to citizens of Kansas
- Re-articulating what the Regional Advisory Committee's charge is to the KWA
- How stretched the budget is and if fully funding the State Water Plan Fund in report or if it gets brought up at all
- Updating the Blue-Ribbon Task Force Fund number.
- Show projects that are getting done and what their outcomes are
- Do we make a policy and/or position statement?
- Drought would be a good topic for this
- What lack of funding is doing
- Emerging issues list may be overwhelming, may need to think about packaging.
- Suggested making a sustainability report
- Environmental justice

## FEDERAL UPDATE

**Josh Olson** presented on potential Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Agreements between the Kansas Water Office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

*Director of the Kansas Water Office to enter into PAS agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:*  
**Motion No. 10-19-04**

It was moved by **Jean Steiner** and seconded by **Mike Armstrong** to give approval to the Director of the Kansas Water Office to enter into PAS Agreement(s) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. **Motion carried with no dissenting votes.** Information found in meeting materials.

**Laura Totten** presented on Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study.

## KANSAS WATER SUCCESS STORY:

**Sarah Sexton Bowser** gave a presentation on a Kansas Water Success Story. She presented on Sorghum in Kansas. Specifically, on getting water use plant traits ingrained in sorghum plants.

## AGENCY UPDATES:

**Andy Lyon** gave an update for the Department of Conservation.

**David Bollenback** gave report from the Kansas Corporation Commission.

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

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

**Kayla Savage** gave update from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

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

**Susan Metzger** gave an update for the Kansas State University.

**John Beckman** gave an update from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

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

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Jean Steiner** suggested making a short-term committee to look at research coordination.

**ADJOURNMENT:** **Dawn Buehler** adjourned the meeting at **3:09 p.m.**



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Dawn Buehler, Chair



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Connie Owen, Secretary