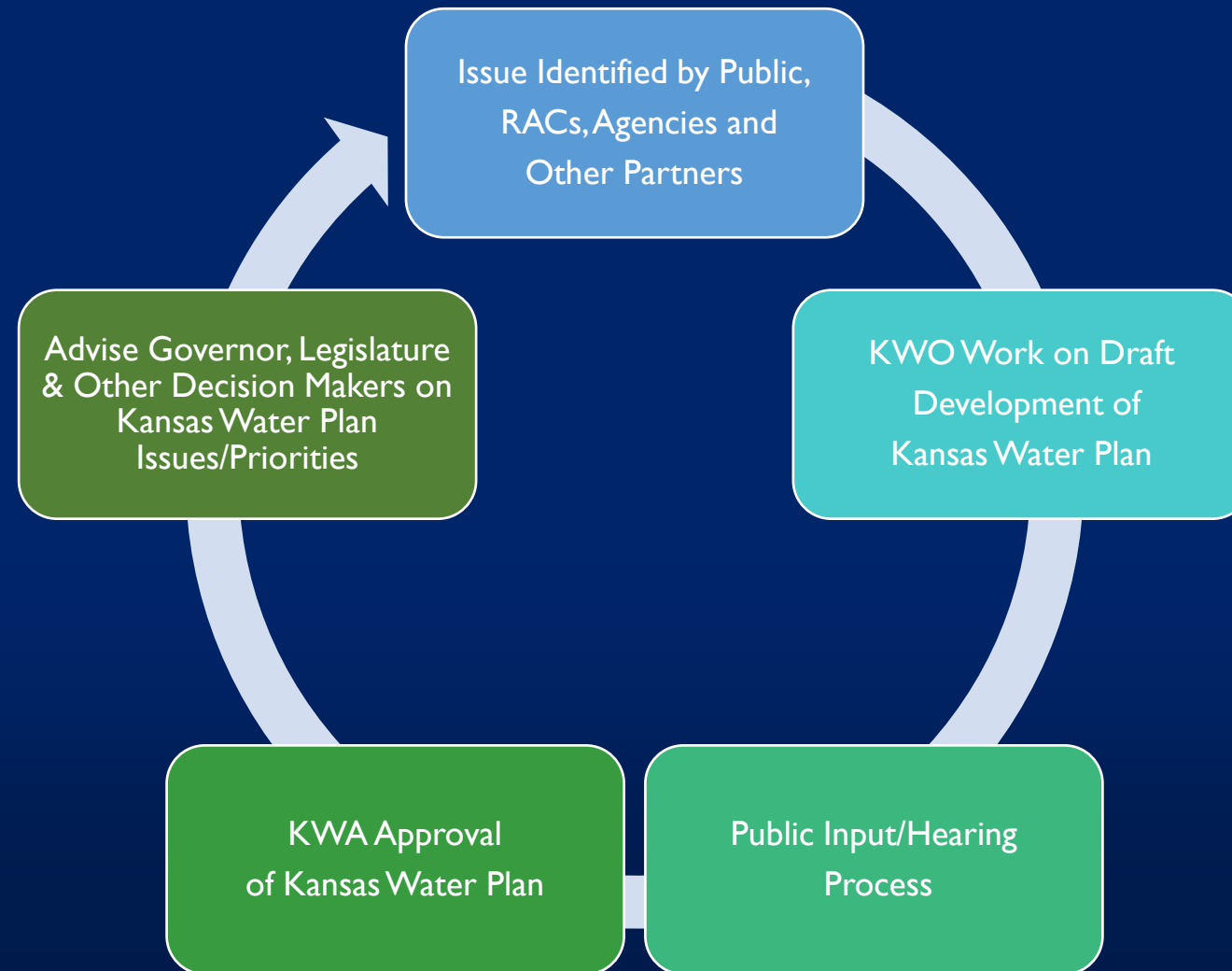


Kansas Water Plan and the State Water Plan Fund

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

January 21, 2026

Current State Water Planning Process



Kansas Water Plan

Kansas Water Plan Update

- Completed in 2022
- 2 Live Public Comment Meetings

Kansas Water Office releases 2022 Water Plan

This road map is the first comprehensive water plan for the state of Kansas released since 2009.

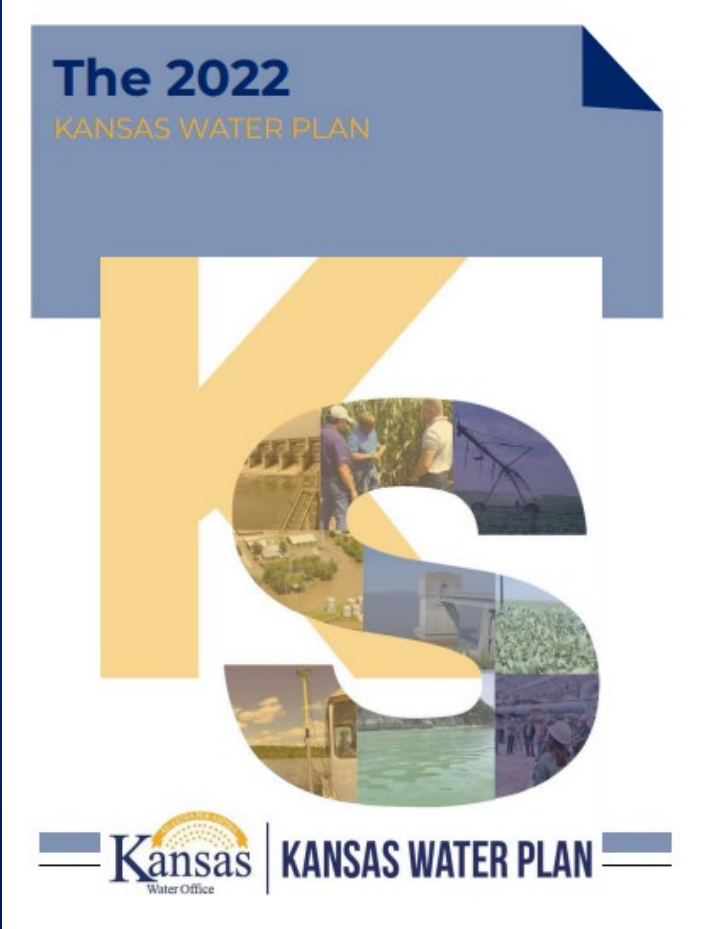


Jennifer M. Latzke, Editor, Kansas Farmer
October 31, 2022

4 Min Read



WATER PLAN: The Kansas Water Office released the final 2022 Kansas Water Plan Oct. 20. The plan is a road map for the state's stakeholders in management, conservation and development of Kansas water resources going forward. All options — like this irrigation pivot testing new technologies for water conservation — are put on the table to ensure that future Kansans have water to meet their needs. JENNIFER M. LATZKE



Kansas Water Plan

Kansas Water Plan Update

329
Total Comments

Commentors Included:

Kansas Wildlife Federation

Scott Yeargain

Southwest Kansas Groundwater

Management District 3 - Renewable
Supplies Committee

Groundwater Management District 5

Jay Byers

Mark Rude

Butler County Conservation District

Jane Byrnes

Bill Heatherman

Cowley County Conservation District
Board

Arkansas River Coalition

WaterOne

Allyn O. Lockner

Ducks Unlimited

Franklin County Conservation District

Audubon of Kansas

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and
Streams

Morris County Conservation District

Kansas Corporation Commission -
Conservation Division

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Kansas Department of Health and
Environment

Friends of the Kaw

Parker Zerger Trust

Sierra Club

Kansas Farm Bureau

Groundwater Management District 2

Kansas Water Resource Consulting

Kansas River Water Assurance

District No. 1

Kansas Rural Center

Kansas Water Plan: 5 Guiding Principles



1. Conserve and Extend the High Plains Aquifer



2. Secure, Protect, & Restore our Kansas Reservoirs



3. Improve our State's Water Quality



4. Reduce our Vulnerability to Extreme Events



5. Increased Awareness of Kansas Water Resources

Kansas Water Plan: Guiding Principle Sections

- Issue Background
- Policy and Program Recommendations
- Implementation Actions
- Measuring Success
- Data, Study, and Research Needs
- Funding and Resource Needs

Kansas Water Plan: Regional Advisory Committee Goals and Action Plans

Kansas Region

Regional Issues & Priorities

WATER SUPPLY AVAILABILITY

Increasing population and development in portions of the Kansas River corridor, along with aging reservoirs and public water supply infrastructure, indicate a need to evaluate the river/reservoir system capacity to meet future water supply needs in the region (see *Secure, Protect, and Restore our Kansas Reservoirs* Guiding Principle section).

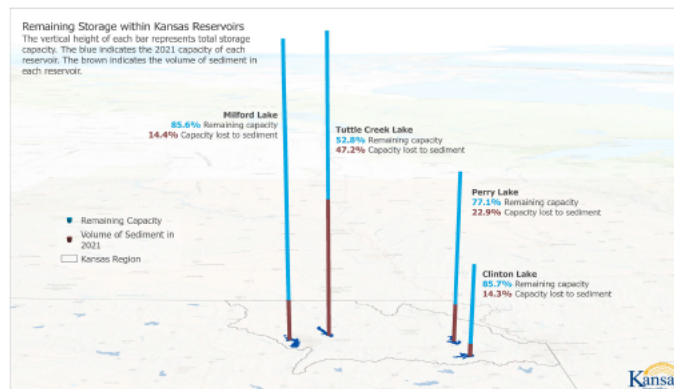


Figure 8. Remaining storage within Kansas reservoirs in the Kansas Region

Four federal reservoirs and three multipurpose lakes in the region currently provide dependable water supplies in streams with highly variable flow, in addition to providing flood control, recreation and other benefits. However, reservoir sedimentation is a major water quantity and quality concern, particularly in reservoirs where the state owns storage to support the Water Marketing Program or where a Water Assurance District owns storage. Soil type, land practices, and extreme rainfall events are the main causes that lead to excessive reservoir sedimentation. High flow events following heavy rainfall account for a large portion of the sedimentation that takes place in reservoirs. As this sediment accumulates in a reservoir's multi-purpose pool, the capacity for water supply storage is reduced.

With an annual sedimentation rate of approximately 3,800 acre-feet per year, the loss of capacity in Tuttle Creek Lake is the most pressing issue among the four federal reservoirs within the region, as it is the key water supply reservoir for the Kansas River Basin (Figure 8). At the time of this writing Tuttle Creek Lake has already lost approximately 50% of its storage capacity.

Cimarron Region

Regional Issues & Priorities

OGALLALA AQUIFER LEVEL DECLINES

Since the 1970s, the Ogallala Aquifer, as detailed in the *Conserve & Extend the High Plains Aquifer* section, has been developed so extensively that the amount of water withdrawn annually is significantly more than the recharge, resulting in groundwater declines. Some areas are experiencing significant shortages in meeting demand.

As groundwater level declines (Figure 9), the aquifer loses hydraulic connection with the overlying alluvial aquifers and rivers and no longer contributes much, if any, base streamflow. This loss of hydraulic connection between surface and groundwater within the region has caused streams to dry up between rain events. Kansas Geological Survey (KGS), in an effort to help develop a better understanding of the aquifer dynamics at a scale that would be appropriate for management, created the [Index Well Program](#): a network of well-monitoring systems that aids in tracking water level changes while providing real-time data.⁽⁹⁾

The Ogallala Aquifer is characterized by low recharge and high declines. The expected "usable life" of the aquifer, when the aquifer is no longer able to support the current high rates of pumping, varies widely due to differences in the amount of saturated thickness, hydraulic conductivity, withdrawals, and other variables.

Water appropriations and use are overseen by the Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources (KDA-DWR). All of the streams and alluvial corridors in the region are either closed or restricted to new appropriations. Minimum desirable streamflow has not been established at any sites in the region, though many streams now flow only during rainfall events. Generally, the Ogallala Aquifer has no new appropriations available. In limited cases, a new water appropriation for groundwater, limited to quantities under 15 acre-feet,

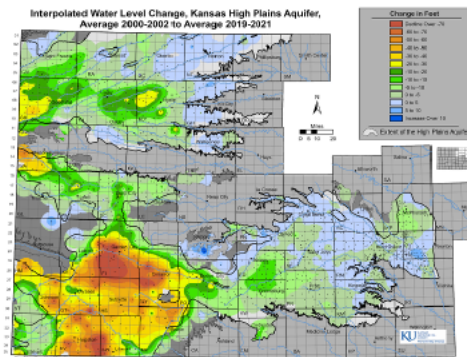


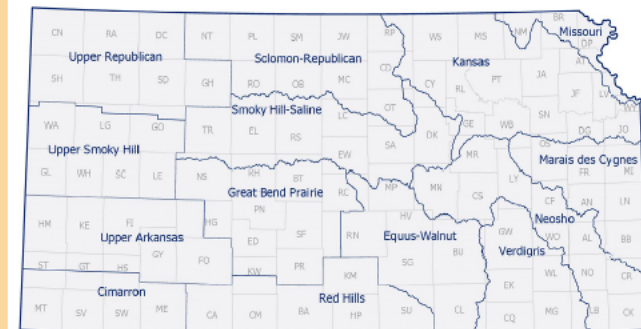
Figure 9. Water Level Change, Kansas High Plains Aquifer⁽⁹⁾

Regional Planning Areas - Overview

Fourteen regional planning areas were established in December 2014 by the Kansas Water Authority in conjunction with the Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas.

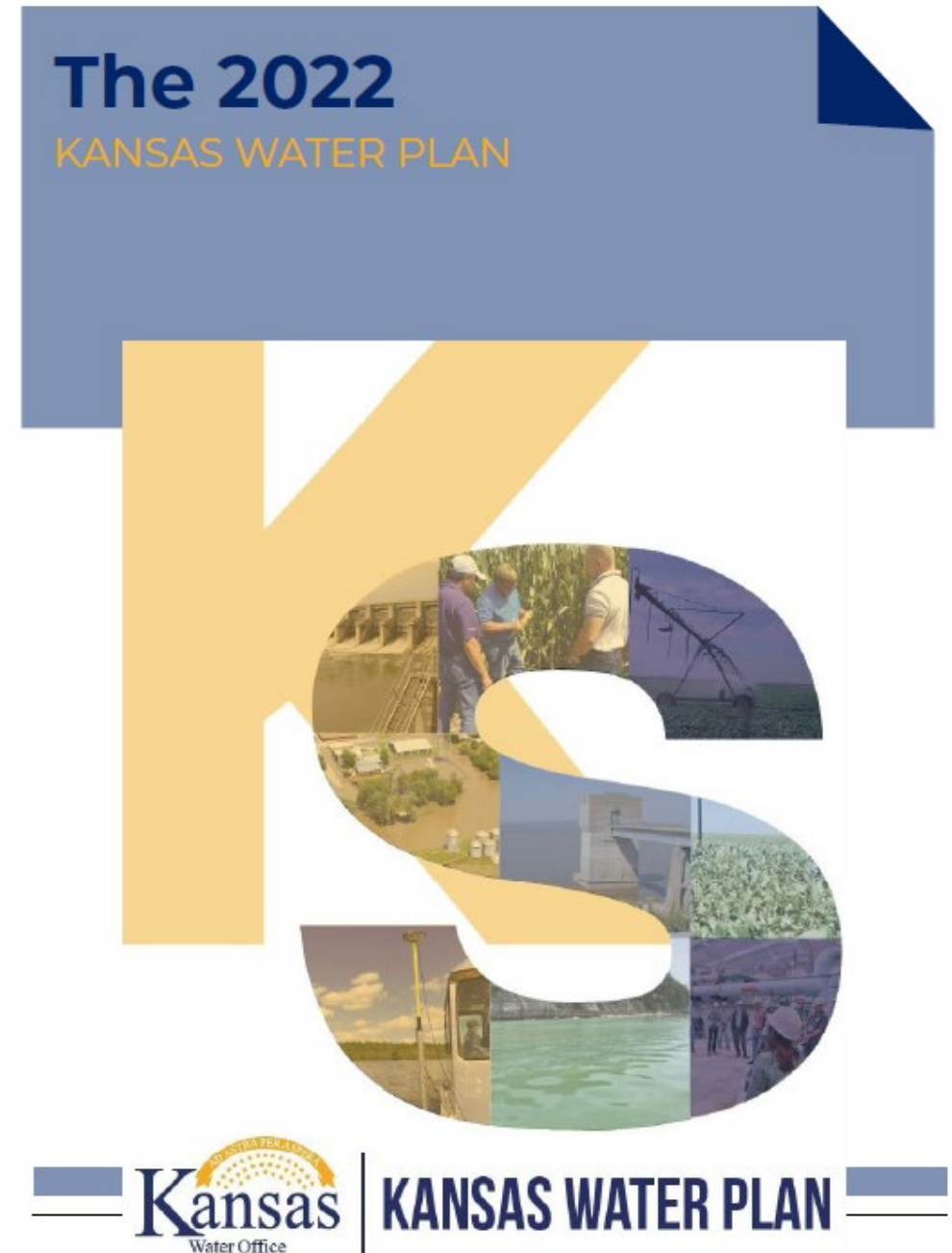
In August of 2015, Regional Advisory Committee members were approved for each of these 14 planning areas and began to establish priority goals for their region. These committees established their priority regional goals and began development of Regional Goal Action Plans. In September - October 2016 all regional goal action plans were presented to the Kansas Water Authority and approved. These Regional Goal Action Plans were updated by the respective RACs from 2020 through the first part of 2021 and can be found in Appendix A.

The Kansas Water Office formulates a comprehensive state water plan for the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state. The Kansas Water Plan includes sections corresponding with water planning areas which are determined by the Kansas Water Office (K.S.A. 82a-903). Water planning is achieved by addressing issues in the regional areas of the state.



State Water Plan Fund and the Kansas Water Plan

- State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) is primary state funding utilized for used for implementing the Kansas Water Plan (KWP)

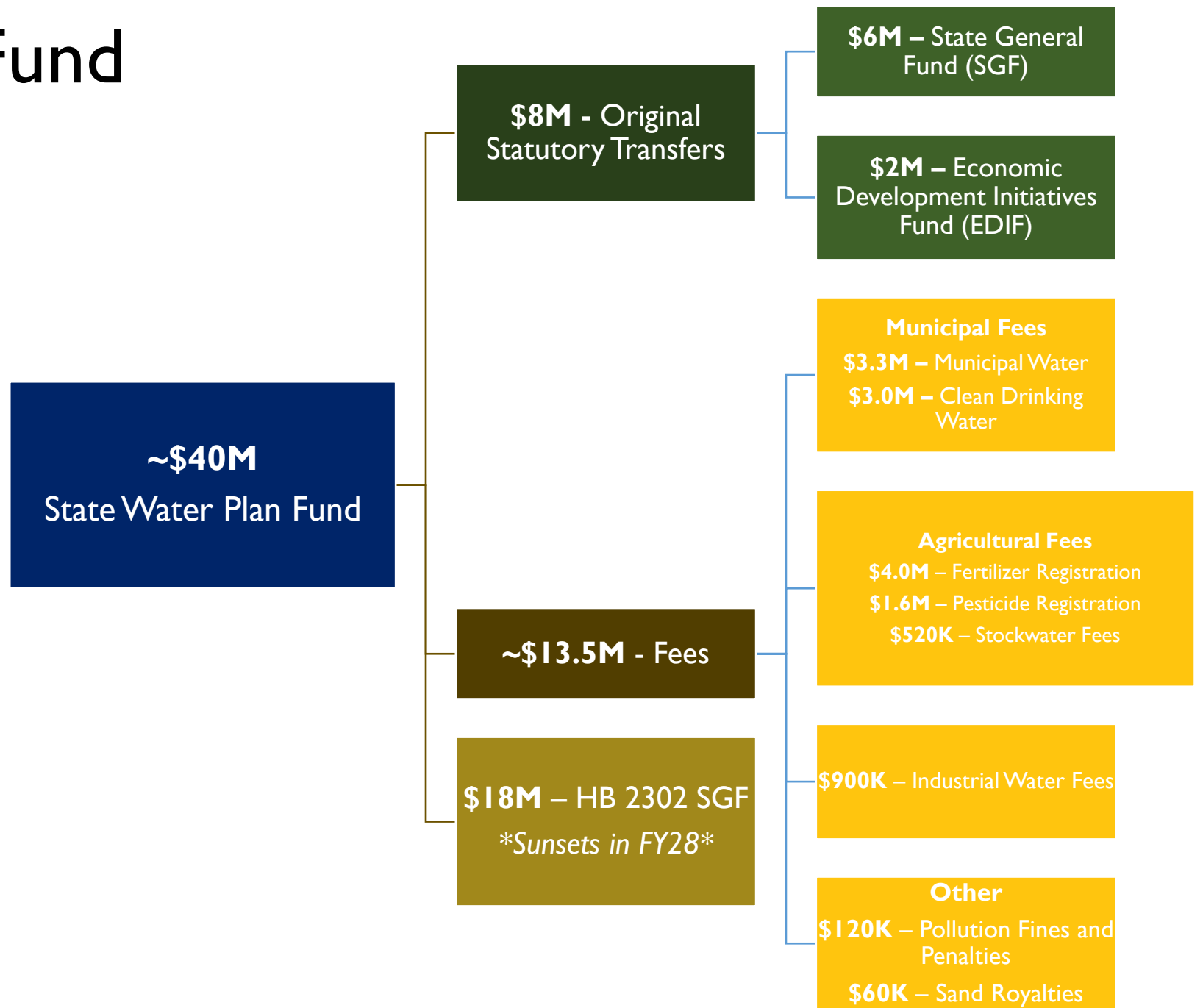


State Water Plan Fund

- Created in 1989 (KSA 82a-95)
- Funded by fees and transfers
- Shared between multiple agencies

EXPENDITURES	FY26 KWA/Agency Budget Recs	FY26 Legislature
Department of Health and Environment		
Contamination Remediation	\$ 2,117,220	\$ 3,117,220
Local Environment Protection Program	\$ 650,000	\$ 800,000
Nonpoint Source Program	\$ 446,213	\$ 446,213
TMDL Initiatives	\$ 395,942	\$ 395,942
Drinking Water Protection Program	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000
Watershed Restoration/Protection (WRAPS)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Aquifer Recharge Basin	\$ -	\$ -
Equus Beds	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
NEW - District Engineer Program	\$ -	\$ -
Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot	\$ 155,934	\$ 155,934
Surface Water Trash Removal	\$ -	\$ -
Small Town Infrastructure Support	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL- KDHE	\$ 5,640,309	\$ 6,790,309
Department of Agriculture		
NEW - Domestic Water Rights Quantification Project	\$ -	\$ -
Interstate Water Issues	\$ 541,029	\$ 541,029
Water Use Database Modernization	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Subbasin Water Resources Management	\$ 704,740	\$ 704,740
Irrigation Technology	\$ 2,550,000	\$ 2,550,000
Crop and Livestock Research	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000
NEW - Sorghum Research	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
Soil Health	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Water Resources Cost Share	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000
NEW - Stockwatering Efficiency Program	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Nonpoint Source Pollution Asst.	\$ 1,871,401	\$ 1,871,401
Aid to Conservation Districts	\$ 3,502,708	\$ 5,252,708
Water Transition Assistance Program/CREP	\$ 1,554,142	\$ 1,250,000
Dam Construction Rehabilitation	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Water Quality Buffer Initiative	\$ -	\$ -
Riparian and Wetland Program	\$ 154,024	\$ 154,024
Streambank Stabilization	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
SUBTOTAL- KDA	\$ 22,978,042	\$ 25,423,900
Kansas Water Office		
Assessment and Evaluation	\$ 1,231,255	\$ 1,500,000
Aquifer Modeling/AEM Project	\$ -	\$ -
NEW - Water Planning & Project Development	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,500,000
NEW - In-Lake Sediment Management Initiative	\$ -	\$ -
NEW - Independent Program Evaluation	\$ 360,000	\$ 450,000
MOU - Storage Operations & Maintenance	\$ 778,711	\$ 778,711
Stream Gaging	\$ 698,708	\$ 698,708
Conservation Assistance for Water Users	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Reservoir and Water Quality Research	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Water Quality Partnerships	\$ 1,464,890	\$ 1,464,890
KS Water Plan Education & Outreach Strategy	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
High Plains Aquifer Partnerships	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative	\$ -	\$ -
KRPI Transfer to KDA	\$ -	\$ -
Equus Beds Chloride Plume Remediation Project	\$ -	\$ -
Flood Response Study	\$ -	\$ -
Arbuckle Study	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Water Injection Dredging (WID)	\$ -	\$ -
John Redmond Reservoir Dredging Project	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000
HB 2302	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000
SUBTOTAL- KWO	\$ 10,083,564	\$ 12,442,309
Department of Wildlife & Parks		
Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program	\$ 224,457	\$ 224,457
University of Kansas - Geological Survey		
	\$ 1,740,000	\$ 1,740,000
State Employee Pay		
		\$ 65,197
Total State Water Plan Expenditures	\$ 40,666,372	\$ 46,686,172

State Water Plan Fund Current Revenues



Current State Water Plan Fund Budget Process

LOCAL AND AGENCY INPUT PROCESS

- RAC Priorities Identified & Compiled by KWO
- Agency Budget Recommendations to KWA

KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY PROCESS

- KWA Budget Committee Recommendations to Full KWA
- Full KWA Action on Budget Recommendations

STATE BUDGET PROCESS/GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECS

- Agency Budget Submittals to Division of Budget accounting for KWA SWPF Budget Recommendations
- Governor's Budget Recommendations Presented

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

- Agency Budget Hearings in Committee
- Committee Deliberation/Action
- Final Legislative Action – Appropriations Bill

Conserve and Extend the High Plains Aquifer

Kansas Water Plan Action

State Water Plan Fund Budget Line

Support implementation of groundwater use reduction measures for all uses

- High Plains Aquifer Partnerships
- Irrigation Technology

Create a KWA Committee to consider sustainability as part of the Guiding Principle

- High Plains Aquifer/Water Supply Committee

Secure, Protect, and Restore our Kansas Reservoirs

Pursue goal of reservoir restoration and sustainability with intentional intervention

- Water Injection Dredging
- John Redmond Hydrosuction

Support watershed conservation practices, particularly soil health initiatives, streambank stabilization, and riparian corridor restoration

- Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative
- Streambank Stabilization

Improve the State's Water Quality

Improve and expand conservation best management practice implementation that improves water quality

- WRAPS
- Water Quality Partnerships

KDHE nutrient reduction efforts

- Nonpoint Source Program
- Harmful Algal Bloom

Reduce our Vulnerability to Extreme Events

Drought Planning

- Conservation Assistance to Water Users
- Governor's Drought Response Team

Flood Mitigation

- Dam Construction and Rehabilitation
- Floodplain mapping

Increase Awareness of Kansas Water Resources

Develop and implement Kansas water-related education resources/curriculum

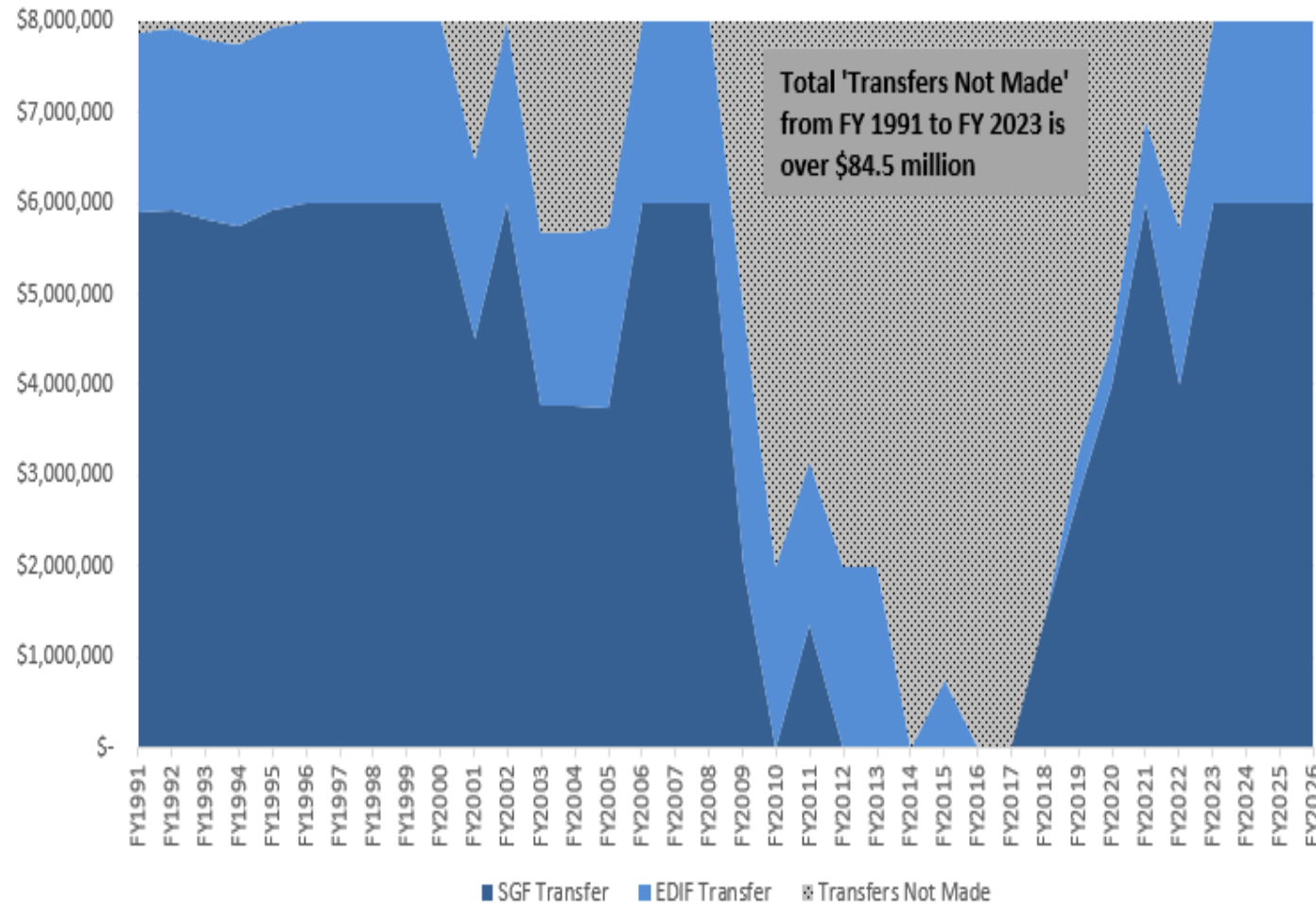
- KS Water Plan Education and Outreach
- Soil Health Initiative

Enhance and maintain water resource information through a website

- Kansas Water Hub Website

Challenges: Funding

SGF & EDIF Demand Transfers to SWPF



History of SGF and EDIF Transfer

	SGF Transfer	HB2302 Transfer	EDIF Transfer
FY1991	\$ 5,895,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY1992	\$ 5,940,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY1993	\$ 5,820,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY1994	\$ 5,760,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY1995	\$ 5,932,800		\$ 2,000,000
FY1996	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY1997	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY1998	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY1999	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY2000	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY2001	\$ 4,500,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY2002	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY2003	\$ 3,773,949		\$ 1,900,000
FY2004	\$ 3,773,949		\$ 1,900,000
FY2005	\$ 3,748,839		\$ 2,000,000
FY2006	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY2007	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY2008	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY2009	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 2,846,126
FY2010	\$ -		\$ 2,000,000
FY2011	\$ 1,348,245		\$ 1,802,141
FY2012	\$ -		\$ 2,000,000
FY2013	\$ -		\$ 2,000,000
FY2014	\$ -		\$ -
FY2015	\$ -		\$ 750,000
FY2016	\$ -		\$ -
FY2017	\$ -		\$ -
FY2018	\$ 1,400,000		\$ -
FY2019	\$ 2,750,000		\$ 500,000
FY2020	\$ 4,005,632		\$ 500,000
FY2021	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 913,325
FY2022	\$ 4,005,632		\$ 1,719,264
FY2023	\$ 6,000,000		\$ 2,000,000
FY2024	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
FY2025	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 45,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
FY2026	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 2,921,417
FY2027	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 2,000,000

Thank You