

Issue 1. Strategy i. Natural Resources Communication/Interaction

Status: Natural Resources Sub-Cabinet regularly meets to coordinate and discuss issues.

Kansas Energy Council working to formulate and coordinate a comprehensive state energy plan.

Issue 1. Strategy ii. Natural Resources Conflicts

Status: Conflict Resolution. The KWA adopted a policy establishing the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Three series of training have occurred involving federal, state and local government officials.

Issue 1. Strategy iii. Natural Resources Communication/Interaction

Status: No formal comprehensive natural resource inventory has been implemented due to funding constraints. Portions of this effort are currently being done or are in the planning stages at multiple governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Issue 2. Strategy i. Land Use Planning and Management – NR Considerations in Planning and Zoning

Status: The Kansas Energy Council issued Wind Energy Siting Guidelines for Kansas Cities and Counties.

Issue 2. Strategy ii. Land Use Planning and Management – Alternative and Renewable Fuels

Status: Kansas Energy Council collect and compile information pertaining to the energy resources, including wind and biomass, in the state, as well as the availability, production and use of energy in the state.

Rural Life Task Force examining ways to preserve renew and sustain the value of rural Kansas in the economic and cultural life of Kansas.

Governors Ethanol Coalition working to increase the use of ethanol based fuels, to decrease the nation's dependence on imported energy resources, also supports other renewable fuel alternatives, such as biodiesel and, eventually, other cellulose to ethanol production, like from switchgrass or corn stover.

Issue 2. Strategy ii. Land Use Planning and Management – Voluntary Conservation Easements

Status: The Governor recommended \$800,000 for conservation easements in the FY2006 budget. The Legislature added \$31,250 from the EDIF to match conservation easements funding in the USDA Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program.

Several public and private entities (Kansas Land Trust, Sunflower Land Trust, Kansas Livestock Association (**comment: check the name**), and The Nature Conservancy) in Kansas that have the ability to accept conservation easements from landowners willing to donate them. State and federal agencies able to accept conservation easements include: KDWP, NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Tall Grass Prairie Preserve – The Nature Conservancy acquired the 11,000 acre Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve dedicated to preserving and enhancing a nationally significant remnant of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem.

Issue 3. Strategy i. Groundwater Quality and Quantity – Management, Efficiency and Re-Use

Status: Water Management - A Water Issue Strategic Plan for the Ogallala- High Plains aquifer has been developed and annually updated by State Agencies and Groundwater Management Districts (GMDs) #1, 3 and 4 to conserve and extend the life of the aquifer.

A High Plains website (www.HiPlain.org) has been established to share current maps, reports, and aquifer conditions with Kansas water users.

A surface – ground water model for the Middle Arkansas River subbasin is nearing completion to refine the estimated overdraft quantity, and project possible river and aquifer responses to various reductions in pumping.

Water Reuse – State and local governments are working together on special study is being conducted with the Bureau of Reclamation to focus on water resource issue in the SC part of the state.

Issue 3. Strategy ii. Groundwater Quality and Quantity – Management – High Priority Areas

Status: NRCS **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** Ground & Surface Water Conservation has a new priority in the High Plains aquifer called Quick Response areas. Higher incentive rates are offered to convert irrigated cropland to dryland. It is anticipated this program could provide a set aside of irrigation water rights on up to 8,000 acres.

A permanent water right retirement program has been presented to the legislature for over appropriated areas. The Kansas Water Authority recommended funding for a water right retirement program in the 2007 budget.

State agencies are developing a **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)** proposal (leverages state and local dollars with an 80:20 federal / non-federal partnership; enrolled land receives irrigated rental rates for up to 15 years). The CREP proposal is focused on irrigated lands adjacent to and influencing the Arkansas River from the state line to the gage east of Great Bend. The CREP is a type of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is enhanced to address state resource concerns.

Issue 4. Strategy i. Changing Demographics – Urban Sprawl, Water Quality Impacts

Status: This is another component of the South Central Kansas water availability study mentioned previously. The KWO coordinated sessions with the League of Kansas Municipalities for the last 2 years and with the Kansas Association of Counties offering workshops on urban growth and natural resource protection and restoration issues.

Issue 4. Strategy i. Changing Demographics – Buffer Initiative to include Municipalities

Status: None.

Issue 5. Strategy i. Watershed Based Planning and Management

Status: **Watershed Restoration and Protections Strategies (WRAPS)** initiative approved by the Legislature in 2005. \$800,000 SWPF match to \$1,200,000 EPA monies to identify basin priority issues in each of the state's twelve major river basins from the basin sections contained in the *Kansas Water Plan*. A WRAPS Workshop was conducted in January 2005 to introduce the KS WRAPS program and to provide guidance to local groups on the WRAPS process and opportunities for funding.

Issue 6. Strategy i. Air Quality Monitoring

Status: KDHE collected point source ammonia emissions data in addition to criteria pollutant data in 2005. The Bureau also conducted ammonia-monitoring activities near a confined animal feeding operation in western Kansas and a refinery in 2005.

KDHE, in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency, has met with representatives of the agricultural community to discuss air pollutant emissions resulting from agricultural activities such as prairie or crop residue burning, confined animal feeding operations, and fertilizer application.

An air quality-agricultural summit is being planned for early Spring of 2006 to bring together Kansas agricultural interests with researchers and technical experts.

Issue 6. Strategy ii. Air Quality Monitoring – Emissions Reductions

Status: KDHE has expanded outreach to the regulated community including participation in the full-day session in Topeka, Wichita, Salina and Overland Park. KDHE is upgrading web site information to ensure that all permit applications, guidance documents, reporting forms and other information is available to the regulated community electronically.

Issue 6. Strategy iii. Air Quality Monitoring – Public Outreach

Status: KDHE developing a statewide public education plan to work with local agencies that the KDHE has agreements with to develop a coordinated approach toward the air quality message and delivery mechanisms that will be used in those counties.

The Yard Care for Clean Air program is aimed at addressing air pollutant emissions from yard care equipment. The program will identify strategies such as native landscaping, improved maintenance practices, purchase of lower emitting equipment and other techniques to reduce the impact of lawn maintenance on air quality. Training session for commercial lawn care firms in Olathe in September of 2005 and is planning a second session in Wichita in November of 2005.

Issue 7. Strategy i. Financial Needs – State Water Plan Fund Restoration

Status: During the 2005 Legislative Session, the Governor recommended and the legislature approved restoration of the State Water Plan Fund demand transfers from the State General Fund (\$6M) and Economic Development Initiatives Fund (\$2M). The second phase of this effort has been submitted by natural resource agencies in their FY2007 budget request to restore \$2.2M of operational costs to the SGF instead of SWPF.

Issue 7. Strategy ii. Financial Needs – Additional Funding Sources

Status: **KSv.CO Damage Award - \$34,615,146** statutory limitations on expenditure of these funds.

Fund/Account Designation	Agency	Amount
State Water Plan Fund – Water Conservation Project Reserve Account	Kansas Water Office	\$4,842,212
Water Conservation Projects Fund	Kansas Water Office	\$9,684,425
Interstate Water Litigation Water Litigation Reserve Account	Attorney General	\$20,088,509
Total		\$34,615,146

Clean Drinking Water Fee Fund – The 2005 Legislature approved legislation that will deposit the Clean Drinking Water Fee Fund (\$2.5M in FY2005 receipts) into the SWPF beginning in FY2008. This legislation requires that at least 15% be used to provide on-site technical assistance for public water supply systems, and 85% be used to renovate and protect lakes used as a source of water for public water supply systems.

Issue 8. Strategy i. Financial Needs – Leveraging Farm Bill monies

Status: **Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative** was expanded to include all high priority TMDL areas and all 20 federal drinking water reservoirs in the state.

USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to obtain federal funds to provide incentives to landowners to enter into the CREP to reduce consumptive use in the Upper Arkansas River Valley. Up to 100,000 acres can be enrolled in this program with the state match 20% and the federal 80%. Initial projections of cash and in-kind contributions indicate a Kansas CREP could exceed \$115 million in federal funding over a 15 year period, assuming state and other non-federal in-kind and direct match contributions can be identified. The \$4,000,000 proposed from the SWPF derived from the KSvCO would be used as an added incentive program to complement CREP and will provide a major contribution to the non-federal match.

Quick Response Areas Allocation - FY2007 enhancement is an incentive program to encourage the use of existing Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) ground and surface water funds in targeted areas of the High Plains Aquifer. This project proposes to provide additional incentive payments over and above EQIP incentive payments provided for conversion of irrigated land to dryland for a period of 3-10 years.

Issue 8. Strategy ii. Financial Needs – Buffer Initiative Program Funding

Status: **Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative** was expanded to include all high priority TMDL areas and all 20 federal drinking water reservoirs in the state. Additional funding will be needed in FY08 to expand program.

Issue 8. Strategy iii. Financial Needs – Increase Technical Assistance to Landowners and Operators

Status: The State Conservation Commission entered into a contribution agreement with the USDA, NRCS in FY 2005 to provide technical assistance in priority and high workload areas. Funds were matched by federal technical assistance funds provided by NRCS. Eight state Special Project Officers were provide state WRCSP technical assistance. Salaries and wages for FY 2007 will be \$163,466 from the State Water Plan and \$163,466 from NRCS in federal funds totaling \$326,932.

The Kansas Water Quality Buffer Partnership has utilized state (Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks) funding to match federal 319 funding to provide technical assistance to assist local conservation districts and USDA staff in promoting and installing conservation buffer practices.

Since 2004 the Kansas Forest Service has employed a watershed forester through a contract with Lake Region RC & D to implement forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) in high priority TMDL watersheds in the Marais des Cygnes Basin as part of the Basin's WRAPS goals. In addition, the Kansas Forest Service also hired a watershed forester to implement forestry BMPs in high priority TMDL watersheds state-wide.

Issue 8. Strategy iv. Financial Needs – Tax Incentives for Conservation Easements

Status: The FY2005 Legislature added \$31,250 from the EDIF to match conservation easements funding in the USDA Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program. This amount will be dedicated to a previously identified easement opportunity in Morris County.

The Nature Conservancy acquired over 12,000 acres of purchased and voluntary conservation easements. The Conservancy will be pursuing a fundraising program to build resources and promote conservation easement acquisition efforts in Kansas.

Issue 8. Strategy v. Review Tax Classification Of Waste Lands, Tree Plantings And Riparian Buffers

Status: SCC staff working with Department of Revenue to revise the KANSAS RIPARIAN BUFFERS Agricultural Real Estate Property Land Use Change Worksheet to include new Continuous Conservation Reserve Program practices and clarify which practices included trees and should be taxed as wasteland.

Issue 9. Strategy i. Promote Access to Outdoor Recreation

Status: Cooperative efforts with local trails and friends groups are expanding outdoor opportunities. KDWP provides technical assistance and funding to landowners and local communities for fish and wildlife management and park development. In addition, by continuing to pass through federal funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to local governments, additional park and recreation facilities are constructed. Demand for these services continues to exceed available funds.

Issue 9. Strategy ii. Develop Walk-In Hiking; Non-Game Activities; Expand Walk-In Hunting Program

Status: The Walk-In Hunting Program has been expanded statewide and now includes approximately 1 million acres leased each year for public hunting. In addition, the Program has been expanded to include the lease of property for spring turkey hunting.

Efforts specifically for other walk-in types of lease programs for hiking, wildlife viewing and other non-hunting or fishing uses have not been implemented. The primary reason is no suitable source of funding exists.

Issue 9. Strategy iii. Enhance Existing Public Lands and Acquire Targeted State-Owned Lands

Status: Modest acquisitions have occurred, typically associated with existing public lands. A current significant effort is the proposed acquisition of State Park 24 in Topeka.

Issue 9. Strategy iv. Outdoor Recreation Technical Assistance, Funding, or Other Incentives

Status: KDWP has initiated a significant partnership program with local governments to provide management assistance, infrastructure development and operational funds for access to water bodies owned by local units of government and fishing opportunities for the public. Through the Community Fishing Access Program a total of 113 community lakes and ponds are now enrolled.

Issue 10. Strategy i. Improve Natural Resource and Environmental Education

Status: Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) secured a grant to develop a statewide Environmental Education (EE) Plan to provide direction for teachers, education and natural resource agencies, informal educators, business and industry stakeholders, and Kansas citizens in improving EE in Kansas. For FY2006 KACEE received the requested \$35,000 in general funding through the Kansas State Board of Education and \$45,000 from the State Water Plan Fund for the Project WET education program. Requests for continuation at these same funding levels are expected for FY2007.

The Watershed Management Section of KDHE - Bureau of Water is using information and education activities to help Kansas' citizens be aware of the adverse water quality impacts of nonpoint pollutant sources and the actions each individual can take to restore degraded waters and prevent degradation of good quality waters.

Issue 10. Strategy ii. Natural Resources Forum

Status: There are many meetings and conferences that are held throughout Kansas. For the purposes of this report, some of these have been categorized below for governmental and non-governmental as well as the frequency and sponsor of the event.

Governmental Organization	Frequency	Sponsor
Water and the Future of Kansas	Annual	KSU & KWRI
Kansas Environment Conference	Annual	KDHE
State Conservation Commission Spring Meeting	Annual	SCC
Kansas Dept. of Agriculture Division of Water Resources	Annual	KDA/DWR
Groundwater Management Districts (Garden City, Colby, Halstead, Scott City and Stafford)	Annual	GMDs
12 River Basin Advisory Committees	Quarterly	KWO
Kansas Water Authority	Quarterly	KWA & KWO
Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies	Annual	KDHE/ w/ KWO
Non-Governmental Organization	Frequency	Sponsor
Kansas Assn. of Conservation & Environmental Education	Annual	KACEE
Pheasants Forever	Chapter & statewide mtgs.	
Kansas Wild Turkey Federation		
Quail Unlimited		
Ducks Unlimited		
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation		
Friends of the Kaw	Annual	
Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance	Annual	
Stream Link (KVHA component)	Annual	
Community Water Festivals	Local, annual events	
The Land Institute	Spring and fall sessions	The Land Institute
K-State Watershed Specialists local tours	Varies	KSU
Nature Centers throughout Kansas		Local centers
Ks Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom	Annual	
Kansas Rural Center	Annual December	

Issue 10. Strategy iii. Public Education/Outreach on the Value of Natural Resources

Status: KACEE is currently working on several projects including: 1) Community-Based Environmental Decision-Making Institute (funded through EPA); 2) Environmental Education Workshops for Formal and Non-Formal Educators-As a part of ongoing efforts; 3) Environmental Education Plan for Kansas (funding through EPA)

Kansas Environmental Leadership Program - In 1999 using Clean Water Act - Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant funds, the Kansas Environmental Leadership Program (KELP) trains individuals interested in water quality and pollution control in basic principles of water resource management and the principles of leadership. Some scholarship funds are available for students who cannot be sponsored by an employer. Additional information is available from the KELP web site <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/kelp/>.

Water Link, initiated in 2005, is a cooperative venture between KDHE - Watershed Management Section and the Kansas Campus Compact to specifically infuse community-based learning into the college classroom, with the goal of improving water quality in Kansas. WaterLINK will provide training and resources for faculty interested in facilitation a service leaning course and a modest amount of financial assistance. More information is available at www.ksu.edu/waterlink.

Issue 10. Strategy iv. City Council and County Commissioners Training on Natural Resource Issues

Status: The Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas Municipalities worked with the Kansas Water Office to design a training program for local officials to help them evaluate and address the impact of their decisions on water and natural resources.

KACEE developed the PRIDE program titled “Community Based Environmental Decision Making”, focused on bringing together local teams to learn the ropes of environmental-based decision making.

The Kansas Energy Council developed Wind Energy Siting Guidelines for Kansas Cities and Counties to consider as they conduct planning and zoning activities. Many communities have begun discussions on developing wind energy sites in Kansas.