

## **WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS**

Attorney General Water Litigation Fund finances a position dedicated to monitoring and enforcement of Colorado's compliance with the Arkansas River Compact. It is recommended this position be funded through the Interstate Water Litigation Fund (K.S.A. 82a-1802(c) (2)).

Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources Water Appropriation Program has six components:

- Processing applications to appropriate water;
- Processing applications for changes to existing water rights;
- Processing applications for water transfers;
- Issuing certificates of appropriation; inventorying and monitoring water use reports;
- Administration and enforcement of water rights and minimum desirable streamflows including protection of reservoir storage releases.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources Water Banking Program A water bank, a not-for-profit corporation, may provide an alternative for individuals to obtain water in areas where new water development is closed, and promote water conservation. A water bank may be a surface or a ground water bank. A water right or portion of that right, deposited in a bank may be leased for use if it will be used within the bank boundaries and in the same hydrologic unit from which the water deposit was made.

A bankable water right may also be placed in a safe deposit account for future use, minus a conservation component, for up to five years. The bank is to have a conservation component and ensure that the net consumption of water will not increase. Water right deposits are subject to terms and conditions by the Chief Engineer.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources Subbasin Water Resource Management Program develops and helps implement subbasin specific water management strategies to reduce demand for limited water resources. The program gets input from the regulated community and general public to develop a management plan for consideration by the Chief Engineer. The water management plan would incorporate strategies other than strict water right administration.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources Interstate Water Issues Program provides support to the Chief Engineer and the Attorney General's office on compliance issues related to interstate compacts. There is a settlement agreed to between Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska in the Republican River Compact, although it must still be approved by the U.S. Supreme Court. The settlement of the Arkansas River Compact litigation with Colorado is in the final stages. The program provides the Chief Engineer support for protecting Kansas' interests under interstate compacts and other interstate water matters.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources Technical Services Program provides administrative and technical support to the Chief Engineer and the other programs within the Division of Water Resources. Major issues include geographic information systems (GIS), intensive groundwater use control areas (IGUCAs), flowmeter specifications, and water assurance districts.

Kansas Geological Survey Ogallala-High Plains Aquifer Studies gain additional information on the extent and characteristics of the High Plains aquifer to better meet Kansans' future water needs. Recent studies have been on the a) best estimates of aquifer recharge, including the range of values spatially; b) potential relationship between saturated thickness and well yield; c) relationship between ground water levels, estimated usable life of the aquifer; d) climatic variations; and e) appropriate scale of use and precision of data sets.

State Conservation Commission Water Rights Purchase Program allows the state to buy and retire water rights from willing sellers in targeted areas, in order to restore streamflow or recharge aquifers in need of recovery. The program provides a cost-share to local entities to purchase a water right. The water right would then be held in the custodial care of the State.

Kansas State University Kansas Water Resources Institute, and Water Conservation and Management Programs supports studies that provide improved understanding on the relationship of hydrology and economics, improved production in a low-water environment and decision support systems for farmers.

Kansas Water Office State Water Planning Program is responsible for the formulation of the *Kansas Water Plan* through the coordinated, continuous and comprehensive water planning process. This program also provides the interstate and federal coordination on water issues, as well as planning and implementation assistance on special water-related topics.

Kansas Water Office Assessment and Evaluation collects and analyzes water data.

Kansas Water Office Reservoir Operations/Management assures the state owned storage in federal reservoirs is properly managed.

Kansas Water Office Water Assurance Program established in 1986, the Water Assurance Program allows coordinated operation of state-owned or controlled water supply storage space in federal lakes to satisfy downstream municipal and industrial water rights during drought conditions. Water right holders in this program are assured to receive water during times of low flow, as releases are made for water delivery. This program was developed to meet the needs of municipal and industrial water users whose needs could not be economically or otherwise met by the Water Marketing Program.

Kansas Water Office Water Marketing Program is to meet present and anticipated municipal and industrial water needs through purchase of water storage in federal reservoirs. The water contained in that storage is sold to water supply users, in the best interest of the State. Water supply contracts began under this program in 1974. In 2002, a contract was signed for storage space in the Kanopolis Reservoir. Sixty-four percent of the storage under contract with the Corps of Engineers is committed to municipal and industrial customers. The State pays for the annual operation, maintenance and repair costs incurred by the Corps for the portion of the storage space which the state has called into service.

Kansas Water Office Information and Education Program is a priority of the Water Resource Education Program has been supporting the Ogallala Aquifer Institute through start-up contracts. The Ogallala Aquifer Institute is a not-for-profit education “hub” to promote the historical, cultural, economic and environmental importance of the High Plains aquifer through multi-disciplinary education. Located in Garden City, the Ogallala Aquifer Institute has a board of directors representing each of the eight High Plains aquifer states.