

# ***Kansas Water Plan - Introduction***

## ***January 2009***

For 25 years, the *Kansas Water Plan* has been the tool that has allowed citizen groups and water professionals from state, federal and local levels to coordinate and identify the water problems and issues that Kansas must address. The Kansas Water Authority and Kansas Water Office are proud to release a comprehensive update of the *Kansas Water Plan* that has been in the works over the last year.

The *Kansas Water Plan* and supporting information is organized as follows:

- Volume one overviews the water planning process and purpose and highlights a history of water planning and the physiographic characterization of Kansas.
- Volume two covers statewide water management policies and objectives.
- Volume three covers the 12 basin sections and their priority issues.
- An atlas of maps and graphics depicts the resource conditions for each basin.
- A Program Manual (Redbook) describes various state and federal water resource programs.

The 2009 Kansas Water Plan is the product of a collaborative process that brought together the Kansas Water Authority, the basin advisory committees, representatives of the Governor's Natural Resources Subcabinet and other interested stakeholders. The result is a plan that includes the very best ideas for meeting the state's water challenges.

A major focus of the update has been on the water resource needs in each of the state's 12 river basins. The *Kansas Water Plan* provides a framework for water resource professionals and citizens to propose solutions that address statewide and regional issues. While work on all aspects of water resource management is ongoing, certain projects because of their urgency move to the forefront. These projects are reflected as basin priority issues within the water plan.

These priority issues have been identified by members of the basin advisory committees. The various priorities reflect the basins' climatic, physiographic and demographic conditions. The basin priority issues and the complete plan are posted on the Kansas Water Office web site [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org).

The Kansas Water Plan and the priority issues contained within it will help guide implementation efforts over the next 5 years, targeting resources to areas perceived to be the highest priority by local communities.

The conclusion of this water plan is clear: Kansans can meet their water demands into the future by making the right choices and investments. The Kansas Water Plan continues to provide the guidance state policymakers, local and regional entities and others need to take actions to meet the state's water demands now and in the years to come.