

# BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Fact Sheet No. 4

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Kansas Water Office

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## Introduction

The Kansas Water Office formulates "...on a continuing basis, a comprehensive state water plan for the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state." This is accomplished through the "...State Water Plan shall include sections corresponding with water planning areas as determined by the office...." (K.S.A. 82a-903) Water planning is achieved by addressing issues in the major river basins, shown in Figure 1.

K.S.A. 82a-903 also requires the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority to seek advice from the general public and from committees consisting of individuals with knowledge of and interest in water issues in the water planning process. Citizen input is provided by the Basin Advisory Committees, which represent the same major river basins.

Basin Advisory Committees (BACs) were first established in each of the 12 river basins in Kansas on June 28, 1985. The original committee structure was modified in 2006 to increase citizen input and the committees' impact. Each BAC determines the number of members and the categories represented on that BAC. Committees may have either 9 or 11 members. Each BAC consists of several member representative categories to provide maximum citizen input on Basin issues. All BACs have seven "core" categories: agriculture, conservation/environment, fish and wildlife, industry/commerce, municipal public water suppliers, recreation and one slot for an at-large public member. Each BAC fills the balance of their membership roster (two or four members) with membership categories that represent the diversity of water uses and user groups in their basin. The membership categories and respective criteria for each basin are posted on the Kansas Water Office web site, [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org).

Employees of state agencies and ex-officio Kansas Water Authority members are not eligible for membership on basin advisory committees. This does not include individuals associated with organizations represented by

voting members on the Kansas Water Authority. Ex-officio agencies, however, serve a vital role by assigning staff to serve as advisors to each of the BACs.

## Role of the Basin Advisory Committee

The Basin Advisory Committees provide the working link between the Kansas Water Office staff and the public. The committees:

1. Advise the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority in identification of water-related problems, issues, and concerns within their basin.
2. Advise the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority in the formulation of revisions to the Basin Plan for their basin.
3. Advise the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority regarding the *Kansas Water Plan* implementation priorities and actions.
4. Serve as a link to the public in the basin through interaction with various groups and individuals and communicate information on concerns and issues to citizens in the basin.
5. Advise the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority on policy issues under consideration for inclusion in the *Kansas Water Plan*.

## Selection Process

All BAC members are nominated for BAC membership by the Basin Advisory Committee. The BAC reviews applications from individuals seeking a seat on the BAC. Category representation and support of the applicant by interest groups is also a consideration. BAC members must reside in the basin to be eligible for the basin advisory committee.

Each Basin Advisory Committee and the Kansas Water Authority make reasonable

efforts to achieve geographical balance among the members of each Basin Advisory Committee

Each chairperson is nominated by their BAC from the existing membership. The Kansas Water Authority confirms all member nominations as well as the chairperson. BAC members serve four-year terms. Terms expire on June 30 of alternate odd years.

Procedures used to fill vacancies on basin advisory committees are as follows:

**Procedure to Fill BAC Membership Openings**

1. BAC membership applications are accepted year-round from interested citizens. Applicants are asked to select those membership categories they wish to represent and provide their qualifications for each category. Applications are kept on file for consideration as the terms of seated BAC members end. Applicants will be contacted to confirm their continued interest in membership as openings in categories for which the applicant has shown interest occur.
2. Notice of BAC member openings are provided to organizations and groups who have asked to be placed on the BAC

application mailing list. This list is reviewed annually by the Kansas Water Office. Announcements to the general public are made through press releases. All categories have nominating organizations which are also notified of applicable openings.

3. Each BAC reviews applications received and recommends or nominates applicants to fill BAC openings to the Kansas Water Authority.
4. The Kansas Water Authority reviews all nominations from the BACs for membership and takes appropriate action.

**Additional Information**

Fact sheets also are available on the *Kansas Water Plan Purpose & Process* and the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority.

Further information on this subject or on many other *Kansas Water Plan* related programs can be obtained from: Kansas Water Office, 901 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1249, phone (785-296-3185), toll free (888-KAN-WATER) or check the Kansas Water Office website at [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org).

**MAJOR RIVER BASINS IN KANSAS**

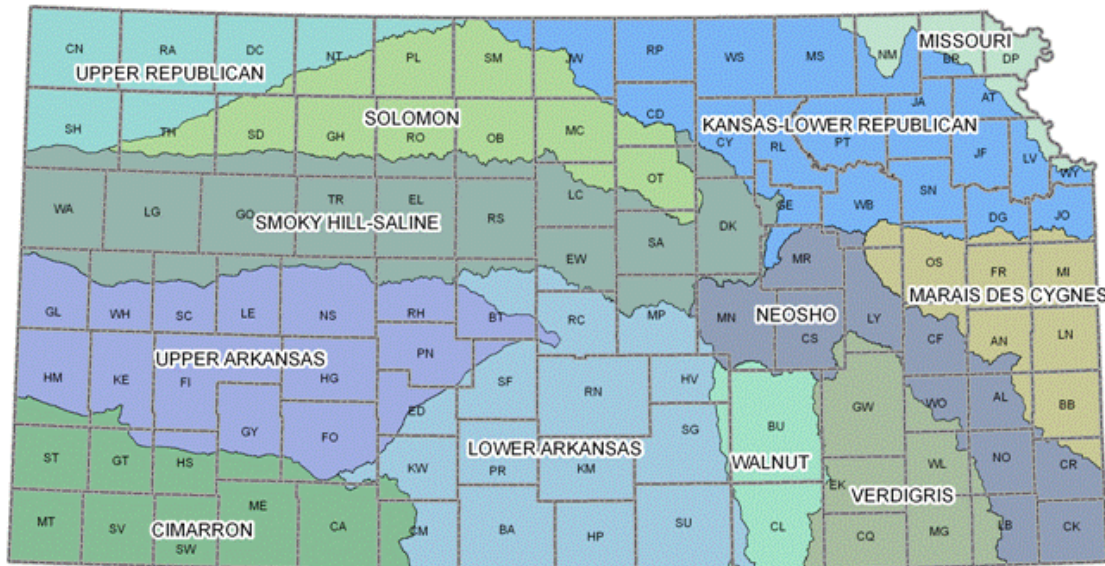


Figure 1