

THE KANSAS WATER PLAN

Fact Sheet No. 1

December 2004

Kansas Water Office

PURPOSE

The *Kansas Water Plan* is one of the primary tools used by the State of Kansas to coordinate the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state. The Water Plan sets out the way to achieve the goals identified in the State Water Resources Planning Act (K.S.A. 82a-901, *et seq*). It is updated as needed to provide recommendations on how the state can best achieve the proper utilization and control of the water resources of the state.

The Kansas Water Office is the water planning agency for the state, and is mandated under K.S.A. 82a-903 to “. . . formulate on a continuing basis a comprehensive state water plan for the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state”. Within and a part of the Kansas Water Office is the Kansas Water Authority which is comprised of 24 members.

PROCESS

One of the primary duties of the Kansas Water Authority is to consider and approve policy recommendations for inclusion in *the Kansas Water Plan*. Once approved, the Kansas Water Authority submits these recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for their consideration.

There are two sections in the *Kansas Water Plan*.

Policy Section: This section contains all the policy proposals recommended by the Kansas Water Authority to be implemented by passage of authorizing legislation and/or budgetary appropriations. This section also contains recommendations on the implementation steps for programs that have both statewide and local application. These recommendations can be found at <http://www.kwo.org>.

The Kansas Water Authority has authorized a rigorous and systematic process to develop policy recommendations. However, it is also designed to be responsive to emerging issues. Development of a policy issue can be started at any time, and while every step in the process is followed in every instance, the process can be expanded or collapsed as an issue demands. See Table 1.

Basin Section: This section of the *Kansas Water Plan* contains all the priorities for each water basin and recommendations for the operation of state programs that can assist in addressing priority issues. These priorities can be found at <http://www.kwo.org>. Like the policy planning process, there is a process specific to identifying new basin issues and approving them for inclusion in the basin section of *Kansas Water Plan*. See Table 2.

The Division of Water Resources of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, State Geological Survey, the Division of Environment of the Department of Health and Environment, Department of Wildlife and Parks, State Conservation Commission and “other interested state agencies” are designated by statute to work with the Water Office in formulation of the *Kansas Water Plan*. (K.S.A. 82a-903)

PUBLIC INPUT

The need to seek public input in the planning process is set out in K.S.A. 82a-903 and states that: “The Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority shall seek advice from the general public and from committees consisting of individuals with knowledge of and interest in water issues and in the water planning areas.”

The *Kansas Water Plan* is formulated through an established planning process, which emphasizes public participation through basin

advisory committees, public meetings and public hearings. Basin Advisory Committees are made up of volunteer citizens located within each of the 12 major river basins in the state to provide advice on formulation and implementation of the Basin Sections of the *Kansas Water Plan*. Each committee has 11 members representing water use categories of municipal, other public water suppliers, domestic, irrigation, industry and recreation, as well as at large members.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the *Kansas Water Plan* is accomplished in part by the passage of necessary legislation and through funding of specific programs or projects. The *Kansas Water Plan* serves as guidance to the agencies for preparation of budgets to implement the *Kansas Water Plan*.

Creation of the State Water Plan Fund in 1989 provided a dedicated source of revenue to supplement funding for implementation of the *Kansas Water Plan*. The Kansas Water Authority provides feedback at its June meeting on proposed expenditures by agencies represented on the Governor's Natural Resources Sub-Committee of the Cabinet for the upcoming legislative session in January. The Authority also provides further

feedback prior to the submission of agency budgets in September of each year. Then, prior to December 1 of each year, the Kansas Water Authority reports to the Governor and Legislature on actions necessary to implement the Plan, including legislation, coordination and appropriations of money, especially from the State Water Plan Fund (K.S.A. 74-2622(c)(5); 82a-951(b)).

ASSESSMENT

Assessments are made on an on-going basis to see what progress the State is making on the 2010 and 2015 Objectives approved by the Kansas Water Authority. They provide valuable information to planners and program managers as they target funding and resources. Each completed assessment is summarized in assessment notebooks for the state and by the basin, and can be found at <http://www.kwo.org>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information on this subject or 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 (1-888-KAN-WATER) or check our WEB site at <http://www.kwo.org>.

Table 1
Kansas Water Plan - Policy Issue Planning Process

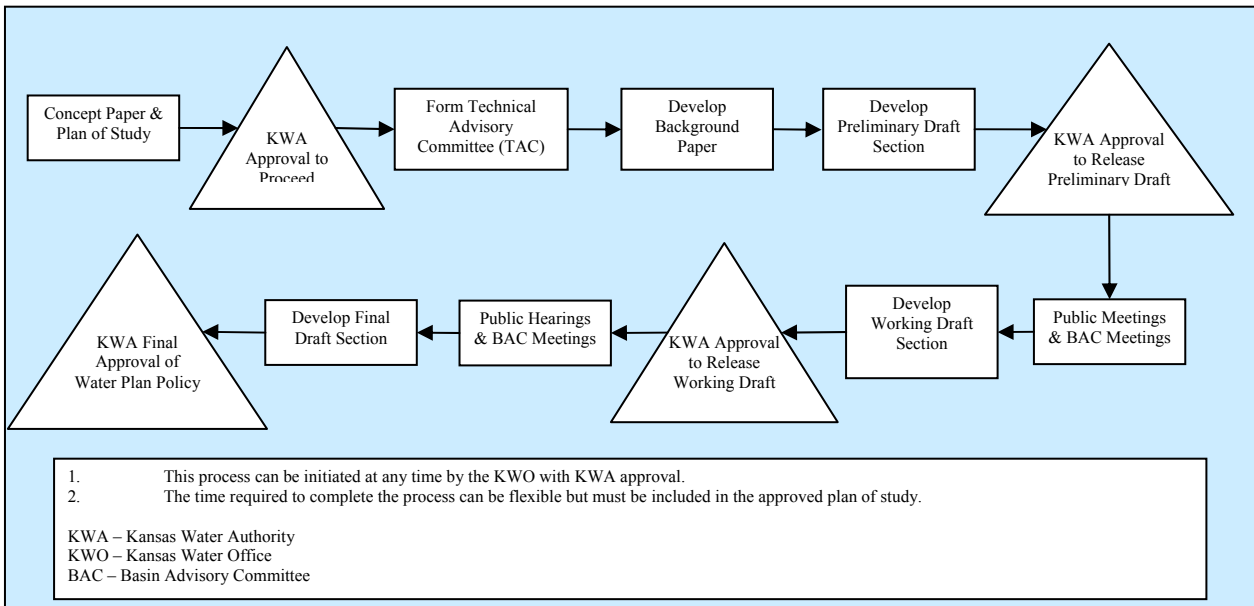


Table 2
Kansas Water Plan - Basin Issue Planning Process

