

# KANSAS WATER OFFICE & KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Fact Sheet No. 3

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Kansas Water Office

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## BACKGROUND

The Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority were established in 1981. The Kansas Water Office with 22.5 employees is the water planning, policy, coordination and marketing agency for the state. The Kansas Water Authority is statutorily within and a part of the Kansas Water Office. It advises the Governor, Legislature and the Director of the Kansas Water Office on water policy issues. The Kansas Water Authority is responsible for approving water storage sales, the State Water Plan, federal contracts, regulations and legislation proposed by the Kansas Water Office.

The primary statutory function of the agency is the development and implementation of the State Water Plan. State law requires the Kansas Water Office to "Formulate on a continuing basis a comprehensive State Water Plan for the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state. Such State Water Plan shall include sections corresponding with water planning areas as determined by the office." (K.S.A. 74-2608 *et seq.*)

To accomplish this goal, the agency is given further statutory responsibility to:

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE KANSAS WATER OFFICE

1. Administer the State Water Resources Plan Act. Work out a plan of water resources management, conservation and development for water planning areas in the state. (K.S.A. 82a-901 *et seq.*) (K.S.A. 74-2608 (b).)
2. Conduct public water supply planning. (K.S.A. 74-2616)
3. Administer the State Water Plan Storage Act (Water Marketing Program). (K.S.A. 82a-1301 *et seq.*)

4. Administer the Water Assurance Program Act. (K.S.A. 82a-1345 *et seq.*)
5. Manage the State Water Plan Fund. (K.S.A. 82a-951)
6. Administer the Weather Modification Act. (K.S.A. 82a-1411)
7. Coordinate water related activities of state, local and federal government. (K.S.A. 82a-931)
8. Negotiate for the inclusion of storage in federal projects or releases of water from such storage agreements with the federal government. (K.S.A. 82a-915 & 82a-933)
9. Coordinate water related research. (K.S.A. 82a-941)
10. Issue bonds related to the purchase of water supply storage in federal reservoirs. (K.S.A. 82a-1316)
11. Collect and compile information pertaining to the water resources of the state. (K.S.A. 74-2608 (a).)
12. Develop and maintain guidelines for water conservation plans and practices. (K.S.A. 74-2608 (c).)
13. Establish guidelines for conditions indicative of drought. When such conditions are met, advise the Governor, and recommend that the Governor's Drought Response Team be assembled. (K.S.A. 74-2608 (d).)

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY

1. Consult with and be advisory to the Governor, Legislature and Director of the Kansas Water Office on water management issues. (K.S.A. 74-2622(d)(1).)
2. Review plans of any state or local agency related to the water resources of the state. Review and evaluate water resource budget estimates for state agencies. (K.S.A. 74-2622(d)(2) & (9).)
3. Study laws related to water resource management issues and make recommendations on new or amendatory legislation to the Governor and Legislature. (K.S.A. 74-2622(d)(3).)

4. Make recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, state agencies and political subdivisions of the state for the coordination of water resource management activities. (K.S.A. 74-2622 (d)(4)&(5).)
5. Approve amendments to the State Water Plan Water Planning Act and other legislation that the Kansas Water Office may propose.
6. Approve contracts with water marketing customers related to the State Water Plan Storage Act. (K.S.A. 74-2622 (d)(6).)
7. Approve pricing of water for sale under the marketing program. (K.S.A. 74-2622 (d)(7).)
8. Approve any agreement with the federal government by the Kansas Water Office. (K.S.A. 74-2622 (d)(8).)
9. Kansas Water Office proposed rules and regulations. (74-2622 (d)(10).)
10. Approve conservation plan guidelines and practices. (K.S.A. 74-2622(d)(11).)

### **Kansas Water Authority Membership**

The 24-member Kansas Water Authority is comprised of 13 private citizen members and ten ex officio members.

The 13 private citizen members serve as follows:

- 1) appointment by the Governor (this member serves as chairperson of the Kansas Water Authority);
- 2) appointment by the President of the Senate;
- 3) appointment by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 4) a representative of large municipal water uses;
- 5) a representative of small municipal water users;
- 6) a board member of western Kansas groundwater management district;
- 7) a board member of a central Kansas groundwater management district;

- 8) a member of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts;
- 9) a representative of industrial water users;
- 10) a member of the State Association of Watershed Districts;
- 11) a member with a demonstrated background and interest in water use, conservation and environmental issues;
- 12) and 13) two representatives of the general public appointed by the Governor.

The 11 ex officio members are as follows:

- 1) the State Geologist;
- 2) the State Biologist;
- 3) the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources of the Kansas Department of Agriculture;
- 4) the Director of the Division of Environment of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment;
- 5) the Director of the Kansas Water Office (this member serves as Secretary of the Kansas Water Authority);
- 6) the Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Kansas State University;
- 7) Chairman of the Kansas Corporation Commission;
- 8) Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks;
- 9) the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce;
- 10) the Executive Director of the State Conservation Commission; and
- 11) the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. (K.S.A. 74-2622 *et seq.*)

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Further information on this and other *Kansas Water Plan* related programs can be obtained from the Kansas Water Office, 901 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1249. Call (785) 296-3185 or toll free (888) KAN-WATER. The Kansas Water Office WEB site is [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org).