



**Before the  
House Committee on Water and Environment  
Testimony on HB 2272  
Earl Lewis, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office  
February 9, 2017**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear this morning in opposition to House Bill 2272. My name is Earl Lewis, and I am the Assistant Director of the Kansas Water Office.

I appear in opposition to HB 2272 as it is duplicative and unnecessary. The mission of the Kansas water collaborative is already covered by enabling statutory authority of the Kansas Water Office in K.S.A. 74-2608.

Duties of office. The Kansas water office shall:

- (a) Collect and compile information pertaining to climate, water and soil as related to the usage of water for agricultural, industrial and municipal purposes and the availability of water supplies in the several watersheds of the state, and, in so doing, the office shall collect and compile the information obtainable from other agencies, instrumentalities of the state, political subdivisions of the state and the federal government.
- (b) Develop a state plan of water resources management, conservation and development for water planning areas as determined by the office, and cooperate with any agency or instrumentality of the state or federal government now or hereafter engaged in the development of plans or having developed plans affecting any such area of the state.

Other state agencies and universities are also directed to cooperate with the Kansas Water Office in these activities in K.S.A. 74-2610.

Cooperation of other state agencies. The division of water resources of the Kansas department of agriculture and the chief engineer thereof, the state geological survey of the university of Kansas, the director of the agricultural experiment stations of Kansas state university, the chief engineer of the department of health and environment, and all other state and local agencies shall cooperate with and shall make available to the water resources board all facts, records, information and data requested by said board and shall in all ways cooperate with said board in carrying out its duties imposed by this act.

Each of these activities is overseen by the Kansas Water Authority, whose responsibilities are defined in K.S.A. 74-2622 to include:

- (1) Consult with and be advisory to the governor, the legislature and the director of the Kansas water office.
- (2) Review plans for the development, management and use of the water resources of the state by any state or local agency.
- (3) Make a study of the laws of this state, other states and the federal government relating to conservation and development of water resources, appropriation of water for beneficial use, flood control, construction of levees, drainage, irrigation, soil conservation, watershed development, stream control, gauging of stream and stream pollution for the purpose of determining the necessity or advisability of the enactment of new or amendatory legislation in this state on such subjects.

I have attached a table that shows the current membership of the Kansas Water Authority and what entity or group they represent. You will notice that there is a significant amount of overlap in the membership of the Kansas Water Authority and the proposed Kansas water collaborative.

Finally, there are several areas of the Long Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas, including an entire section to Implement Research-Based Technology at Better Understanding our State's Water Supply. That section includes an action item to:

Annually coordinate with university researchers regarding the Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas to ensure future collaborative research supports the successful implementation of the Vision.

We have for years coordinated closely with our research partners at state universities, federal agencies and private entities. Attached is a partial list of research activities in the last few years that are associated with the topics listed in HB 2272. The results of this research guide development and implementation of the Kansas Water Plan and the Vision. Many of the activities you have heard about this session are the direct results of collaborative research conducted under the statutory charge of listed above. Creation of another entity to accomplish the same basic mission will result in additional time and effort expended with little to no additional gain.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on HB 2272. I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

**THE KANSAS WATER AUTHORITY**  
**February 8, 2017**

| NAME                          | REPRESENTING                                 |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Gary Harshberger, Chair       | Governor                                     |
| Pat Apple                     | Kansas Corporation Commission                |
| Mike Armstrong                | Speaker of the House                         |
| John Bailey, Ph.D             | Public                                       |
| David Barfield                | KDA-Division of Water Resources              |
| Mark D. Fischer               | Public                                       |
| John Floros                   | Agricultural Experiment Station              |
| Greg Graff                    | Western GMD's 1, 3, and 4                    |
| Randy Hayzlett                | President of the Senate                      |
| Robin Jennison                | KS Department of Wildlife and Parks          |
| Alan King                     | League of Municipalities                     |
| Calvin Kissick                | South Central GMD's 2 & 5                    |
| Brad Loveless                 | Environment/Conservation                     |
| Rolfe Mandel                  | Kansas Geological Survey                     |
| Edward Martinko               | Kansas Biological Survey                     |
| Karma Mason                   | Kansas Association of Commerce and Industry  |
| Jackie McClaskey              | Kansas Department of Agriculture             |
| John Mitchell, Director       | KDHE - Division of Environment               |
| Rob Reschke                   | KDA-Division of Conservation                 |
| Dennis F. Schwartz            | Kansas Rural Water Association               |
| Antonio Soave                 | Kansas Department of Commerce                |
| Tracy Streeter, KWA Secretary | Kansas Water Office                          |
| Lynn Wobker                   | State Association of Kansas Watersheds       |
| John Starns                   | Kansas Association of Conservation Districts |

## Summary of Recent/Ongoing Water Research Efforts in Kansas

| Research Area  | Primary Research Entity                           | Date      |
|--|---|-----------|
| <b>Crops &amp; Technology</b>  |   |           |
| Sorghum Research   | KSU Agronomy                                      | Ongoing   |
| Wheat- heat & drought tolerant varieties   | KSU Agronomy                                      | Ongoing   |
| Alternative forages  | KSU Agronomy                                      | Ongoing   |
| On-Farm Demonstration of Water Management Technologies and Mobile Drip Irrigation      | K-State Extension                                 | 2016      |
| <b>Groundwater Modeling &amp; Aquifer Characterization</b>                             |   |           |
| Aquifer characterization (Index Wells, Annual Monitoring)                              | Kansas Geological Survey                          | Ongoing   |
| Groundwater Management District #2 Sustainability Assessment                           | Kansas Geological Survey                          | 2016      |
| Equus Bed Modeling   | USGS  | 2013      |
| Missouri Region Groundwater Characterization   | Kansas Geological Survey                          | 2016      |
| Lower Republican River Groundwater/Surface Interaction Model                           | Kansas Geological Survey                          | 2015      |
| GMD # 1 Model  | Kansas Geological Survey                          | 2015      |
| GMD #3 Model   | Kansas Geological Survey                          | 2012      |
| GMD #5 Model   | GMD # 5   | 2010      |
| <b>Economics of Water Conservation</b>   |   |           |
| Monitoring the Impacts of Sheridan County 6 Local Enhanced Management Area             | KSU Ag Economics                                  | 2015      |
| Limited Irrigation Crop Insurance/ WCA Calculator                                      | Kansas Geological Survey                          | 2017      |
| Monitoring the Impacts of Willis Technology Farms                                      | KSU Ag Economics                                  | 2016      |
| Economic and Policy Implications of Groundwater Conservation in Southwest Kansas       | Bill Golden/KDA/KS Economic Development Institute | 2015      |
| <b>Sedimentation, Reservoirs &amp; Water Supply</b>                                    |   |           |
| Evaluation of Bathymetric Modification at John Redmond Reservoir                       | KU Civil Engineering                              | 2014-2015 |
| Regional Sediment Management Studies   | USACE   |           |
| Bathymetric Surveys  | Kansas Biological Survey                          | Ongoing   |
| Streambank Assessment of the Cottonwood and Neosho Rivers above John Redmond Reservoir | Kansas Biological Survey                          | 2016-2017 |
| Study of Implementation Plans for Siltation Mitigation of Federally Owned Reservoirs   | Universal Asset Management                        | 2015      |
| Multi-basin Evaluation of Kansas Reservoir Operations                                  | KWO/Hydrologics                                   | 2015      |
| USGS Stream Gaging & Neosho River Monitoring   | USGS  | Ongoing   |
| Lower Republican River Basin Modeling of Alternative Management Scenarios              | Kansas Geological Survey                          | 2014      |
| Reservoir Feasibility Study for Lower Republican River Basin                           | Burns & MacDonald                                 | 2016      |

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| <b>Water Quality &amp; Habitat</b>   |  |           |
|--|--|-----------|
| HAB Studies for Milford and Kansas River                                     | USGS   | 2012-2016 |
| Kansas River Taste and Odor  | KWO/USGS/Water One                                   |           |
| Water Quality Impacts of Constructed Wetlands on Tile Outlet Terrace Runoff  | KU Civil Engineering                                 | 2014-2016 |
| Development of Wetlands in Aging Reservoirs                                  | Kansas Biological Survey                             | 2016      |
| Development of Potential Wetland Areas in Kansas                             | Kansas Biological Survey                             | 2015      |
| Pre and Post Bank Stabilization Fish Monitoring on Cottonwood River          | Kansas Biological Survey                             | 2017      |
| Playa Mapping and Assessment   | Kansas Biological Survey                             | 2014      |
| <b>Water &amp; Energy</b>  |  |           |
| Energy and Water Conservation Study  | Bob Johnson  | 2016      |
| Produced Water Research  | KU Civil Engineering & Tertiary Oil Recovery Program | 2016-2021 |
| Decision analysis for reduced water use combined with renewable energy sales | KU Interdisciplinary Energy and Water Initiatives    | Proposed  |
| <b>Data Development</b>  |  |           |
| USGS Stream Stats Web Application  | USGS   | 2015      |
| Reservoir Portal Web Application   | Kansas Biological Survey                             | 2014-2016 |
| Public Water Supply Data Web Application                                     | KWO  | 2016-2017 |
| LIDAR Collection   | KDA/NRCS/KWO/USGS                                    | Ongoing   |