



Tracy Streeter, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

**Legislative Budget Committee
Testimony on Kansas Water Office Budget
Tracy Streeter
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Chairman Waymaster and members of the Committee, I am Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss supplements to the Kansas Water Office Budget for FY 2018 and FY 2019.

Overview

As you are aware, the Kansas Water Office budget is comprised of primarily three sources: the State General Fund, user fees from our Water Marketing and Water Assurance programs, and the State Water Plan Fund. Today I will talk about proposed supplements to two of those funding sources; (1) projects recommended by the Kansas Water Authority to implement the Vision under the State Water Plan Fund, and (2) staff to ensure the goals and actions identified in the Vision are implemented under the State General Fund.

State Water Plan Fund

First I would like to thank you for the action you took during the 2017 legislative session to approve a \$1.2 million State General Fund transfer into the State Water Plan Fund to continue to implement \$1.0 million in streambank stabilization projects, \$100,000 for bathymetric studies and \$100,000 for the Kansas River alluvial index well network. These projects are underway and will continue to provide valuable information and protect our water resources in Kansas.

Following the Legislature’s lead, and implementing the first phase recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Funding Task Force, the Kansas Water Authority is recommending that the State General Fund and Economic Development Initiatives Fund transfers be partially restored in FY2018 and fully restored in FY2019. The list of priority projects focused on implementing the *Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas* is shown in the table at the right. Details for each of the projects are provided in Attachment I.

Kansas Water Authority Priority Projects –SGF/EDIF Transfer	FY2018	FY2019
Water Conservation		
Vision Strategic Education Plan	\$0	\$500,000
Watershed Conservation Practice Implementation – BMP Team	\$0	\$1,800,000
Milford Lake Watershed RCPP Project	\$200,000	\$200,000
Streambank Stabilization	\$0	\$1,000,000
Water Management		
Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot	\$400,000	\$500,000
Contamination Remediation	\$0	\$400,000
Interstate Water Compact Compliance	\$0	\$100,000
Water Structures Inspections	\$0	\$200,000
Technology and Crop Varieties		
Irrigation Technology	\$0	\$1,000,000
Water Technology Farms	\$0	\$250,000
Vision Implementation Research – Research Coordination Group	\$0	\$500,000
Telemetry	\$0	\$850,000
Additional Sources of Supply		
Waters Leaving the State Evaluation	\$0	\$200,000
Equus Beds Chloride Plume Project	\$0	\$500,000
FY2018 & FY2019 Supplement Request Total	\$600,000	\$8,000,000

State General Fund

The Kansas Water Office is requesting a supplement of \$257,250 in FY2019 to fund three additional Water Resource Planners. These positions are necessary for the Kansas Water Office to meet the high demands for continued implementation of vision activities in each of the 14 regions and community involvement. Currently, there are five members of our staff assigned to coordination, planning and implementation activities in the 14 regions. Each region has defined goals and action plans to meet those goals, as well as a volunteer stakeholder committee which helps to develop and oversee implementation of the action plans. The complete list of action plan projects is in Attachment II. Implementation efforts have begun on only 32 of 59 of the regional action plans. However, most of these action plans that are being implemented are moving more slowly than expected and the local committee recommends these action plans be completed and additional staff is needed to complete these projects within the action plans. Experience has shown that for our Water Resource Planners to be successful, an individual planner should be assigned to no more than two regions. Two of the requested staff would be assigned to this effort, bringing the total number to seven, with each individual assigned to two regions.

Ensuring that implementation activities are scientifically based, technically sound and adequately monitored was also a key message communicated through the Vision process. Currently, only two staff members within the Kansas Water Office are dedicated to these efforts. A number of additional studies have been identified in both the Vision and regional action plans, but continue to be delayed due to limited funds and staffing. One additional Water Resource Planner is requested to complete technical analysis and assist with coordination of water related research.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss the Kansas Water Office budget. I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Attachment I
Attachment II