

901 S. Kansas Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612



Phone: (785)-296-3185
Fax: (785)-296-0878
www.kwo.org

Tracy Streeter, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

**Before the
2013 Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Kansas Aqueduct Project

**Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office
November 19, 2013**

Chairman Love and members of the Committee, I am Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office (KWO). Thank you for the opportunity to provide background information on the Kansas Aqueduct Study.

The Missouri River Aqueduct to Western Kansas was conceived in the U.S. Department of Commerce, Six-State High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer Regional Resources Study (High Plains Study) and the work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-587, Sec. 193). The Water Transfer Element was a Reconnaissance Study completed by the Corps, Kansas City District in September 1982. The management strategy of a water transfer element in the High Plains Study was to replace depleting irrigation water from the Ogallala Aquifer with available renewable surface water to sustain and improve production of food and fiber so vital to the national economy.

The KWO and Kansas Water Authority (KWA) have developed a plan of study to evaluate the technical, legal, political, financial and other aspects of the Kansas Aqueduct Project. Following is a brief description of the approach including estimated costs, where appropriate.

Through the Corps Planning Assistance to States (PAS) cost-share program, an update to the 1982 Water Transfer Element of the High Plain – Ogallala Aquifer Study will be completed. Technical updates will include updated mapping of the proposed alignment (Route B – Kansas), tabulation of the seasonal water supply needs, estimated range of quantities of water provided by the route and general modernization of the design of the transfer facilities. Financial revisions will include updates to the total estimated construction cost, project cost per unit of transferred water, and summary of energy requirements and costs.

Under the PAS agreement, a qualified contractor would be selected from the Corps' Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) approved contractor list. The contractor will provide the Corps a cost proposal based on a scope of work defined by the Kansas Aqueduct Advisory Committee (see below). After reviewing available state resources and communication with the Corps, a budget of \$300,000 has been defined for the technical and financial update to the study. The PAS cost share program will provide up to \$150,000 of federal funds. Non-federal match of \$150,000 would be provided as a combination of cash and in-kind services from KWO, Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 (GMD 3) and other appropriate stakeholders.

While the original Water Transfer Element study evaluated other aspects of an aqueduct such as potential impacts to fish and wildlife, it did not provide any legal evaluation of the feasibility of such a project. The plan of study includes a preliminary legal feasibility review to be conducted to determine whether the proposed

system conflicts with legal requirements such as the state Appropriation Act, as well as, interstate compacts. A preliminary review may identify areas of potential conflict that may warrant a more comprehensive review.

There are other aspects of the feasibility of the Kansas Aqueduct Project that need to be evaluated before an informed decision on the future practicability and viability of the project can be made. Some of these include but are not limited to, an assessment of the political climate at a local, state and federal level; and updates to potential adverse and beneficial impacts to fish, wildlife and habitat.

The KWA has formed a stakeholder advisory committee comprised of individuals from communities located geographically along the proposed project route. Stakeholders selected represent various use and interest categories such as city and county government, public utilities, industries, agriculture and financial institutions. In addition to being involved in reviewing the findings from the technical, financial and legal reviews described above, the committee would assist in identifying the other issues impacting the feasibility of the Kansas Aqueduct Project.

Members of the Kansas Aqueduct Advisory Committee are:

- Jeff Grossenbacher, Bern, Producer, Vice Chair, Missouri Basin Advisory Committee (BAC)
- Darci Meese, Water One of Johnson County; Kansas-Lower Republican BAC member
- Steve Cadue, Horton, Chairman, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- John Kaufman, Leavenworth Water Department General Manager
- Brad Loveless, Topeka, Westar Representative, KWA, Environment and Conservation
- Curtis Tobias, Lyons, KWA, GMD 2 & 5 Representative
- Joe Pajor, Wichita Representative
- Clark Rusco, Barton County Engineer, Chair, Upper Arkansas BAC
- Gregg Graff, Leoti, KWA, GMD 1, 3 & 4 Representative
- Mark Rude, Executive Director, GMD 3
- Clay Scott, Producer, GMD 3 Board Member
- Lou Hines, Colby, Farmers and Merchants Bank
- Randy Hayzlett, Lakin, KWA, appointed by Senate President

The Kansas Aqueduct Advisory Committee met on November 14 in Salina, Kansas. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the draft scope of work for the PAS Study.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide an update on the Kansas Aqueduct Study. The KWO would be glad to provide additional updates during the 2014 Legislative Session as the study process progresses.