



STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF KANSAS WATERSHEDS



# Newsletter

Issue 75  
December  
2021

**SAKW wishes all our conservation protection partners the best in 2022.**



**What is in this issue?**

**SAKW 2021 Board of Directors  
Message from the Executive Director  
Funding Report from KDA/DOC  
KACD 77th Annual Convention  
SAKW Display Setup at KACD Convention  
Wet Walnut WJD Annual Meeting  
SAKW 71st Annual Meeting Program  
SAKW 71st Annual Meeting News Article  
SAKW 71st Annual Meeting Resolutions  
SAKW Updated 2022 Membership List  
Events to Consider**

**Please Join Us February 1-2, 2022, at the Hotel Topeka at City Center and State Capitol Building for Our 71st SAKW Annual Meeting.**

## 2022 SAKW Board of Directors

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## Message from the Executive Director

Time to think about 2022 New Year resolutions for accomplishing goals for SAKW. I was hoping by this time we could put Covid-19 issues to bed for good, but seems like new variants keep raising their ugly head. Just keep safe and make the right decisions for you and your family

Just a few words on remembering 2021 accomplishments before delving into 2022 goals and objectives. The top two tasks completed for 2021 would have to be: 1. O&M Workshops and 2. O&M Inspection Contract Phase I. The top two tasks that require more work would be: 1. PL-566 program progress and 2. DamWatch for State and locally funded dams.

So here we go for what to we hope will be tasks completed for 2022: 1. Successful completion of O&M Inspection Contract Phase II; 2. PL-566 Design contracts for UBV, Wolf River, Middle Creek, Doyle, and Del 10; 3. Real progress towards a DamWatch plan for all existing State and locally funded Watershed District dams; and 4. Attendance at RAC meetings to better relay Watershed District activities.

The new agreement is signed for O&M Inspections under Phase II and the proposal from Cook, Flatt, and Strobel has been approved to start January 1, 2022 to inspect 281 more dams in 21 new and different watershed districts, 2 RC&Ds, and one special project in Miami County. The statement of work remains the same whereby only qualified PL-566 dam inspectors can do the work.

The wheel of progress has turned rather slow for advancing through the PL-566 steps towards constructing a Watershed District dam. NRCS and SAKW feel having a design contract for the before listed Watershed Districts is doable in 2022. Barring more restrictions from Covid-19, personnel changes, and perhaps funding reductions, negotiating contracts for designs should be next up for local Watershed Districts.

Thanks to KDA/DOC working directly with SAKW it is hoped that a comprehensive plan can be put together in 2022 that outlines the steps necessary for DamWatch becoming a reality for all Watershed District dams in Kansas. The guidance for the plan development will come from USEngineering, owner of DamWatch, and we hope experiences from NRCS who now are using DamWatch for their PL-566 dams.

“When was the last time a representative of your watershed district attended one of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings? RAC meetings develop water policy strategies for the KWO and KWA to consider as Kansas moves forward with the Governors 50 year water plan. One of the strategies is to make recommendations to the KWA budget committee for funding the vast number of water related programs. Not one watershed district related program was listed for assistance by the RACs. Watershed districts failed to attend the RAC meetings to let their wishes be known. SAKW failed to attend the RAC meetings to support funding of watershed district programs. Let us both make it a high priority for 2022 to attend RAC meetings and express the benefits of watershed district programs that directly benefit water related programs throughout Kansas.” A paragraph borrowed from the September 2021 Newsletter that outlines the anticipated activities needed by SAKW and Watershed Districts in 2022.

We have outlined our goals or resolutions for 2022. Please give us feedback as to how feasible the goals might be. Suggest other goals keeping in mind some of our listed goals are very time consuming. We say this not to deter you from making suggested goals for SAKW in 2022, but for determining how successful we might be in accomplishing all goals for 2022.

This newsletter should get to all watershed districts in time for our February 1-2, 2022 annual meeting. Hope to see everyone in Topeka, by the way be safe, and have a prosperous New Year.

Hakim continues to distribute the appropriated funds made available to him for Watershed District projects. Keep sending in the applications for cost sharing for rehabilitation and someday new dams. Funding will only be increased when we can work closely with the Kansas Water Authority and the associated Regional Advisory Committees to show the need for increased funding based on solid benefit to cost ratios.

## Watershed Districts

Hakim Saadi, P.E.

November 21, 2021

### A. Watershed Dam Construction Program (cost-share assistance)

Watershed District	Site	RAC	Cost-share			Total Cost Estimate
			Requested	Approved	App Cumul	
Wet Walnut WJD 58 (*)	153	GB	\$47,406.52	\$47,406.52	\$47,406.52	\$106,000.00
Walnut-West WD 72	DD 3	EW	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$167,406.52	\$190,000.00
Lakin WD 49	FRD 4	UA	\$13,354.00	\$13,354.00	\$180,760.52	\$18,694.00
Lakin WD 49	FRD 2	UA	\$26,745.00	\$26,745.00	\$207,505.52	\$36,793.00
Pawnee WJD 81	1-17	GB	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$327,505.52	\$212,885.00
Rock C WJD 84	204	NO	\$98,166.53	\$98,166.53	\$425,672.05	\$143,589.00
Switzler Creek WD 63	5	MC	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$545,672.05	\$226,500.00
Delaware WJD 10	C-58	KS	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$617,672.05	\$110,000.00
Delaware WJD 10	A-99	KS	\$76,000.00	\$48,000.00	\$665,672.05	\$115,000.00
LDM WJD 5 (**)	66	KS	\$65,639.70	\$22,612.65	\$688,284.70	\$103,148.00

(*) Partially Funded in 2021:	\$17,393.48	\$759,311.75	\$688,284.70		\$1,262,609.00
(**) To be Supplemented in 2023:	\$43,027.05				

### B. O&M Inspections

- The Watershed Partnership (DOC, DWR, NRCS and SAKW) conducted three O&M Workshops (Oct 12, in Topeka, Oct 13 in Abilene and Oct 14 in LaCrosse).
- State Funded Dams at 22%, NRCS at 43%, as of Nov 15, 2021
- All due on or before Dec 31.

**The new location was a great fit for KACD. Ample parking for all who attended. With our display table needing upgrading for our handouts, I was not able to take in some of the concurrent sessions. Those that I did take in were informative with a strong attention to soil health. Great job, Dan along with your support staff.**



**KACD 77th Annual Convention  
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita, Kansas  
November 21-23, 2021**

Thanks to our memberships, these type displays are made possible. See it set up again at the Kansas Capitol and at our display area of the Hotel Topeka, February 1-2, 2022 during our 71st Annual Meeting.



Always an enjoyable evening with the Wet Walnut WJD No. 58 folks.



**WET WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED  
JOINT DISTRICT #58**

**2021**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 18, 2021**



**GOLDEN YEARS CENTER  
BAZINE KANSAS**



**SAKW 71th Annual Meeting  
February 1-2, 2022  
Program**

**TUESDAY, February 1, 2022**

- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. ----- Registration - Emerald Foyer**
- 9:00 a.m. ----- Call to Order – Emerald I&II  
Barb Oltjen, SAKW President**
- 9:05 a.m. -----(Door Prize Drawing)**
- 9:10 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. ----- Keynote Address- Emerald I&II  
“A Conservation Legacy to Remember”,  
Derek Schmidt, Attorney General**
- 9:45 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. ----- Emerald I&II  
“Water Resource Gains of the Past Lead to Challenges in the  
Future”, Connie Owen, KWO Director**
- 10:30 a.m. -----Shuttle Departs for State Capitol (South Door)**
- 10:45 a.m. -----2<sup>nd</sup> Shuttle Departs for State Capitol (South Door)**
- 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. ----- “Watershed District Day at the Capitol”, Barbecue Buffet  
Lunch, Best Watershed District Display Award**
- 12:30 p.m. – 12:40 p.m. ---- Address at the Capitol-Governor Laura Kelly invited to speak**
- 1:45 p.m. -----Shuttle departs for Hotel**
- 2:00 p.m. -----2<sup>nd</sup> Shuttle departs for Hotel**
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ----- Business Meeting– Emerald I&II  
Minutes, Treasurer Report, Resolutions, Committee Reports,  
Nominations, Election, Old & New Business**
- 3:00 p.m.-3:25 p.m. ----- Emerald I&II  
“My New DOC Beginning Maybe Short on Past Experiences,  
But Here are My Thoughts for the Future”  
Andrew Lyon, KDA/DOC Executive Director**
- 3:25 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. ----- Break Emerald Foyer**
- 3:40 p.m. – 4:05 p.m. ----- Emerald I&II  
“Watershed Projects Looking for Alternative Funding  
Sources”, Tom Stiles, Director, Bureau of Water KDHE**



**4:05 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. ----- Emerald I&II**  
**“My New DWR Beginning Maybe Short on Past Experiences,  
But Here are My Thoughts for the Future”**  
**Earl Lewis, KDA/DWR Chief Engineer**

**4:30 p.m. -5:15 p.m. ----- Emerald I&II**  
**“So You Think You Know the Kansas Watershed District  
Law”, Hakim Saadi, Watershed Programs Manager, KDA/DOC**

**5:15 p.m. ----- (Door Prize Drawing)**

**WEDNESDAY, February 2, 2022**

**8:50 a.m. ----- Early Bird Door Prize Drawing - Emerald I&II**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. ----- Keynote Speaker Emerald I&II**  
**“Partnerships, Success in the Past, Success for the Future”**  
**Dan Sebert, NWC Executive Director, Pawnee, OK**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. ----- Emerald I&II**  
**“Reflections and Anticipation Guides Our Future Efforts”**  
**Lisa Knauf Owen, NWC Chairwoman, Representing  
Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma City, OK**

**10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. ----- Break Emerald Foyer  
(Door Prize Drawing)**

**10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ----- Emerald I&II**  
**“NRCS Report”, Karen Woodrich  
State Conservationist**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ----- Emerald I&II**  
**“Mitigation Updates for 2021 and Beyond Panel” –**  
**Intermittent Stream Assessments, Tom Schumann, USACE  
Water Quality Certification Changes, Scott Satterthwaite,  
KDHE  
Mitigation Bank/ILF Credits, Brock Emmert, Watershed  
Institute  
Herb Graves, SAKW, Moderator**

**12:00 p.m. ----- Wrap-Up and Adjourn**

## **SAKW 71st Annual Meeting News Article Being Published As We Work Up this Newsletter**

### **“Remembering the Past, Planning for the Future”, Theme for 71st SAKW Annual Meeting**

**The State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW) 71st Annual Meeting is to be held in the Hotel Topeka at City Center on February 1-2, 2022. Barb Oltjen, President of SAKW from Robinson will preside over the meeting that will bring together representatives from the 74 watershed districts in Kansas, many state and federal agencies, organizations, and individuals.**

**The SAKW 71st annual meeting starts off with a keynote address from Attorney General Derek Schmidt. AG Schmidt has been asked to comment on how the redefying of the Waters of the US (WOTUS) jurisdictional authority of past years might challenge the WOTUS proposed jurisdictional authority of the EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers today.**

**Due to popular demand of 2020, the entire contingent of registered guests will be shuttled to the State Capitol for a 2-hour meet and greet session to include a catered Barbecue lunch for and with our State Legislators and other invited guests.**

**The second day of the conference will begin with our second key note address from Dan Sebert, National Watershed Coalition Executive Director. Mr. Sebert has been asked to speak on partnerships of the past and how to build on those for the future.**

**NWC Chairwoman Lisa Knauf Owen, representing the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma will accompany Dan Sebert to Topeka giving us a dynamic duet of Watershed Conservation Partnership presentations.**

**Activity reports from several agencies: Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources and Conservation, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be presented throughout the conference.**

**Just how well do we understand and recall watershed district rules and regulations as per the watershed district law? Hakim Saadi, State Watershed Manager, KDA/DOC will quiz, challenge, and score how well we all did. A presentation that will be both entertaining as well as educational, we hope.**

**A panel composed of Tom Schumann, Kansas Regulatory Director from the US Army Corps of Engineers; Scott Satterwaite, KDHE; and Brock Emmert, Watershed Institute will lead the discussion and receive questions on subjects such as Intermittent Stream Assessment, Water Quality Certification, and availability of mitigation credits through in lieu of fee and banking procedures.**

**Information on annual meeting registration, motel reservations, resolutions listings, and the complete meeting agenda can be found on the SAKW website at [www.sakw.org](http://www.sakw.org). Additional questions about the annual meeting can be directed to Herbert R. Graves Jr., SAKW Executive Director, 785-263-6033, or by e-mail at [sakwwatersheds@gmail.com](mailto:sakwwatersheds@gmail.com).**

**It is hoped that we hear from Watershed Districts for additional resolutions as requested. Of course our business meeting time table may not make it possible to hear about other resolutions, but we will make sure they are edited, published, and sent to the appropriate destination(s).**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1: THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS WATERSHEDS CHALLENGES EACH WATERSHED DISTRICT WITH STATE AND LOCALLY FUNDED DAMS LEFT IN THEIR GENERAL PLAN TO CONSTRUCT TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO AT LEAST ONE REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) MEETING IN THE NEXT YEAR.**

**WHEREAS, the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) Budget Committee will ask for input from the RAC committees to formulate the 2023 budget for the Dam Construction program; and**

**WHEREAS, each RAC needs to hear from Watershed Districts as per accomplishments, benefits, costs, restrictions, and**

**WHEREAS, the dam construction program in the past 40 years has only completed 50% of the planned general plan projects; and**

**WHEREAS, each project must show a positive benefit to cost ratio to include mitigation costs making the program one of if not the only State conservation program with this requirement; and**

**WHEREAS, in the past four years and mainly due to USACE's compensatory mitigation requirements (perpetuity on conservation easement, third party easement holder, lack of KSMG credits earned) the Watershed Dam Construction funding has been diverted/directed to very worthy and much needed rehabilitation projects; and**

**WHEREAS, until the funding level is restored to previous years' levels, there is little chance the Kansas Watershed Districts will accomplish their General Plan Dam completion goals; and**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Association of Kansas Watersheds supports direct involvement by Watershed Districts with their RCA committee by sending a representative to at least one RAC committee meeting in the next year.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2: THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS WATERSHEDS SUPPORTS THE CONTINUED EFFORT TO MAKE DAMWATCH AVAILABLE TO ALL KANSAS WATERSHED DISTRICTS**

**WHEREAS, at the present time only PL-566 Watershed District Dams in Kansas can be accessed by DamWatch for the many benefits of DamWatch; and**

**WHEREAS, there exists nearly 700 Watershed District dams in Kansas funded by either the KDA/DOC Dam Construction Program or by Watershed District funds; and**

**WHEREAS, a comprehensive plan needs to be put together outlining the developmental and sustaining financial and managerial needs before DamWatch can become a reality for all Watershed District dams in Kansas; and**

**WHEREAS, this DamWatch comprehensive plan must also outline the potential sponsors, managers, and the need for technical volunteers to get DamWatch up and running; and**

**WHEREAS, the challenges are many; the benefits are many; and getting reports from NRCS about how well the PL-566 DamWatch program continues to provide the local sponsors with invaluable information just makes having DamWatch available for all Watershed Districts a worthy project; and**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Association of Kansas Watersheds supports the effort to make DamWatch available to all Kansas Watershed Districts.**

**THE SAKW BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A BIG THANKS TO THE  
FOLLOWING THAT HAVE RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022  
AS OF DECEMBER 27, 2021**

**WATERSHEDS DISTRICTS:**

ALLEN CREEK WS DIST. # 89  
BIG CREEK WS DIST. #48  
CEDAR CREEK WS DIST. # 97  
CROSS CREEK WS DIST. # 42  
DEER CREEK WS DIST. # 55  
DELAWARE WS DIST. # 10  
DOYLE CREEK WS DIST. # 86  
DRY CREEK WS. JT. DIST. # 57  
GRANT-SHANGHAI WS DIST. # 14  
GROUSE-SILVER CREEKS WS DIST. # 92  
LABETTE HACKBERRY CREEK WS DIST. # 96  
LAKIN WS DIST. # 49  
MARMATON WS JT. DIST. # 102  
MILL CREEK WS DIST. # 85  
OTTER CREEK WS DIST. # 83  
PONY CREEK WS DIST. #78  
POTTAWATOMIE CREEK WS DIST. #90  
SALT CREEK WS DIST. # 104  
SAND CREEK WS DIST. # 68  
SOUTH FORK WS DIST. # 76  
TAUY CREEK WS DIST. # 82  
TIMBER CREEK WS DIST. # 38  
TURKEY CREEK WS DIST. # 32  
TURKEY CREEK WS DIST. # 103  
TWIN CANEY WS DIST. # 34  
UPPER BLACK VERMILLION WS # 37  
UPPER LITTLE ARK WS DIST. # 95  
UPPER MARAIS des CYGNES WS # 101  
UPPER VERDIGRIS WS DIST. # 24  
UPPER WALNUT WS DIST. # 33  
VERMILLION CREEK WS DIST. # 70  
WAKARUSA WS DIST. # 35  
WALNUT-WEST CREEKS WS # 72  
WET WALNUT CREEK WS DIST. # 58  
WHITE CLAY-BREWERY CREEKS # 26  
WHITEWATER WS DIST. # 22  
WOLF RIVER WS # 66

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:**

TOM COWAN  
BILL HAMM  
JAMES M. HEWES  
JEFF HOLSTE  
DON HOOK  
ASHLEY JANZEN  
BARB OLTJEN  
MARK SAUERWEIN  
EMIL SCHMIDT  
LARRY SCHMIDT  
ED STAHL  
JEREMY STOVER  
JOHN UNRUH

**AFFILIATE MEMBERS COMPANIES**

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES  
CES GROUP INC  
EBERT CONSTRUCTION  
KACD  
MALM CONSTRUCTION

**AFFILIATE MEMBERS  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

ATCHISON COUNTY  
BROWN COUNTY  
BUTLER COUNTY  
CLAY COUNTY  
COFFEY COUNTY  
COWLEY COUNTY

HARVEY COUNTY  
LANE COUNTY  
MCPHERSON COUNTY  
MITCHELL COUNTY  
MORRIS COUNTY

NESS COUNTY  
RICE COUNTY  
SEDGWICK COUNTY  
SHAWNEE COUNTY  
WILSON COUNTY

## **Events to Consider**

**KLICA Annual Convention, January 23-25, 2022, Salina**

**SAKW 71st Annual Meeting, February 1-2, 2022, Topeka**

**NACD Annual Meeting, February 12-16, 2022, Lake Buena Vista, Florida**

**Please Join Us February 1-2, 2022, at the Hotel Topeka at City Center and State Capitol Building for Our 71st SAKW Annual Meeting.**