South Central Kansas Prosperity Plan

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Region
Topics

• Six Key Areas
  – Workforce and Business Development
  – Built Environment
  – Transportation
  – Water
  – Natural Resources
  – Health Community Design
Team

- Water Work Team was a diverse group of stakeholders
  - Local governments
  - Ag community (GMDs)
  - State officials
  - Technical assistance providers
  - University
Goal

“Regional collaboration to ensure an ample, high-quality water supply”
Water Focus Areas

• Water Supply

• Conservation and Education

• Cost of Water
Key Challenges

- Need for drought resiliency planning
- Need for conservation information and improved marketing around conservation education
- Aging and failing infrastructure
Key Challenges Cont.

• Lack of funding for preventative maintenance and replacement

• Supply concerns to meet future needs

• Balancing the water needs among user types; industrial, commercial, municipal, and agricultural
Top Strategies

• Determine need for alternative regional water supply

• Develop a regional plan to address drought response

• Develop regional forum for advocacy around water policies/issues

• Develop and implement effective conservation education program
Top Strategies Cont.

- Develop water rate models and best management practices tailored to individual needs that promote revenue sustainability with conservation and drought condition strategies.

- Develop asset inventory model that includes age/condition to understand replacement costs.

- Develop best practice information on benefits of “full-cost pricing” and examples of use and success with other utilities.
Plan Deliverables

- Water conference (May 2014)

- Water education videos around good lawn irrigation practices (In process)

- Water directory tool (Draft available)
Plan Deliverables Cont.

• Best Practice Guides:
  – Drought Resiliency
    • Sample plans, best practices, marketing/education elements, etc
  – Asset Management
    • Proactive/preventative water system maintenance/planning, what components to include in a plan
  – Regional Coordination Structure
    • Example structures and staffing to consider, what are the benefits, ideas for role and influence both at agency level and legislature
Questions?

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