

House Committee on Vision 2020

March 11, 2015

1). KS Forest Service's priorities for the state's Water Plan Fund --- Surface Water Quality / Quantity

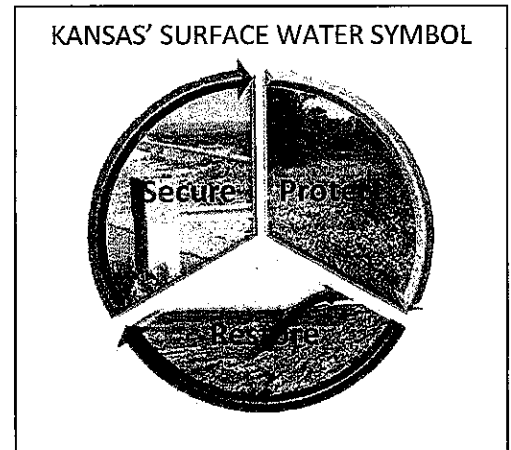
Focus: Protection Dimension of Water Quality / Quantity

- Ag: Terraces, Waterways, No-Till, and Cover Crops

Missing Link: Streamside Forests Protection, Maintenance and Establishment

Vision: No Net Loss of Riparian (Streamside) Forests

- Collapsing Streambanks Principle Sediment Source
- Trees Best Streambank Stabilization Land Cover
- Streambank Stabilization a Legislated Duty
- Location Emphasis: Federal Reservoir Watersheds
- USDA Grant: \$13 million to Implement Forestry Practices and Assess Riparian Systems in Kansas' Priority Watersheds.
 - In cooperation with partners and with the concurrence of landowners
 - Assess riparian systems in target watersheds: (4 completed --- 10 remaining)
 - Sustain existing riparian forests
 - Incentivize Riparian Forest Systems (Ecosystem Services – water, wildlife habitat, and air quality)
 - Improve existing riparian forests
 - Reestablish riparian forests



2). Timelines for the desired action(s)?

- Grant Implementation ---- Immediate on assessed watersheds and as soon as possible on watersheds where assessments are coming on line.
- Assessments – Start immediately. Complete within 2 ½ years.

3). How will your constituencies help Fund the Water Plan. 3 A). Help the Water Plan Fund?

- Maintain healthy economic businesses (agronomic , horticulture and support structures)
- Slowing sediment and nutrient loading
 - Dredging cost avoidance: \$56,000 / mile / year
 - Sustaining water based outdoor recreation revenues: \$7 Billion Industry
 - Boating, Skiing, Fishing, Camping, Waterfowl Hunting

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Surface Water and Forestry

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Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 5:29 AM**To:** Tom Sloan; Larry Campbell; Pam Curtis; Barbara Bollier; Shannon Francis; Randy Garber; Roderick Houston; Connie O'Brien; Jarrod Ousley; Fred Patton; Melissa Rooker; Susie Swanson**Cc:** John Strickler [jstrickl@ksu.edu]**Attachments:** Vision 2020 Materials.pdf (3 MB)

House of Representatives Vision 2020 Committee: Thanks very much for allowing me to address the Vision 2020 Committee regarding Kansas Forest Service activities central to the state's surface water challenges. I appreciate your time and your attention. Regarding the challenge of stabilizing streambanks I respectfully offer the following regarding Chairman Sloan's request for feedback on the DRAFT: March 11, 2015 — Vision 2020 Committee Water Priorities Recommendations. The Recommendation under items D. below is offered via the concurrence of the Kansas Forest Service's Advisory Council through Council Chairman, John Strickler.

Section C - 1. Sedimentation Reduction Priorities. Add f. — Retain, Improve and Re-Establish Riparian (Streamside) Forests

Section C - 2. Technical Assistance Priorities. Add e. — Forestry assistance to private and public landowners and managers.

D. Funding Policy Recommendations: Add 11. Extract a statement from the Kansas Forest Service Advisory Council's requested amendment to 2014 House Bill 2439 and incorporate the essence of that amendment into 2015 House Bill 2014.

Lastly, I am attaching information demonstrating riparian forest technical and financial assistance support from a host of public and private partners.

Thanks again for allowing me to testify before the Vision 2020 Committee. Should you have questions about the messages above or the attachments please let me know? I look forward to working with you on future subjects and events as well as sustaining, enhancing and re-establishing riparian forest on Kansas' landscape through the implementation of the recently received grant award.

Regards.

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