

Updating RWD Infrastructure Using the Public Water Supply System Portal

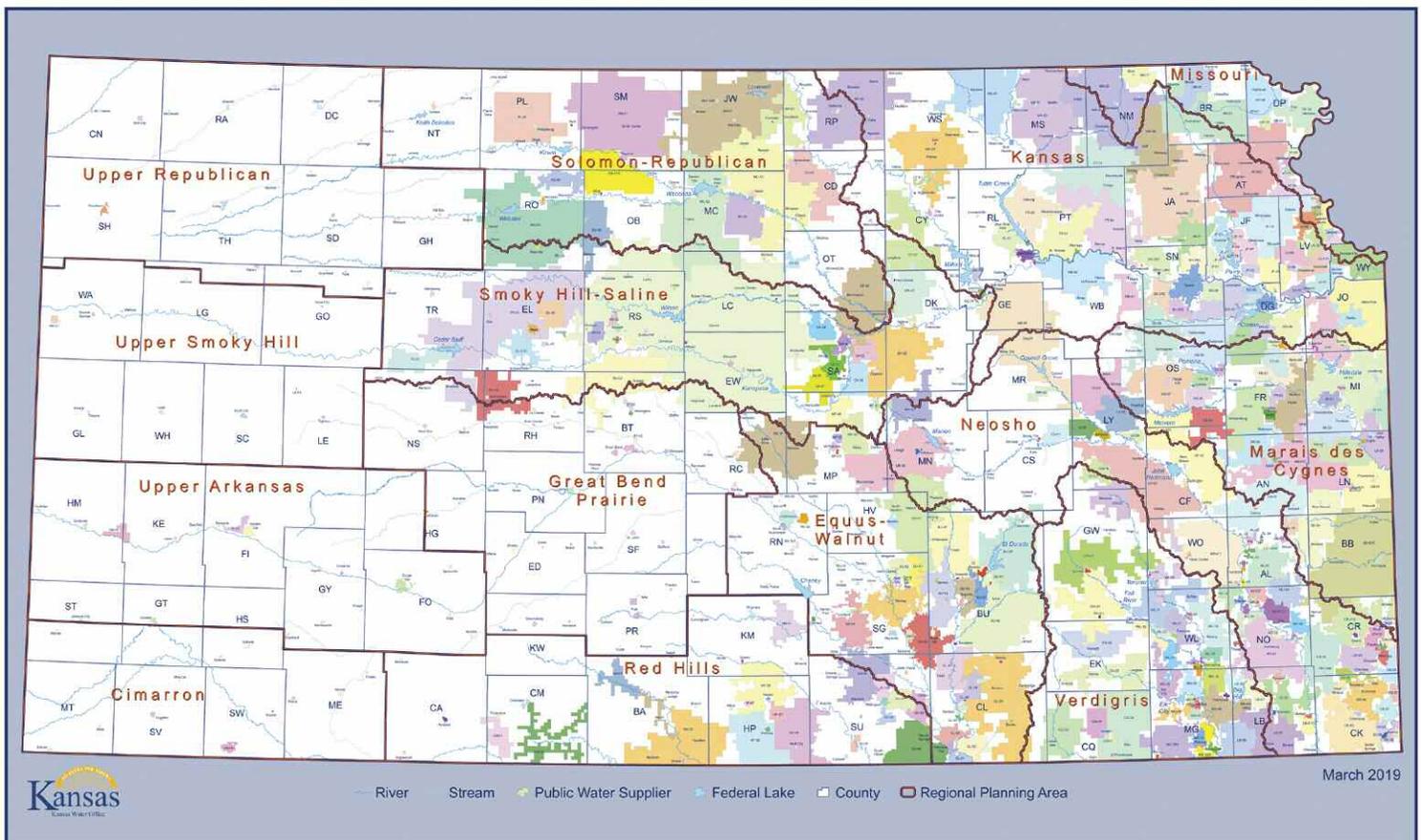
Rural water districts (RWDs) provide an essential role in delivering safe, potable water to citizens who are not served by a municipal system. Coverage in the state has grown from the first system that was developed in southeast Kansas in the 1950s to today having close to 300 rural water and public wholesale water supply districts covering a significant part of the eastern two thirds of the state.

In 1992, the Kansas Water Office (KWO) received funding to develop the first GIS database of RWD boundaries and major infrastructure. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) collaborated on the data collection and the 1994 publication of “Rural Water Districts in Kansas”.

An update of the database was completed in 2007, fifteen years later. This project used paper maps of the 1992 dataset that were marked up by RWD operators, with onsite assistance by KRWA. Updates were hand-drawn on the maps and then digitized at the Data Access and Support Center (DASC). The database is currently available from DASC; the map products can be accessed via the KRWA website, www.krwa.net.

The 2007 database is out of date due to new districts and district consolidations, and the creation of public wholesale water supply districts, resulting in changes in the interconnections between systems. Boundaries have expanded or been modified in other ways; pipelines

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The above graphic shows the portal that RWD personnel can use to review their district's boundary. Users can use the dropdown to select their respective system, and if changes need to be made, users should select "Yes" in Step 1. Step 2 shows five options for how the user would like to proceed with updating their district's boundary.

have been replaced or expanded. In 2015, KRWA performed an update of RWD boundaries that solely included districts that either consolidated or were newly formed districts. This update did not include any small adjustments made over the previous eight years, which more than likely occurred. Without input from each district throughout the state,

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This database also has significant value in planning and is actively used by the KWO, Midwest Assistance Program, USDA Rural Development, Kansas Municipal Utilities, and KDHE.

Additionally, the focus on promoting regional planning for PWS systems was first included as a policy issue in the Kansas Water Plan adopted by the Kansas Water Authority in 1993. Since that time, many of the Regional Advisory Committee's Action Plans have priority issues addressing interlocal cooperation of public water suppliers. The Long Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas (The

Vision) also identifies regionalization as a major strategy in meeting future water needs. Having current information to promote The Vision is imperative.

Now completed, the Portal will provide the Water Office with a mechanism for centralized storage and management of PWS-related documents, contact information, databases, maps, and other related information.

To get started, access the Portal (<https://maps.kgs.ku.edu/kwo>) and register for an account. You will promptly receive an email stating you have been approved by KWO and you can now start reviewing your boundaries. The Portal Map module contains an interactive PWS map viewer that allows you to navigate around the map and even switch basemaps for reference. Associated with the map are a couple of questions to answer about your boundary. After your updates are submitted, KWO, KRWA, or DASC staff will contact you to discuss your boundary updates to ensure your district is accurately represented.

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