



STATE OF KANSAS

Office of the Attorney General

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Curt T. Schneider
Attorney General

January 21, 1976

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION NO. 76-22

The Honorable Pascal Roniger
State Representative
3rd Floor - State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Watershed Districts--Funds, Use of

Synopsis: K.S.A. 24-1209, *Tenth*, authorizes watershed districts organized under the Watershed District Act, K.S.A. 24-1201 *et seq.* to pay funds for membership in cooperative associations of watershed and drainage districts which are organized to further the purposes of member districts.

* * *

Dear Representative Roniger:

You advise that a question has arisen concerning the authority of a watershed district organized under the Watershed District Act, K.S.A. 24-1201 *et seq.*, to pay dues to an association of local watershed districts in the Neosho-Cottonwood River basins. The purpose of the association is to provide a means and vehicle for cooperation among 9 or 10 watershed districts in that area. You advise that the statute in question is K.S.A. 24-1209, which enumerates the powers of a watershed district organized under the act. Paragraph *Tenth* states that the district shall have the power

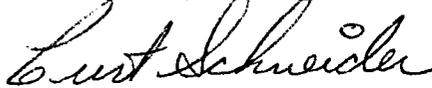
"To cooperate and contract with persons, firms, associations, partnerships and private corporations, and with other watershed districts,

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drainage districts, and cities of all classes of this state, and with drainage districts, watershed districts, and other public corporations organized for similar purposes in any adjoining state and with other local, state and federal governmental agencies and to enter into co-operative contracts and agreements with any such districts, corporations or agencies."

A watershed district has only those powers expressly granted by statute, and those powers to be reasonably implied therefrom. K.S.A. 24-1209, *Tenth*, confers upon districts broad powers to enter into cooperative affiliation and agreements with persons, firms, associations, partnerships and private corporations, as well as with other watershed and drainage districts. A cooperative association of watershed or drainage districts, or an association of both, organized for the furtherance of the purposes of watershed districts generally, is certainly within the express authority of this provision, and it authorizes the payment of funds by individual member watershed districts for affiliation with such a cooperative association, in my judgment.

Yours very truly,



CURT T. SCHNEIDER
Attorney General

CTS:JRM:kj