

# MEMO



DATE: October 5, 2017  
TO: Great Bend Prairie RAC and Agency Advisors  
FROM: Diane Knowles, Kansas Water Office  
RE: October 17, 2017 Meeting

901 S. Kansas Avenue  
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[www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org)

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The next meeting for the Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) is scheduled for **9:00 am Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at the City Administration Building, City Council Chambers, 201 W. Main Street in Lyons, Kansas.**

Items of discussion at the meeting will include the Upper Arkansas River programs that fit under water conservation: CREP by Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Conservation; and a Kansas Forest Service grant to address tamarisk; activities related to the regional action plans and the State of the Resource document for the region.

Enclosed please find:

- Agenda
- Action Plans (5)
- July 2017 Draft Meeting Notes
- Press Release

Please let me know if you cannot attend, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting please contact, me at [diane.knowles@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:diane.knowles@kwo.ks.gov); or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATE(R).



## GREAT BEND PRAIRIE RAC MEETING AGENDA

**DATE:** Tuesday October 17, 2017

**TIME:** 9:00 AM

City Administration Building,

**LOCATION:** City Council Chambers, 201 W.  
Main Street in Lyons, Kansas.

### DRAFT AGENDA

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Approval of Agenda**

**III. Regional Advisory Committee Approval of past meeting notes**

**IV. Kansas Water Authority Report**

- a. RAC Membership Appointments
- b. RAC Representative Meeting at KWA
- c. RAC Reports to KWA
- d. GMD Assessment Proposed Legislation

**V. Regional Activities**

- a. Upper Arkansas River CREP – Steve Frost (KDA-DOC)
- b. Low Quality Water Summit Joint meeting
- c. KFS Grant: Restoring Arkansas River Water Quality and Quantity
- d. State of the Resource Report and Meeting
- e. Regional Issues Update (KDA-DWR)
- f. Other Action Plans Updates (5 goals-if any)
- g. Questions and Issues from Members

**VI. Other Business**

- a. Agency Reports not already covered
- b. Public Comments
- c. Messages to KWA (if any)
- d. Upcoming meetings of interest
  - i. Kansas Water Authority- Dec. 12, McPherson
  - ii. Governors Water Conference – November 8-9, 2017, Manhattan, KS

**Adjourn**

*Note: underlined items are action items for RAC*

900 SW Jackson Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

Tracy Streeter, Director

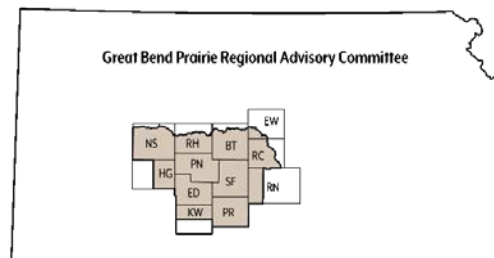


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Sam Brownback, Governor

Meeting Notice:  
October 5, 2017

For More Information:  
Katie Patterson-Ingels  
(785) 296-3185, [katie.ingels@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:katie.ingels@kwo.ks.gov)



**Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in Lyons**  
*October 17, 9 a.m. at the City Council Chambers*

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting to discuss current water issues affecting the region as well as the state.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, October 17, 9 a.m., at the City Administration Building – City Council Chambers at 201 W. Main Street in Lyons, Kansas. Items of discussion at the meeting will include the Upper Arkansas River CREP, Low Quality Water Summit, Kansas Forest Service Project Grant .

The agenda and meeting materials will be available at [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org) or you may request copies by calling (785) 296-3185 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283).

If accommodations are needed for a person with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404, Topeka, KS 66611-1249 or call (785) 296-3185 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Note to Editor: The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101) requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations messages.

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*As the state's water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.*

*The agency prepares the KANSAS WATER PLAN, a plan for water resources development, management and conservation.*

# Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

**Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**10:00 a.m., June 27, 2017**  
**City Administration Building**  
**Conference Room**  
**201 W Main Street, Lyons, KS**

**Members Attendance:**

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Berry Bortz (Chair)	Preston, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Jay Dill	Kinsley, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2017	Yes
Daniel Filbert	Macksville, KS	Agriculture 2	2017	No
Orrin Feril	Stafford, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2017	Yes
John Haas	Larned, KS	At Large Public 2	2019	No
Jeremiah Hobbs	LaCrosse, KS	Watershed Protection	2019	Yes
Jeff Holste	Burdett, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2017	Yes
Vacant		Public Water Supply 3	2017	vacant
Keith Miller	Barton Co., KS	Agriculture 3	2019	Yes
Vacant		Groundwater Irrigation	2019	vacant
John Sweet	Lyons, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Tom Turner	St. John, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2017	Yes
Taggart Wall	Sterling, KS	Public Water Supply 4	2017	No

**Others in attendance:**

Name	Affiliation
Isaac Aberson	Pawnee Watershed
Scott Alberg	Kansas Corporation Commission
Rob Reschke	KDA-DOC
Rita Schartz	NRCS-St John
Monty Brenman	NRCS
Erin Batman	NRCS-Pratt
Roger Hamm	KDOR-PVD
Ryan Flickner	Kansas Farm Bureau
Kent Askren	Kansas Farm Bureau
Heidi Mehl	The Nature Conservancy
Kelsey Porter	The Nature Conservancy
Jeff Lanterman	KDA-DWR
Greg Lewis	Representative #113 District
Roy Eckert	City of Pratt
Matt Unruh	KWO
Diane Knowles	KWO

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Berry Bortz welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

**2. Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda:** Verbal concurrence of approval was given on the agenda as presented with the item 6. Reduced Water Use and Property Values moved to item 3.

Berry noted three major issues are the Hays Transfer, Impairment at Quivira and Sustainability by 2025.

**3. Reduced Water Use and Property Values** (Roger Hamm, Kansas Department of Revenue): Roger provided an overview of property taxes with emphasis on agricultural and irrigated land valuation and associated taxes. (Handout provided.) Unlike anything else in Kansas, agricultural land value is based on productivity/revenue rather than market value. Roger provided examples of irrigated land reductions on county tax income. Discussion included the variability and complexity of agricultural land taxes.

**4. Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of July 2016 Meeting Notes:** Keith Miller made the motion to approve the February 2017 meeting notes with spelling corrections, seconded by Orrin Feril. The motion carried.

**5. KWA Update:** KWA Update: Chair Berry Bortz and Matt Unruh (KWO) provided an update of the May 2017 KWA meeting which took place in Garden City. A tour of a water technology farm, Garden City utilities, view of the under construction dairy processing plant, wind tower storage facility and components of irrigation ditches near Lakin took place in conjunction with this KWA meeting. Regional Goal Action plans activities from in the Upper Republican, Upper Smoky Hill, Solomon-Republican, Upper Arkansas, Cimarron, and Red Hills regions presented to the KWA and discussed. Berry noted questions on how the RACs were implementing work on their goals generated discussion on the role of RACs, previously defined as advisory. Of particular relevance to the Great Bend Prairie (GBP) was a discussion of funding for a small feed wheat research project at KSU.

Also addressed by KWA was a legislative proposal to use water related fees for education.

RAC discussion indicated a need for KWA to define the RAC role if it different from the RAC Expectation Presentation provided to them in the fall of 2015.

### **6. Regional Activities**

a. Update on Lower Quality Water Summit: Matt Unruh reviewed the participants and agenda for the July 18, 2017 meeting in Hutchinson. It is hoped the RACs can collaborate on similar goals. All are encouraged to attend.

b. KCC Oil & Gas Advisory Committee Meeting Update: Scott Alberg reported that the KCC Oil and Gas Advisory Committee is aware of questions related to salt water pipeline location. There will be KCC staff at the Low Quality Water Summit with information on statute or rules needed in this regard. They will also have general information KCC and problems sites.

c. Feed Wheat Update: already discussed under KWA report.

d. KDA-Division of Conservation (DOC) FY18 County Allocations: Rob Reschke reviewed DOC's role as an implementer of the State Water Plan and county allocations for fiscal year 2018 for counties in the region. He noted the importance of conservation districts basing their programs on current conditions and plans such as Kansas integrated Water Quality Assessments, WRAPS 9 Element Plans and County NPS plans.

Discussion requested information from DOC to include a summary of watershed district coverage, watershed structures and where additional watershed districts could be developed.

The following motion was made by John Sweet, seconded by Jeremiah Hobbs, and approved by the RAC:

The KWO coordinate a meeting of public water supply (PWS) category RAC members to look at PWS goals statewide.

### 7. Other Business

#### a. Agency reports on items not previously discussed:

KDA-DWR: Jeff Lanterman reported that DWR modelers are working on regional data on sustainability. When complete, the Chief Engineer would like to meet with the RAC. Maps of some the following data were provided.

- Average reported water use 1993-2015 by township
- Current maximum authorized quantity (acre-feet) of groundwater diversion by township
- Average reported surface water use (1993-2015) by township
- Current maximum authorized quantity (acre-feet) of surface water diversion by township

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Erin Batman, Rita Schartz and Monty Brenman discussed the current Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) program, offered RAC participation in the State Technical Committee and encouraged work with county conservation districts to have programs available to help meet goals.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC): Heidi Mehl provided an overview of a proposal for a USDA Grant titled "Increasing water use efficiency to improve resiliency of communities, agriculture, and natural systems in a water-stressed food production area of Central Kansas".

Representative Greg Lewis outlined the 2017 legislative session discussion and controversy for funding the State Water Plan. He noted that for the first time since 2008 some of the state general fund transfer was approved. Overall the legislators do not favor a sales tax but trend towards something water related to fund the State Water Plan.

#### b. RAC Membership

- i. Expiring terms and anticipated vacancies were reviewed by Matt Unruh. Appointment to the RAC is by KWA, so no formal action is needed from the RAC. However RAC members should encourage applicants and forward contacts for assistance in applying. Many organizations have been notified of the search for applicants.
- ii. Vice Chair Position: Appointments of vice chairs for all RAC have been made. Keith Miller has agreed to serve as vice chair on the GBP. Vice chairs may be called upon to run meetings or represent the RAC when the Chair is unable to do so.

#### c. Questions and Future Issues from Members: None noted

#### d. Messages to the Kansas Water Authority: The following motion was made by John Sweet, seconded by Orrin Feril, and approved by the RAC: The GBP RAC respectfully requests KWA provide clarity on the RAC Role in Implementation.

#### e. Future Meetings:

KWA: August 16-17, 2017, Pittsburg, KS



## Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Great Bend Prairie RAC: TBD

- f. Great Bend Prairie RAC Planner Update: Berry announced that Matt Unruh has been moved to the Chief of Planning at KWO. Diane Knowles will take over as Water Resource Planner for the Region.

**8. Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:40 pm.