

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Neosho and Verdigris Joint Regional Advisory Committees Meeting January 12, 2023 1:00pm Parsons Public Library

Neosho Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Wes Fleming (Chair)	Burlington, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	Yes
Lisa Suderman (Vice-Chair)	Hillsboro, KS	WRAPS	2023	Yes
Kent Bacon	Council Grove, KS	Ranching/Grazing	2023	No
Joe Buchanan	Council Grove, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Jay Byers	Pittsburg, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
James Triplett	Pittsburg, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	No
Brian Obermeyer	Cottonwood Falls, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	No
Susan Hague	Cedar Point, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2025	No
Dale Strickler	Iola, KS	Agriculture 2	2025	No
Tisha Conard Richardson	Wilsey, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	No
VACANT		At Large Public 3	2023	
VACANT		Industry/Commerce 2	2025	
Dean Grant		Water Assurance District	2023	Yes

Verdigris Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
John Ditmore (Chair)	Coffeyville, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Bob Culbertson (Vice Chair)	New Strawn, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Doug Blex	Independence, KS	WRAPS	2023	No
Ken McNickle	Mound Valley, KS	Public Water Supply	2025	Yes
Harold Engle	Madison, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Brian Graff	Neodesha, KS	At Large Public 2	2025	No
Gary Kelley	Sedan, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	Yes
John Black	Howard, KS	Agriculture	2023	Yes
Ron Smith	Fredonia, KS	Industry/Commerce	2025	Yes
Pamela Walker	Altoona, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
John Garriss	Independence, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Sheila Dyke	KDA-DWR
Stan Basold	Hamilton Chapel United Methodist Church
Doug Cole	KDHE
Keri Worthen	KOAM/FOX14
Ray Olson	Parsons Center
Brock DeLong	USACE
Mallory Burton	Lyon and Chase County Conservation District
Brian Lang	Middle Creek and Little Creek Watershed

Membership: John Ditmore, Coffeyville, KS, Chair; Bob Culbertson, New Strawn, KS, Vice-Chair; Doug Blex, Independence, KS; Harold Engle, Madison, KS; Brian Graff, Neodesha, KS; Gary Kelley, Sedan, KS; Ronald Smith, Fredonia, KS; Ken McNickle, Mound Valley; John Black, Howard, KS; Pamela Walker, Altoona, KS; John Garriss, Independence, KS
KWO Planner: Lauren Campbell, lauren.campbell@kwo.ks.gov

Verdigris Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Shannon Kenyon	GMD4
Lauren Campbell	KWO
Angela Anderson	KWO

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce) at 1:02pm. Wes had RAC members and public attendees introduce themselves.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Harold Engle (Agriculture) moved to approve the agenda. Jay Byers (At Large Public) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Review of August 2022 (Neosho) and October 2022 (Verdigris) RAC Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the August 2022 Neosho and the October 2022 Verdigris meeting were reviewed. Gary Kelley (Conservation/Environment) corrected the Verdigris meeting notes from October 2022 from Sudan to Sedan. The meeting notes were accepted as corrected.
- IV. **Updates**
 - a. **Governor's Water Conference:** Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce) found the Governor's Water Conference inspirational and offered challenges to water users in the messages about tackling large water issues in both eastern and western Kansas. The RAC Chairs got together during the conference and discussed clarification on the purpose behind the RAC and RAC meetings. Bob Culbertson (Conservation/Environment) was impressed with the Legacy Award Winners and their legal background. Bob also mentioned the Lucas Bessire book *Running Out: In Search of Water in the High Plains*. Lauren Campbell (KWO) mentioned Governor Kelly's appearance at the conference and her emphasis on the priority of water going into her second term in office.
 - b. **December KWA Meeting:** Lauren Campbell (KWO) gave an overview of the December KWA meeting that took place in Colby and highlighted the Ogallala Aquifer subcommittee policy recommendations as well as the two RAC messages on the GMD3 6,000-gallon water transfer proof of concept.
- V. **LEMA Overview:** Shannon Kenyon (GMD4) gave an overview of the Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMAs) in GMD4. There is the Sheridan 6 LEMA, the first LEMA in the GMD, and due to its success, it has been renewed multiple times. The larger, but less strictive LEMA is the entire GMD4 LEMA. This was put together by the GMD4 directors and it was renewed for the 2023-2027 term. Improvements in groundwater decline have been evident due to these measures. Discussion took place on specific decline metrics, different technologies and practices producers have implemented, and the scalability of LEMAs.
- VI. **Update on the CVR Technical Assistance Kick-Off Meeting:** Lauren Campbell (KWO) gave an update from the CVR Technical Assistance Kick-Off meeting that took place November 8th at Coffeyville Resources. The goal of the meeting was to get key players in this project in one room to develop next steps. The meeting went well and the KWO is now in the process of writing a letter of interest to the USACE for a PAS. The group was not able to go to the dam due to weather, but the meeting was successful nonetheless.
- VII. **Overview of RAC Function and Purpose:** Angela Anderson (KWO) gave an overview of the updated RAC member notebook, which is available digitally and in hard-copy form. Within the notebook is the Internal Policy Memorandum, which provides the statutory foundation as well as an outline of the function and

purpose of the RACs. RAC responsibilities include advising the KWO and KWA on water related problems, revisions to the KWP, implementation of the KWP actions and priorities, serving as a link between the region and water management entities, and advise the KWO and KWA on issues under considerations for the KWP. One of the more important roles specifically highlighted was that RAC members are encouraged to participate in local events to share education and information on water issues affecting the state and the region. The KWO will develop and share information and presentations. In future meetings, RACs will be putting regional goals and action plans into a timeline for implementation.

- VIII. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** Harold Engle (Agriculture) gave an update on the streambank erosion issue near Madison that is affecting a township road and bridge. KDOT was able to provide some cement rubble and bids have been provided for hauling and placing the rubble to protecting the bridge. There was some discussion on streambank erosion and responsibility. Bob Culbertson (Conservation/Environment) mentioned a site west of Madison that is affecting a township road as well. Jay Byers (At Large Public) mentioned the focus of the legislature on Western KS issues and discussion took place on the urgency of western Kansas versus eastern Kansas issues and the appropriate amount and timing of each. Lisa Suderman (WRAPS) gave an overview and update on the experimental phosphorous removal project above Marion. This site was sampled at 1700x the recommended level of phosphorous which prompted the initiation of this project. Expanded metal was placed in a box culvert and filled with metal shavings and oyster shells.
- IX. KWA Messages:** There were no messages for the KWA.
- X. Agency Input:** Sheila Dikes (KDA- DWR) introduced herself and offered her assistance. Doug Cole (KDHE) thanked the RAC for their work and support. Brock DeLong (USACE) had no update.
- XI. Public Input:** Brian Lang asked if there was any long-term impact from the drought. Lisa Suderman (WRAPS) said there are wide spread herd dispersals from the inability to feed cattle. Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce) mentioned the recreational impacts from lack of water in wetlands and ponds.
- XII. Adjournment:** Gary Kelly (Conservation/Environment) moved to adjourn the meeting. John Black (Agriculture) seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:46pm.
- XIII. Future Meetings:**
- i. Legislative Visits – January 24, 2023 – Topeka, KS
 - ii. KWA Meeting – January 25, 2023 – Topeka, KS
 - iii. KWA Meeting – April 19, 2023 – Location and Time TBD