



Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday February 12, 2019, 9:00 am
USD 409 Community Meeting Room, 626 Commercial,
Atchison, Kansas 66002

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Carl Johnson (Chair)	Leavenworth, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
John Bishop	Atchison, KS	Recreation	2019	Yes
Neil Coufal	Troy, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Stephen Glaser	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	No
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Chris Griffin	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2021	Yes
Alan Kelley	White Cloud, KS	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and NB	2019	No
Joel Mahnken	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Brett Neibling (VC)	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	No
Darcy Nightingale	Hiawatha, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Yes
Bill Shroyer	Sabetha, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2019	No
Luke Terry	Robinson, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2021	No
Michelle Wirth	Kansas City, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Town	Representing
Ken Kopp	Topeka	KRWA
Don Whittemore	Lawrence	KGS
Geoff Bohling	Lawrence	KGS
Kirk Tjelmeland	Topeka	KWO

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** Carl started the meeting at 9:00 am, with self-introductions. Road conditions weren't the best so attendance was down, everyone was able to set around the tables.
- II) **Public Comments:** There were none.
- III) **Comments on the January KWA Meeting in Topeka:**
 - a. Legislative visits - Carl said his visits went well and it seemed like more of the legislators knew who the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) and Kansas Water Office (KWO) were. It is always about money for funding, always more requests than funds so legislators have to decide which is more important. He also mentioned that he feels that sometimes the northeast corner of the state is overlooked, unique portion of the state that requires special attention. Lt. Governor spoke to the KWA and seemed concerned about water issues but hopes they can do a better job of funding water related issues than Governor Brownback did.

- b. Missouri RAC message – The message that went to the KWA for review is located [here](#). Matt, from our office, had Carl give the Water Authority a little background behind the message. There was some discussion and Earl, acting Director, said that the Water Office is committed to funding this project. The KWA moved and approved the message. KWO will be working with KGS on contracting for the second year very soon.

IV) **RAC Business:**

- a. The December 13th meeting notes were reviewed and accepted as written.
- b. The MO River Subcommittee: There was no report from the Missouri River Committee.
- c. The Ag Subcommittee: Jeff stated that the new Farm Bill had raised the threshold to 50,000 people for rural development grants, which means several local communities may benefit from this. There is a Farm Bill website for more information located [here](#). He had also been part of a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) meeting with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Kansas Farm Bureau. He had also spoken the Gregg Graf about GMD's and the groundwater study that is taking place in the Missouri RAC right now. Greg is very much in support of the work that the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) is doing.
- d. Annual Conservation District meetings: Individuals that had attended this year's meetings mentioned how they thought they went. Typically there is good attendance at the meetings but not a lot of interaction with the RAC when only the table top display is used. There is more interaction if we are able to present the PPT. Chris thought maybe a PPT that linked the work of the RAC and the Conservation District would be a good option. This could be run sometime during the meeting highlighting the common areas of the two groups.

- V) **Update from Kansas Geological Survey (KGS):** Don Whittemore and Geoff Bohling gave a presentation on the Phase II groundwater project, which can be found [here](#). Geoff started the presentation with the two objectives of the Phase II study: Establish a groundwater level and groundwater quality in the region and provide improved estimates of safe yield and a baseline for groundwater quality. Additional water samples and measurements will be taken this week, which is the second round. Geoff has put together a 3D map of coarse sediments for the region and is working on correlating water use and climate information. The 3D map can be viewed [here](#). Geoff will continue to work on refining material representation, work on 3D ArcGIS map and possibly incorporate test hole logs. Don took over the presentation and showed how irrigation had increased over the last several years, primarily in Brown and Doniphan counties. He also analyzed a couple different rainfall methods on four wells they are currently monitoring, good correlation between precipitation and water height in the well. There was talk about excluding the well in the Missouri River alluvium since it is tied so closely to the River elevation. Don reviewed the water quality sample findings, some were still over the national excepted limit of 10 mg/l for nitrites. KGS has completed their tasks for year one of Phase II and will be working with KWO on the second year scope.

- VI) **Update from the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA):** Ken Kopp gave a presentation on what the KRWA does which can be found [here](#). The KRWA has been around for more than 50 years and its mission is to educate and provide leadership to water and wastewater utilities in Kansas.

Their publications through print and social media to accomplish this. KRWA is a 501c3 company a seven member board and 17 employees with their main office in Seneca. KRWA currently has 484 municipalities that it provides technical support to, ex. GIS mapping. Since 1992 a total of 2,098 water loss surveys have been conducted locating more than 6.8 billion gallons on an annual basis with a value over \$15 million. KRWA is also partially funded by KWO and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. KRWA produces an annual report that can be found [here](#). Training of operators is a good portion of what they do with over 110 days of training in 2018 and nearly 7,000 participants. Sampling of waste ponds is a necessary job but is not a highly sought after position. Their staff is also very capable of helping a city or utility design a website. One of their big outreach events is the annual conference which will draw over 1,000 people and hundreds of vendors. KRWA also uses their weekly e-news, which Ken produces, to keep Kansans informed on water issues. He encouraged everyone to subscribe which can be done [here](#).

- VII) Update on the Doniphan County Water Quality Tech farm:** Chris Griffin started the discussion with the mention of the Conservation Collaboration Grant (CCG) that a group is working on since there is some uncertainty as to the level of funding from the KWO. The grant, if awarded is a three year grant and would start in the fall of 2019. Ideas for Thad's property include changing from a corn/bean rotation to a corn/bean/wheat rotation using cover crops and alfalfa field edges to improve soil health and thus water quality. Livestock is integral to Thad's farm so the extra forage makes perfect sense to keep his operation in the black. There would be a good deal of soil and water sampling that takes place. Outreach events will include field days and news articles
- VIII) RAC Membership:** Tj led this discussion stating that the ladies at the office want to make sure we have everyone's contact information correct. More than half of the RAC has term expirations up in June of 2019. The KWO will be contacting those members soon to see if they want to remain on the RAC and there will be advertising coming out soon for other persons who wish to be involved in the RAC. The RACs provide a vital role for the KWA, diverse on the ground input.
- IX) Other Issues or Agency Comments:** There was talk about getting in contact with Iowa agencies relative to water issues similar to those in the region. An irrigation presentation was talked about for our next meeting.
- X) Upcoming Meetings:**
- KWA meeting, April 18, 2019, Abilene, KS**
 - Next Missouri RAC meeting Thursday, April 25th 9-noon, USD 409 meeting room**
 - Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am**