REGISTER NOW

GOVERNOR’S CONFERENCE ON
THE FUTURE OF WATER IN KANSAS

NOV 7-8, 2019

HYATT REGENCY, 400 W WATERMAN ST, WICHITA, KS 67202
RAC Process

October 15 & 18, 2019
Following Parliamentary Procedure

- A set of *rules of conduct* that will be used to *govern the way business will be conducted*

- A *procedure* that allows an organization to *effectively conduct business in a fair & democratic manner*
Objective of Parliamentary Procedures

- **FOCUS** discussion on one item at a time
  No more than one issue will be discussed at a time

- **Extend COURTESY to everyone**
  All members have an opportunity to participate

- **Ensure the VOICE of the minority**
  All members have equal access to decision-making, can discuss & express opinions

- **Observe the RULE of the majority**
  No group decision is made without majority vote
The Role of Members

- It is the responsibility of the membership to support & maintain effective meeting structure & decorum.

- Every member has the right & responsibility to participate in meetings & the process of parliamentary procedure.

- The chair ensures this.
The Role of Members

Members must *educate* themselves regarding the issues on the agenda

- You have an obligation to the citizens of the region you represent
- You represent a specific segment of the region’s population (categories)

REMEMBER – Strong *group discussion* & interaction *leads to strong decisions* made by the group
The agenda, & additional mailing materials, are typically sent out 2 weeks prior to meeting & posted on the KWO Website Calendar
Kansas Open Meetings Act
K.S.A. 75-4317 et seq.
Policy, construction, purpose

- K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 75-4317(a) - Meetings shall be open to the public because “a representative government is dependent upon an informed electorate. . . .”


- KOMA interpreted liberally and exceptions applied narrowly to carry out purpose
What is a meeting?

- Any gathering or assembly in person, through the use of a telephone, or any other medium for interactive communication
- By a majority of the membership of a public body or agency subject to the act
- For the purpose of discussing the business or affairs of the public body or agency

K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 75-4317a
“Serial communications”

- Interactive communications outside of a noticed meeting may be a meeting under KOMA if:
  - Collectively involve a **majority of the membership** of the public body or agency
  - Share a **common topic** of discussion
  - Are **intended** by any or all participants **to reach an agreement on a matter that requires binding action** to be taken by the public body or agency
    
    K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 75-4318(f)
  - Emails, calling trees, use of an agent (staff member)
    - **Tip** - **DO NOT REPLY ALL, DO NOT FORWARD**
Contrary to popular belief, KOMA does not require notice of meetings to be published in a newspaper or on a website.

- Must request notice of meetings.
- No formalities to requesting notice – can be verbal or written.
- A request is valid for one fiscal year.
- Must notify of expiration before terminating notice.
- Presiding officer has duty to provide notice, but duty may be delegated.
- Provide date/time/location where public body will meet to person requesting notice a “reasonable time” before meeting.
- Group request for notice – provide to designated individual.

K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 75-4318(b)
Additional resources:
http://ag.ks.gov/
http://ag.ks.gov/open-govt/resources
http://ag.ks.gov/media-center/ag-opinions
http://ksag.washburnlaw.edu/
(Attorney General Opinions)
Thank you!

Any Questions?
Common Acronyms

- RAC – Regional Advisory Committee
- KWA – Kansas Water Authority
- KWO – Kansas Water Office
- **KWP** – Kansas Water Plan
- SWPF – State Water Plan Fund
- SOTR – State of the Resources
- RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- HAB – Harmful Algal Blooms
- WTF – Water Technology Farms
- IPM – Memorandum of Internal Policy
- IDK – I don’t know
Who’s Who?

- Kansas Water Authority (KWA)
- Kansas Water Office (KWO)
- Regional Advisory Committees (RACs)
KWA

• Meetings – vary locations (except Jan. Topeka)
  – January, Apr/May, July/Aug, October, December typically
  – Agenda consists of Sub-Committee reports, action and informational items
  – Chairs are encouraged to attend

• KWA Subcommittees
  Committee membership is determined by the KWA Chair
  – Public Water Supply Committee
  – Budget Committee
  – RAC Operations Committee
    • 2 RAC members will serve on this committee
KWO

- Water planning, policy, coordination and marketing agency for the state per K.S.A. 74-2608
- Primary statutory function is the development and implementation of the KWP
- Designated state agency responsible for overall management of the SWPF

As defined in Kansas Statute 74-2608:
- Collect and compile information pertaining to climate, water and soil as related to the usage of water for agricultural, industrial and municipal purposes and the availability of water supplies in the several watersheds of the state;
- Develop a state plan of water resources management, conservation and development for water planning areas;
- Develop and maintain guidelines for water conservation plans and practices; and
- Shall establish guidelines as to when conditions indicative of drought exist
Regional Advisory Committees
Memorandum of Internal Policy

- RAC members serve a term of 4 years
  - Terms are staggered
- Each RAC has Core Categories (cc)
  - Agriculture
  - At Large Public
  - Conservation/Environment
  - Industry/Commerce
  - PWS
- Remainder of RAC made up of water use/interest categories specific to Region
  - WRAPS
  - Planning & Zoning
  - Irrigated Farming
  - GMD
Purpose of the RAC

- Advise KWO & KWA...
  - ...in identifying water-related issues within their region
  - ...in the formulation of revisions to the section of the KWP corresponding to their region
  - ...regarding KWP implementation priorities & actions
  - ...on issues under consideration for inclusion in the KWP (IPM-04, Revised August 20, 2015)
Purpose of the RAC

• Serve as a link to the public:
  – Interaction with various groups & individuals
  – Communicate information on concerns & issues to citizens

• Serve as a link to water management entities:
  – Facilitate discussion & input on issue development & implementation
Role of RAC’s

• Eyes & Ears for the KWA & KWO
• Ambassadors & solicitors of public input
  – Messenger of Vision & RAC actions to ensure future water supply needs are met in region(s)
• Advise, guide, & sometimes lead through action on implementation of goals
• KWA Committee on RAC Operations
  – Two members of RACs shall be selected to serve as advisors to the KWA Committee
  – Will review any feedback that is forwarded to the KWA from the RACs
    • Will assist in vetting membership
    • Will assist in address RAC messages
Implementation

• Prioritization of goals
• RAC members will help implement the following Vision statement for each region:
  – *Kansans act on a shared commitment to have the water resources necessary to support the state’s social, economic, & natural resource needs for current & future generations.*
• Implement Action Plans
Coordination with the **KWP**

- *KWP* is used by the state of Kansas to coordinate the management, conservation, & development of water resources of Kansas.
- Contains recommendations on how the state can best achieve proper use & control of water resources.
- *KWP* implementation may be through legislation, funding, or focus on existing agency(ies)‘s programs.
How to Stay Connected

Your assigned RAC Planner

Regional Planning Areas and KWO Planners

Alexandra Geisler & Armando Zarco

Diane Knowles

Great Bend Prairie (gb)

Gary Koons

Equus-Walnut (ew)

Regional Planning Area

- Cimarron
- Kansas
- Neosho
- Solomon-Republican
- Upper Smoky Hill
- Upper Republican
- Equus-Walnut
- Marais des Cygnes
- Red Hills
- Smoky Hill-Saline

Kansas Water Office
How to Stay Connected

• Attend KWA Meetings (especially if in your area)
• Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram
• KWO Website
  – RAC Pages
Thank you!

Questions?