

# MEMO



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DATE: March 28, 2019  
TO: Cimarron RAC Members  
FROM: Alexandra Geisler, Kansas Water Office  
CC: Cimarron RAC Advisors  
RE: April 11, 2019 Meeting

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The next meeting of the Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee will be held at **1 PM on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at the Conestoga Energy offices, 1701 N. Kansas Ave., Liberal, Kansas.**

There will be an update on Water Technology Farms, planning for Oklahoma coordination and local outreach efforts, and a review of the KWA letter response and the 2019 membership drive.

Enclosed please find the following meeting materials:

- Agenda
- September, November, & January meeting minutes

If you have any questions or need additional information prior to the meeting, feel free to contact me at [alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov) or give me a call at (785) 296-0865.

# Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Conestoga Offices  
1701 N Kansas Ave, Liberal, KS  
1:00pm

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1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Review & Approval of September, November & January Meeting Minutes
4. Water Technology Farm & Field Days Update – Armando Zarco
5. Oklahoma Coordination – Jim Sipes
6. KWA Letter Response
7. SOTR RAC Presentations & Outreach Efforts
8. 2019 Membership Drive
9. Agency Reports
  - a. GMD3
  - b. KDA-DWR
  - c. KWO
10. Other Business
  - a. Public Comments
  - b. Messages to Kansas Water Authority
  - c. Future Meetings
    - i. Kansas Water Authority – April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 8am – Abilene Civic Center
    - ii. GMD3 Board Meeting – May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9am – Garden City
    - iii. Next RAC Meeting – Budget Review in June
11. Adjourn

Note: underlined items are action items for RAC



# Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

**Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**  
10:00am, Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Conestoga Energy Offices, 1701 N. Kansas Ave., Liberal, KS  
**DRAFT**

## Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Nick Hatcher (Chair)	Liberal, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Bret Rooney (Vice-Chair)	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	2021	No
Trista Brown	Satanta, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	No
Michael Bryant	Copeland, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	No
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Luke Grubbs	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	2021	Yes
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	2019	No
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	Yes
Danny Law	Ulysses, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	No
Gary Boldt	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public 3	2019	Yes
Jim Sipes	Manter, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	No
Alan Olson	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Jason Norquest	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 4	2019	Yes

## Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Greg Graff	KWA
Kenny Sullivan	KCC
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Alexandra Geisler	KWO
Armando Zarco	KWO

## Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Nick Hatcher began the meeting at 10:04am and welcomed everyone, giving those in attendance that are not on the committee a chance to introduce themselves. A quorum was present; six of the thirteen committee members were present.

## Approval of Agenda

Matt Higgins motioned to approve the agenda. Calvin Burke seconded. The agenda was approved as presented.

## Review & Approval of May Meeting Minutes

Gary Boldt motioned to approve the May meeting minutes. Calvin Burke seconded. The May minutes were approved.

**Membership:** Nick Hatcher (Chair), Liberal, KS; Brett Rooney (Vice-Chair), Satanta, KS; Trista Brown, Satanta, KS; Michael Bryant, Copeland, KS; Calvin Burke, Liberal, KS; Luke Grubbs, Hugoton, KS; Brian Hemann, Hugoton, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Danny Law, Ulysses, KS; Gary Boldt, Ulysses, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS; Alan Olson, Ulysses, KS; Jason Norquest, Garden City, KS  
**KWO Planners:** Alexandra Geisler, 785-296-0865; [alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov)  
Armando Zarco, 620-276-2901; [armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov)

## RAC Operations & Planner Changes

Alexandra Geisler from the Kansas Water Office announced that the planner changes within the office discussed at previous meetings have officially taken effect. Richard Rockel has transitioned to a different position and will no longer be a planner for the region. Armando Zarco was hired on as the new KWO position stationed out in Garden City. Armando and Alexandra moving forward will be co-planners for all four of the western Regional Advisory Committees.

Armando Zarco then took time to introduce himself and give an overview of his new role within KWO.

Alexandra Geisler then reviewed the IPM document with committee members, pointing out specifically the attendance policy. Moving forward attendance will be tracked and IPM enforced. If a member cannot attend a meeting, even last minute, they need to inform either of the planners or the chairman ahead of time. If there is a meeting or agenda item and a member wants to participate in the conversation but can't be in attendance, it is possible to set up a conference call but this must be done in advance of the meeting. When it comes to communicating and setting meeting dates, the members agreed that doodle polls are the best option. To ensure KWO has the most up to date contact information Alexandra will be passing around a sheet later in the meeting for members to mark their preferred method of contact and fix any mistakes in their personal contact information.

## KWA Meeting Report

Chairman Nick Hatcher was in attendance at the Water Authority meeting in Manhattan. He said that water issues across the state are becoming more heightened, and that this region is lucky because there are bigger issues being faced throughout the state in comparison.

Water Authority Member Greg Graff was in attendance and explained for the committee that the chairman of the Great Bend Prairie (GBP) gave a report from the RAC requesting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the agencies and standard operation procedures (SOP) on how to implement Vision goals. That particular committee he said had tried to work on identifying/mapping salt water disposal lines as stated in their goals. They had trouble coordinating and getting help from state agencies. This is what led to their request for a MOU between agencies and the SOP. Tracy has agreed to work on an MOU and right now at least until more funding is received there they are not looking at using or developing any SOP. Greg thinks that the Water Office does a great job now and that until much more money is received there isn't an issue with how it is currently handled. He pointed out that there was good discussion following the presentation on the role of the RAC's. As advisory committees there has been the chance to have input on the budget including the recommendations to the Blue Ribbon Funding Taskforce, but right now we don't have the money to get the goals finished.

The discussion then moved to the KWA Budget recommendations. The committee reviewed the memo from the RACs budget webinar back at the end of July. There were only two members who participated in the webinar and two funding items were brought up. Those included the funding of the model maintenance program, which was not included in the recommendation, and funding for technology and crop varieties which was included. Items of relevance to the region that were in the recommendations are Crop & Livestock Research, Irrigation Technology, and Water Technology Farms.

The State of the Resource (SOTR) Reports were officially released at the KWA meeting and will be discussed in further detail later. Drought documents from the KWA meeting are in the meeting materials, and if anyone has questions on it they can direct those to either of the planners.

### **Southwest Kansas Oklahoma Panhandle Coordination – Jim Sipes**

Jim Sipes was not able to be at the meeting but he did send an email ahead of time saying that he is working on setting up a meeting with Oklahoma farmers to discuss water as soon after harvest as possible. He will keep us informed and asked for input as we begin to set a date.

Jason Norquest said that GMD3 has thrown out some potential dates to him in early to late November. The meeting itself could be geared for state agencies or producers. Nick thinks it would be better for it to be educational to share what we know and fit with the committee's goals to educate producers. Mike Meyer added that the state can set it up or help put a meeting together, and that if Jim wants he can put him in contact with the Kansas Oklahoma Compact contact. Alexandra Geisler has already sent Jim contact information for those from Oklahoma in attendance at the Ogallala Summit. She will follow up with Jim to let him know what was discussed and see what additional assistance he needs.

### **Water Technology Farm Field Days Review – Armando Zarco**

Armando Zarco from KWO provided an overview of the Water Technology Farms and recently held field days, starting by showing a video of Nick Hatcher's speech at his Water Technology Farm Field Day. There are currently ten Water Technology Farms and each is different. The Northwest Technical College Precision Agriculture Program in the Upper Republican is focused more on workforce development and has several participating producers and covers ten fields. The two new farms in the Equus-Walnut Region are more water quality focused and are looking at reducing water usage to aid in slowing the destruction of their soil from chloride in the water. Field days just finished up and there was a lot of variability in the attendance at different field days some having less than 20 and others with over 100 attendees. Some of the farms are just on year one while other are on year three. The cost for each is variable depending on what each producer wants to do. Funding comes from KWO and a large number of other various sponsors. He is working on getting a few more started by the end of this year, and if anyone knows of someone who is interested in trying to establish a technology farm put them in contact with Armando. Jason Norquest asked if we can push to have a farm similar to the ones in the Equus-Walnut out here in this region. Armando responded saying to send him information for anyone in the area that would be interested.

Greg Graff asked how many actual farmers were in attendance at Nick Hatcher's Field Day, the answer being ten to twelve which is more than last year. Nick continued saying moisture probes on his farm are critical as they are a management tool that tells you what you need to do. This year they learned that when they thought they needed to turn on they could wait another five to ten days because of what the technology was telling them. Alexandra said that this is similar to what we are hearing from other producers; that the probes are good in a wet year because you can see how the rainfall events fill your profile up so you don't have to turn on. Armando added that you don't just need the technology/probes but you need to know how to actually use it. Jason Norquest asked Nick if he is going to switch to one sprinkler package to which he responded that he wasn't because what worked best changed throughout the year and KSU is going to verify that the same amount of water is being applied by each. Nick added that the cost is less to keep it going once the initial cost is covered through the technology farm.

### **Master Irrigators**

Alexandra Geisler from KWO informed the committee that a group from the state is going down to Texas within the next month to learn about the Master Irrigators program and whether or not something similar could be used in Kansas. She will keep the committee updated and if something is developed for Kansas make sure the committee gets a chance to provide comments and input on it.

### Grant County Fair Booth – Gary Boldt

Gary Boldt spoke about the booth he had at the Grant county Fair. Being as Grant County is split in two by the RACs he made sure to have material and information about both the Cimarron and the Upper Arkansas. The booths are open three days and are supposed to be supervised from 11am – 9pm which by himself he was not able to adhere to. He received a lot of the material and information from KWO curtesy of Alexandra Geisler. He had no trouble getting material and before long he had more material than booth space.

He had several questions to tempt people into looking at the booth. It did bring in some people and even though fair attendance was down a fair number of people at least stopped to take a glance, some asking questions or making comments. Overall interest could have been better but he is fairly satisfied with how things went. He passed around some pictures of the booth and said if he does it again he will try and get a double booth to keep from getting his information confused with other booths/programs. Nick thanked Gary for putting the booth together, and stated that it is a great first step in trying to put the message out in the public's eye.

### SOTR, Kansas RAC Presentation & Outreach Efforts

Referencing the earlier conversation Alexandra from KWO added that the released reports can be found on the Water Office Website, and a hard copy has been provided for each member. There are two additional items to discuss in relation to the reports; the first is the presentation put together the Kansas RAC, and the second is the infographic that goes along with the report. The presentation was given to the chairs at a chair meeting in which Nick was in attendance. The Committee has seen an older version of the presentation where Richard Rockel had adapted the content for the region. Alexandra noted that she is working on adapting the new version with additional information from the SOTR Reports for each of the Western RACs; and that it will take some time to complete as the dialog provided in the Kansas version is not applicable to the West and will have to be written from scratch. When she gets the presentation put together she will send it out to the committee for input and comments as it is meant to be used as a tool for them to conduct outreach in the region.

Discussion turned to the infographic. The committee would like to see an economic piece to it or an additional sheet with economic information to go with it. Other than that the conversation was focused on potential ways to use the infographic and get it out to the public. Nick brought up the idea of inserting it into the high school fall or winter sports program. It could also go into the newspaper but what is the price on that? Calvin said that he could get them to do a press release at no charge, and that it may be a possibility to do a Facebook live video with the editor who regularly brings on guests. Other ideas included getting it out to the Farm Bureau, County Conservation Districts, the GMD and courthouses.

Calvin Burke asked what percentage of water is wasted vs. productive for use in different categories such as municipal, industry and agriculture. It may be better to look into what the efficiency is instead. Armando will look into it although it may be difficult and unfeasible to find such data.

Luke Grubbs asked where the community college stands, and whether or not they can teach farmers. Nick said that the Ag program is new and upcoming. Some discussions have been had with Tracy Streeter but nothing has come of it. Calvin said that the current focus is to get medical and education degrees offered in SW Kansas in Liberal, Garden City, and Dodge City. Nick and others can get with Dr. Ken Trzaska and the board to try and get something going.



## RAC Focus & Open Discussion

Alexandra from KWO passed the contact sheet around for members to look over, make any changes to their personal information, and if they want choose a preferred method of contact. When asked if there were any changes they would like to see in communication from KWO or meeting location the committee members had no comments. Alexandra gave details on some of the work she is doing internally at KWO to assist with tracking progress on projects, the Vision, and RAC Action Plans. The committee was able to look at what has been put together for the Cimarron on action plan progress. Alexandra will send out the information for members to look over.

## Joint Meeting

The idea was brought to the committee to have a joint meeting with the Upper Arkansas RAC at the beginning of next year. The planners need input on date, timeline, and agenda items from the members. The Upper Arkansas RAC would like to have it in Garden City if possible. The committee was ok with that but suggested if we have one every year to change the locations to Liberal, Ulysses, or Sublette. Timing would need to be before the start of the legislative session if possible. As far as agenda items the two ideas brought up were having Jonathan Aguilar come to talk about Water Technology Farms and someone to talk about Master Irrigators. Nick asked Jason to look into finding somebody to talk about Master Irrigators.

The question was posed to the committee as to whether or not they wanted to have another meeting before the end of the year. The answer being yes if there are any action items that need to be addressed before the end of the year. Jason Norquest brought up the issue in the Cimarron Grasslands between Kansas and Colorado that the GMD3 has been working on. He would like the RAC to put in a request for cost-share funding to put in the monitoring well in the grasslands. A motion was made and is written in detail below under Messages to the Kansas Water Authority.

Following the vote the group decided to have a conference call on Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30am to vote on the letter and discuss the agenda for the joint meeting and any progress or changes on the infographic and presentation. On that call they will also decide whether or not to have a 30 minute break out session before the joint meeting to go over action plan progress which Alexandra will send out for everyone to look over before the call on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Agency Reports

Mike Meyer KDA-DWR: The chief engineer and Lane Letourneau were at the GMD3 meeting yesterday. The chief engineer told Mike that he is impressed with the Cimarron RAC Goals and think that they would make great goals for the GMD to build on. Right now there are 17 WCA's across the state covering 35,000 acres and about 4,000 acre/ft. of savings. There are 6 pending in the state, 5 of those are in GMD3 covering 6,000 acres and about 800 acre/ft. of savings and they should be completed soon. It would be nice to have more WCA's and technology farms in this area. He told Gary Boldt great job on the outreach efforts and told Nick great job on his speech at the field day and performance on his WCA. They are wrapping up irrigation water use, so it is a good time to look at meters. You can sign up for MYFA's up to December 31<sup>st</sup> which works if you over-pump but also as a tool to save water. Take advantage of those programs, and be aware that there are stiff penalties if you go over.

Jason Norquest GMD No. 3: The GMD was kicked out of Colorado/Cimarron issue but didn't appeal it. They have already spent a bunch of money on that issue and the study to show the impacts the wells will have on the Cimarron Grasslands in Kansas. They are going to be putting in a monitoring well in the Cimarron Basin along the Colorado border to act more like stream gauge well. On the Cimarron River they did go ahead and finish up the study on the effects of the Colorado development, and are working on finalizing a report.

Kenny Sullivan KCC: Kenny is on KCC's oil and gas conservation division and he is tasked with protecting fresh and usable water from gas and oil exploration. His district office is located in Dodge City and he covers these 27 counties. They oversee permitting from installation to plugging, and perform routine lease inspections during pumping. If there are any spills they ensure they get reported and cleaned up properly, and notify operators how to plug their wells and oversee the entire process. They have funds for plugging orphan wells and for remediation sites without a responsible party which is what he mostly deals with. There are two sites he reports on annually to the legislature in this area. One site was caused by leaking disposal wells where the recovery system was pumping down contaminated water. Too much good water was being pumped away, several wells are still being monitored and are slowly cleaning up naturally (injection wells is a hot topic right now). Now there is an underground injection control division that witnesses a mechanical integrity test to make sure it is exposing into the proper location. Since the program was started there haven't been any large events. Everything he has happened prior to that. The other site was caused by a leaking disposal well that got into the Ogallala. That site is still active in recovery. Nick asked if the leaks were caused during disposal, Kenny said yes they were casing leaks and there was not oversight at the time. The design wasn't efficient as it is now, and today they are tested more often. He mentioned that in Stafford County there are around 13 sinkholes that they monitor where freshwater dissolved out all of the salts causing the subsidence. In his opinion Kansas has taken a proactive approach and Oklahoma more reactive. They do not map flow lines but it is not regulated or in the law that you have to, however it is beneficial for an operator to know where all of their lines are. There is an advisory committee similar to this one that meets monthly to talk about these topics.

### Other Business

Public Comments – None

Messages to Kansas Water Authority – Luke Grubbs motioned for a letter to be sent to KWA requesting support for additional funding to cost-share on the installation of an observation well in the Cimarron Grasslands along the Kansas Colorado border being put in by GMD3. Calvin Burke seconded, the motion was passed and Alexandra will work with Nick to draft a letter to be approved by the committee via conference call before the December KWA meeting.

Future Meetings –

Next RAC meeting – Conference call on Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup> @ 11:30am

Joint meeting with Upper Arkansas RAC – beginning of next year

Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas – November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> in Manhattan

### Adjourn

12:35pm



## Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

11:30am, Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Conference Call/Webinar

**DRAFT**

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Nick Hatcher (Chair)	Liberal, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Bret Rooney (Vice-Chair)	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	2021	No
Trista Brown	Satanta, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	No
Michael Bryant	Copeland, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	Yes
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	No
Luke Grubbs	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	2021	Yes
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	2019	Yes
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	Yes
Gary Boldt	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public 3	2019	No
Jim Sipes	Manter, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	Yes
Alan Olson	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Jason Norquest	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 4	2019	Yes
Vacant		Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Mark Rude	GMD3
Alexandra Geisler	KWO

### Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Nick Hatcher began the meeting at 11:31am and welcomed everyone. A quorum was present; seven of the twelve committee members were present.

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without a vote.

### Review & Approval of Letter to KWA

Nick Hatcher motioned to approve the letter to KWA, Matt Higgins seconded. Mike Meyer asked for an update from Jason Norquest on the construction status of the well. Jason explained that the groundwater monitoring well was drilled by KGS/GMD3 last week. They logged down 74 ft. into red beds. The well is cased to a depth of 50 ft., and Mark Rude thought that the static water level was around 10 ft. but couldn't remember exactly. Right now there is a temporary pressure transducer in the well, and a permanent one will be installed at a later date. The committee voted to approve the letter as written to send to the Kansas Water Authority.

**Membership:** Nick Hatcher (Chair), Liberal, KS; Brett Rooney (Vice-Chair), Satanta, KS; Trista Brown, Satanta, KS; Michael Bryant, Copeland, KS; Calvin Burke, Liberal, KS; Luke Grubbs, Hugoton, KS; Brian Hemann, Hugoton, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Gary Boldt, Ulysses, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS; Alan Olson, Ulysses, KS; Jason Norquest, Garden City, KS

**KWO Planners:** Alexandra Geisler, 785-296-0865; [alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:alexandra.geisler@kwo.ks.gov)  
Armando Zarco, 620-276-2901; [armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov)

## Action Plan Review

Alexandra Geisler gave an overview of some of the work she is doing internally at KWO to assist with tracking progress on projects, the Vision, and RAC Action Plans. The committee took a look at the status of the Cimarron Action Plan items, but decided the best approach would be for the committee to address several of these at each meeting rather than all at once. Starting with those action items that aren't in progress the RAC will start this process at the first stand-alone meeting next year.

## Joint Meeting Agenda

Alexandra Geisler asked the committee for input on the agenda for the joint meeting the RAC will be having with the Upper Arkansas in January. It will be in Garden City at the Zoo and an email will be sent out soon to select a date. The meeting will consist of updates from both Chairman and discussion on similar goals, action items and other related topics. The three additional agenda items that were brought up included having someone come to speak about Master Irrigators, Water Technology Farms, and having Jim Sipes give an update on his coordination with Oklahoma.

## Southwest Kansas Oklahoma Panhandle Coordination

Jim Sipes explained that he has been struggling to set something up. The GMD3 meeting in Elkhart isn't exactly what the RAC had wanted for this meeting which is farmers talking to farmers. He has been in contact with the Farm Bureau in Oklahoma but other than that there has been a lack of interest from farmers and other groups in Oklahoma. He has also been in contact with the Kansas Farm Bureau and has tried reaching out to the Colorado Farm Bureau but has not heard back. Jason Norquest provided a more detailed explanation of the River Resource meeting being held in Elkhart. The GMD would like to see producers there to hear their concerns on topics such as studies and models. There are local folks from Colorado interested in coming over, and KGS and others will be there. That is on November 27<sup>th</sup> and on November 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a second River Resource meeting held in the Upper Arkansas Regional Planning Area in Garden City.

Discussion continued as members contemplated what would get Oklahoma folks interested and involved and what the RAC should do moving forward. Alexandra Geisler suggested that she send information about these River Resource meetings out to the committees, and that Jim Sipes inform his state contacts about it to get the word out. Once these meetings are over the committee can look at trying to get a RAC sponsored meeting set up specifically for farmer to farmer interaction. Chairman Nick Hatcher and the committee approved of this plan.

## Master Irrigators Update

Alexandra Geisler gave a brief overview of the meeting she attended in Texas where she learned about the Master Irrigators Program. She attended as the Kansas Water Office representative along with Armando Zarco. Mark Rude from GMD3 and two NRCS representatives from Kansas were also present. The program was developed by the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District (NPGCD) in Texas which is similar to GMDs in Kansas. It is fairly intensive with four days of training on a number of different topics related to irrigation. The days were spread out and each day participants received a binder with all of the day's materials in it. The program cost \$100 a person, mostly to provide a buy in so that those who signed up would actually complete the program they paid for. If a participant completed the program they received a certificate that qualified them for a special EQIP cost-share fund. What they found is that participants valued the information more than the EQIP incentive as not all of those that completed the training actually followed through to receive the funding. They also began to see in consecutive years that operations would send farm hands and others to complete the training, showing that past attendees found it valuable.

The \$100 fee did not cover the cost of putting on the program, additional grant funds and NPGCD funds helped to cover the costs. Putting something like this together requires a lot of time and planning and NPGCD has a dedicated staff member to work on the Master Irrigators Program. The discussion coming out of that meeting has led to a push for a collaborative approach from the Ogallala States. The idea would be to submit a multi-state request for funding to implement this program. Right now it is still unclear what the plan is moving forward, especially with Farm Bill negotiations still underway. The Water Office is not certain yet on what level to be involved, and maintains that moving forward focus should continue be on ensuring positive impacts to the aquifer.

Jason Norquest stated that unfortunately he was unable to attend that meeting in Texas but that Mark was able to instead. They have heard presentations about the program from NPGCDs general manager Steve Walthour several times before. To get certified a participant has to go through all of the training. They bring in professionals to speak and farmers who attended in the past to hear first-hand accounts. GMD3 has had some conversations with the Water Office and NRCS about implementing the program in Kansas. It is looking positive moving forward, and it may start with a pilot project in Southwest Kansas. It is still in the early planning stages, but hopefully things will move forward and a lot of good information with it. With technology farms there is already a lot of good information and facts out there. Word is getting out and Jason has had a company out of Georgia contact him wanting to know how to get involved.

Alexandra will ensure the committee stays up to date on the Master Irrigators Program, and will continue to keep it on future meeting agendas.

### **SOTR Presentation Development Group**

Alexandra Geisler explained that her and Armando as planners think it would be best if several members agreed to work with her on the development of the presentation for the RAC. This would ensure that the content and corresponding script is reflective of the RACs stance and that it's in a format that members are comfortable with presenting. The committee has seen several versions of this at previous meetings, and there is already a base presentation put together. Chairman Nick Hatcher encouraged those members present to volunteer and Jason Norquest, Jim Sipes, and Michael Bryant agreed to work on the development of the presentation. Alexandra will put the current presentation into google slides so that all of them can work on it, and will send out an email and link to them within the next couple of weeks with more details.

### **Agency Reports**

Mike Meyer KDA-DWR: Nothing new to report since the last meeting.

Jason Norquest GMD No. 3: Already covered everything going on right now at the GMD.

### **Other Business**

Alexandra Geisler informed the committee that Danny Law has stepped down from his position on the RAC leaving the conservation environment (cc) position vacant. If anyone knows anyone who would fit the opening and is interested put them in touch with one of the planners.

Public Comments – None

Messages to Kansas Water Authority – Approved the draft letter to be sent to KWA requesting support for additional funding to cost-share on the installed observation well in the Cimarron Grasslands along the Colorado Stateline that was put in by KGS & GMD3 (Details above).

### Future Meetings –

Next RAC meeting – Joint meeting with Upper Arkansas RAC in January (will send out Doodle Poll)  
Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas – November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> in Manhattan

### Adjourn

12:14pm

DRAFT



# Upper Arkansas & Cimarron Joint Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Upper Arkansas & Cimarron Joint Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am, Friday, January 25, 2019

City Administrative Center, Garden City, KS

DRAFT

### Upper Arkansas Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Fred Jones (Chair)	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Michael MacNair	Jetmore, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Kyle Nelson	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Joe Jury	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	No
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Ted Boersma	Cimarron, KS	Dairy	2021	No
Roy Dixon	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Yes
Mike O'Brate	Ingalls, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2019	Yes
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2019	Yes
Bill Simshauser	Lakin, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 3	2021	Yes
VACANT		Surface Water Irrigation	2021	

### Cimarron Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Nick Hatcher (Chair)	Liberal, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Bret Rooney (Vice-Chair)	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	2021	No
Trista Brown	Satanta, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Michael Bryant	Copeland, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	Yes
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Luke Grubbs	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	2021	Yes
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	2019	No
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	Yes
Gary Boldt	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public 3	2019	Yes
Jim Sipes	Manter, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	No
Alan Olson	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Jason Norquest	Garden City, KS	At Large Public 4	2019	Yes
VACANT		Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	

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**Others in attendance:**

Name	Agency
Alexandra Geisler	KWO
Armando Zarco	KWO
Hal Scheuerman	GMD3
Roger Maddy JR	DFA
Ryan Allen	Garden City
Brownie Wilson	KGS
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Kevin Salter	KDA-DWR
Chris Law	GMD3
Shannon Kenyon	GMD4 & Upper Republican RAC
Trevor Ahring	GMD3
Mark Rude	GMD3
Steve Amosson	NPGCD
Greg Graff	KWA & GMD1
Abram Lollar	Ducks Unlimited

**Welcome and Introductions**

Alexandra Geisler began the meeting at 10:15am.

**Chairs Presentation**

Chairman Fred Jones took a moment to recognize Steven Hines, a member of the Upper Arkansas RAC who passed away last week. He served for many years on the RAC, and his commitment and contributions to the committee and the Upper Arkansas Region will be greatly missed. Condolences go out to all present who were close with him.

Both RAC Chairs, Fred Jones and Nick Hatcher, gave a brief presentation on committee interests and activities in their respective regions.

**Agency Reports**

Groundwater Management District No. 3 – Mark Rude:

Mark provided a brief history on the formation of GMDs; established to let local water rights holders determine their own destiny and to uphold basic water use doctrine. The district has recently been working on a revised Management Program, which goes to the Chief Engineer for approval and then gets adopted by the GMD. The most recent version is posted online, and is currently under review by the Chief Engineer.

Within the Upper Arkansas Region one of the major issues that must be addressed and brought forward to the Kansas Legislature is the Ark Valley conduit. The continued decline in the quality of the water coming into Kansas is a major concern, and the infilling of the river valley is a flood risk that could cause issues for ditches and diversions. The Western

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Water Conservation Funds are about used up, but there has been a lot of activity. A legislative report is being produced on the activities of those funds. Once that report is complete he will provide a copy for the RACs.

Within the Cimarron Region the GMD has spent a lot of money trying to address an irrigation development of 7,000 acre/ft. along the Cimarron River in Colorado, near both the Kansas and Oklahoma border. The district continues to work on this and has held public meetings for individuals from all three states, but the development is still moving forward. The approach will be to come back with strategic planning, and set goals on things that are definable and attainable with the available funds.

The GMD is evaluating issues and seeking to provide additional information to members, looking at each application and at what the aquifer is and can do.

### Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources – Mike Meyer:

Mike explained that the new Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Beam, will be working as an interim until completing the total approval process. He likes where the agency is going, and looks forward to working with the new administration within the agency. While he has met Mike Beam it was before his new role as Secretary.

Each year the office works with KGS to help measure static water levels in Haskell, Grant, Finney, Gray and Kearny County. Annual water use reports have been sent out and the deadline for those is March 1<sup>st</sup>. The push is for everyone to use the online system, and there is now a paper fee for using the traditional paper version. Approximately 20% have been submitted to date through the system, which has beaten expectations. He encourages everyone to try the online system, and if assistance is needed to go to the office or GMD for help. His office will be at Hugoton on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Library to provide assistance to those who need it.

Monte Morgan asked Mike if there is an area down close to the Oklahoma border that is still open to new appropriations, because 3-4 years ago he was told by another producer that there was. Mike's answer was that all of GMD3 is closed, but outside of that there are areas still open to appropriation if there is water available.

### Kansas Water Office – Armando Zarco:

Armando reported that a new KWO director has yet to be appointed and that Earl Lewis is still acting as Interim Director until Governor Kelly appoints one. He mentioned that the KWA Annual Report and KDA Budget Reports are now available online for the public to access. KWAs upcoming meeting is next week on Thursday, with legislative visits on Wednesday involving RAC Chairs and KWA members. Lastly he gave an update on Water Technology Farms. There are currently 10 farms in the program, and with this year's budget KWO is looking to add 3-6 more this year.

### **Kansas Geological Survey: Aquifer Update – Brownie Wilson**

Brownie explained that it is going to be hard to talk about this year's water levels, because due to bad weather annual well measurements are not yet complete. He gave an overview of the annual well measurement effort and the Kansas Index Well Program. With an explanation of the data-driven Water Balance Approach rewritten to address Net Inflow and Pumping, he covered the estimated percent reduction needed to reach stable water levels first in each RAC and then for

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each GMD. While the approach isn't perfect and isn't meant to replace numerical flow models, it allows quick assessments of aquifer responses to changes in pumping. The numbers are a general representation of the region as a whole, as there can be large variations across each region. For 2005 to 2017 the percent reduction calculated for the Upper Arkansas is approximately 19%, for the Cimarron approximately 31%, and for all of GMD3 approximately 31%. Brownie did show water-level results from this year's measurements, although it was super preliminary and incomplete.

### **North Plains Groundwater Conservation District: Master Irrigators Program – Dr. Steve Amosson**

Dr. Steve Amosson provided an in depth presentation on the development, funding, structure, content, and implementation of the Master Irrigators Program. He explained the idea and rationale behind the program and the reasons why it has been so successful. The 2019 class on year 4 for the program has already sold out, and he believes the program will continue to be successful in future years.

### *Lunch Break*

### **Groundwater Management District No. 4: LEMA – Shannon Kenyon**

Shannon Kenyon, a GMD4 staff member, provided a brief report and answered questions regarding the GMD4 LEMA. She stated that there are differences in the issues and culturally between the areas & GMDs, but that for GMD4 the LEMA has been a good thing and the overall response has been positive. She indicated that there are some interveners for the GMD4 LEMA but those are ongoing court cases that may take months or years before a resolution may be determined. She explained the process that took place in the development of the LEMA, and the changes that she has seen since it was put into effect.

### **Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) – Roger Maddy**

Roger Maddy is the plant manager at the Garden City DFA Plant. He briefly discussed the company's global reach including United States and Global target customers, and then gave an overview of the Garden City Plant. He explained the production process from the time the milk reaches to plant to the final product. In addition he covered the energy profile of the plant including water consumption, and finished by showing a video tour of the plant.

### **Ducks Unlimited**

Abram Lollar gave a short presentation on the projects that Ducks Unlimited has going on in NW Kansas. In particular, he talked about Playas and how they are in great need for duck migration through the Midwest. Lastly, he mentioned that Ducks Unlimited is interested in leasing out, or even purchasing, land for playas and would be willing to meet to discuss further.

### **Public Comments**

None

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## Future Meetings

Kansas Water Authority – January 31st – Topeka KS

Groundwater Management District No. 3 Annual Meeting – March 13th – Cimarron KS

Next RAC Meeting - April

## RAC Breakout

Upper Arkansas: The board members present requested a poll sent out for a meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April

Cimarron: Short discussion on potential agenda items for the next RAC meeting. The board members presented selected Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> as the next meeting date.

**Adjourn** 3:00pm

DRAFT

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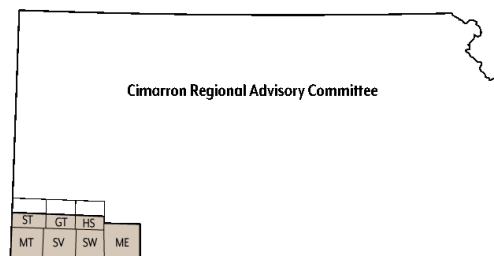
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Earl Lewis, Acting Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

For Immediate Release:  
March 28, 2019

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### **Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**

*April 11, 1:00 p.m., at the Conestoga Energy offices, 1701 N. Kansas Ave., Liberal, Kansas*

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold a meeting to discuss regional goals and priorities.

The meeting will be held Thursday, April 11 at 1:00 p.m., in the Conestoga Energy meeting room, 1701 N. Kansas Ave. in Liberal, Kansas. The agenda includes an update on Water Technology Farms, planning for Oklahoma coordination and local outreach efforts, and a review of the KWA letter response and the 2019 membership drive.

The agenda and meeting materials will be available at [www.kwo.ks.gov](http://www.kwo.ks.gov) 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. KWO also reviews all water laws and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for needed legislation.*