

Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00am, Thursday, June 13th, 2019

Haskell County EMS
700 W LaLande Avenue
Sublette, KS 67877

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	No
Luke Grubbs	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	2021	No
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	2019	No
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	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
VACANT		Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	N/A

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Brandon Friedman	KDA-DWR
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Alexandra Geisler	KWO
Armando Zarco	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO
Steve Frost	KDA-DOC

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:20am by Chairman Nick Hatcher. All present provided self-introductions. A quorum was not present; three of the twelve committee members were present.
- Approval of Agenda:** Alexandra Geisler (KWO) recommended to move Budget Information & Recommendations to after the RAC Goals/Action Plan Review & Timeline.
- Review of the April Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the April meeting were discussed. There were several typos corrected.

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
 Armando Zarco, 620-276-2901; armando.zarco@kwo.ks.gov

4. **RAC Goals/Action Plan Review & Timeline:** Matt Unruh (KWO) explained that working with the RACs on updating goals and action plans is the kick start to KWO updating the Vision and incorporating it into the Kansas Water Plan. The intent for today is to provide the committee a status update, and get feedback on if and where work is needed within the current goals and action plan. Following this round of meetings, there will be public meetings scheduled in the Fall to give the public an opportunity to provide input to KWO and the RACs. That feedback will be compiled and provided back to the RACs to be taken into consideration when finalizing revised and/or new goals and action plans. The new administration recognizes the progress that has been made on raising awareness and action taken, and wants to continue to build upon that momentum.

Alexandra Geisler (KWO) presented a PowerPoint on the process of updating the RAC's Goals and Action Plans. The RAC then went through the Goals and Action Plans and they, along with other attendees at the meeting, had the following suggestions, questions, and comments:

Priority Goal #1: Reduce the rate of decline of the Ogallala Aquifer in the region through voluntary, incentive based conservation as assessed every five years.

- No changes

Priority Goal #2: Extend the usable lifetime of the Ogallala Aquifer in the region through technology adoption (irrigation, industrial, municipal, etc.), new crop varieties and conservation for all uses and for many generations.

- No changes

Priority Goal #3: If individuals elect to conserve then they would be afforded flexibility (e.g. - allowing quantities to be moved, water bank movement, water conservation areas, etc.) Individuals may choose to remain with current water use but not be afforded the flexibilities.

- No changes

Priority Goal #4: As measured through increase in adoption by 50% as assessed each five years, promote the adoption of irrigation efficient technology and invest in university research to evaluate the effectiveness of such technology and crop varieties to develop voluntary incentives and tools to economically reduce water usage. Recommended strategy to achieve Goal - Increase adoption through education by those who are currently using the technology.

- Possibly work with KDA to add an optional section on the Water Use Reports to help establish baseline

5. **Budget Information & Recommendations:** Matt Unruh (KWO) presented on the KWA budget recommendation for FY20 and FY21, developed in the last week of May by the KWA Budget Committee. Matt explained the overall budget process and timeline pointing out that similar to the involvement of the RACs in last year's budget process, today is an opportunity for the committee to evaluate the proposed budget and determine if it is consistent with their goals and regional priorities. They have the opportunity to provide feedback such as what projects are the highest priority for this region, changes needed to funding amounts, or if there are projects not listed that should be included.

This feedback will be compiled from all fourteen RACs and provided to the KWA Budget Committee for consideration when putting together recommendations to bring forward to the full KWA.

Matt briefly discussed the Governor's budget and how the SWPF is utilized, funded, as well as the \$3.25 million and the \$8 million transfer. Matt then went through the budget recommendations, highlighting changes from the previous fiscal year and budget items that may be of interest in this particular region. The RAC discussed which programs and projects they felt were a priority to fund in order to accomplish the goals and action plans for the Cimarron Region. The RAC put together the following recommendations to send out the group as a whole for approval, and once approved provide as a message to the KWA.

The Cimarron RAC supports the proposed budget and would like to highlight the following line items as priorities that are important to fund in order to accomplish and carryout the goals and action plan of the CM RAC. These items include Water Vision Education (KWO), Real-Time Water Management – Telemetry (KDA), Water Conservation Specialists (KDA), Irrigation Technology (KDA), Assessment & Evaluation (KWO) with an emphasis on monitoring and modeling through KGS, and Water Technology Farms (KWO) with the request that a portion of those funds go towards improving data evaluation. The Cimarron RAC would also like funding to be reserved and available for the implementation of RAC Action Items.

6. Agency and Public Input:

Jason Norquest (GMD 3): reported that everything the district is working on continues to progress.

Steve Frost (KDA-DOC): reported that he is thankful to be able to attend today's meeting, he has found it a valuable experience.

Mike Meyer (KDA-DWR): reported that they are working through the process of getting later water use reports submitted now that they are long overdue. There are just a few late in this area, but they are also following up on late reports from 2017 in which water rights have been suspended; most of those are abandoned. Unfortunately, there have been no new WCAs established in the region.

Armando Zarco (KWO): reported that there is a total of fifteen farms in the Water Technology Farm Program this year, and that a field day schedule should be coming out in the next couple of weeks.

7. Future Meetings

GMD3 Board Meeting: July 10th @9am – Garden City

Kansas Water Authority: July 30th & 31st – Goodland

Bottom Line Conference: August 14th & 15th – Lakin

Next RAC Meeting: September TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.