

Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00 am February 15, 2017

Liberal, Kansas

Members Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Proposed Category</i>	<i>Present</i>
Nick Hatcher	Liberal, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	Y
Trista Brown	Satanta, KS	At Large Public	N
Michael Bryant	SW, HS, GR, ME, ST Counties	Agriculture 2	Y
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	Y
Kirk Heger	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	Y
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	Y
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	N
Danny Law	Ulysses, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	N
Bret Rooney	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	Y
Jim Sipes	Stanton County, KS	Agriculture (cc)	Y
Ellen Verell	Meade, KS	At Large Public (cc)	Y
Vacant		At Large Public	

Others in attendance:

Gary Boldt, Dick Verell, Jim Whitt (T&O Farms), Brownie Wilson (KGS), Shawn Beach (RMA), Jason Norquest (GMD3), Armando Zarco (KDA-DWR), Isaya Kisekka (KSU), Kenny Sullivan (KCC), Richard Rockel (KWO), Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome and Introductions: Nick Hatcher welcomed everyone to the RAC meeting. Self-introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Nick Hatcher to accept the draft agenda. Motion seconded by Bret Rooney. Motion Carried.

Meeting Notes: Motion made by Jim Sipes to approve meeting notes from last meeting (conference call). Motion seconded by Calvin Burke. Motion Carried.

KWA update: Nick noted the KWA approved the action plans. Diane Knowles reported the January legislative visits went well and were well received, beginning the education of the many new legislators on water issues. The House Water and Environment Committee has been considering numerous water related bills including funding the Water Plan. The KWA Annual report handed out is the report presented to all legislators about Water Plan activities the past year and various accomplishments. It is a good reference for RAC members to educate the public on the water issues it covers. Diane can develop more information on RAC identified topics if needed.

Kirk Heger noted the Southwest Irrigators Association annual meeting will be held February 21, 2017 in Ulysses. The Content will be the Water Talk Series followed by lunch and a short business meeting.

Nick requested any comments on technology use, WCAs and general regional feeling on these and any other conservation ideas. Discussion included that there is interest in water technology farms, a LEMA is in initial stages in the Upper Arkansas Region, Roth WTF will be hosting a demonstration of moisture probes and related computer systems on March

21st, there are no WCAs in the Cimarron Region yet, the WCAs active in 2016 used less water than their WCA allocation so saved more than expected, and three additional WCAs have been approved (in Scott, Lane and Wichita counties).

Vision and Regional Goals Updates

Water levels and Sustainability: Brownie Wilson (KGS) provided an overview of KGS work on water levels and what is needed to bring areas into balance. The review of the water levels and pumping data, found a linear relationship that can be used to evaluate specific areas and the water conservation needed to reach an average zero water level decline. KGS has estimated for each GMD, and the SH6 LEMA. This could be done on a county, region or WCA area.

Additional discussion compared this method and results with the groundwater models, a review of groundwater movement principles and the added usefulness of index wells.

Limited Irrigation Crop Insurance: Shawn Beach (RMA) explained the crop insurance availability and general process for insuring irrigated corn or soybeans using less than full irrigation. Producers can choose a Limited Irrigation Approved Yield to address the reduction in irrigation water anticipated to be available or applied to the irrigated acreage. This will be available in 2017 in some counties. Limited irrigation data will be developed for a producer separate from their full irrigation APH. For 2017, RMA is authorizing written agreements for certain counties for corn and another set for soybeans.

Discussion included: the tool underdevelopment for water rights, water use, filed and crop information that will aid producers when completed and tested; APH changes; and rates.

KDA-DWR legislation: Armando Zarco highlighted proposed statutes revisions: WCA; impairment process and appeal of Chief Engineer orders. He noted that the three WCAs in place in 2016 used less water than their allocations, so conserved more water than planned. Three more WCAs have been approved in Scott, Lane and Wichita counties.

Discussion clarified the intent of some of the revisions and noted that GMD3 and KFB support the changes which will streamline the impairment process and use the expertise of DWR in evaluation of impairment.

Jason Norquest (GMD3) mentioned SB 194 was introduced this week to raise the cap on GMD assessments on an acre foot of water, requested by GMD5.

WTF and MDI research: Isaya Kiesekka presented results of MDI research and the WTF evaluations. Objective is to get more water to plants in order to grow the most grain. Comparison of application methods for 600, 300 and 150 gpm became statistically significant for 150 gpm with drip providing greater bushels per acre inch of water.

The WTF allowed evaluation on a larger scale, with the three farms evaluating different combinations of technologies.

In future, KSU would like to evaluate under drier conditions and look at fertigation.

The Presentation will be posted on the KWO web site so members can review.

Public Comments- none

General Committee Discussion

Membership: Nick Hatcher, Chair, Liberal, KS; Trista Brown, Satanta, KS; Michael Bryant; Calvin Burke, Liberal, KS; Kirk Heger, Hugoton, KS; Brian Hemann, Hugoton, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Danny Law, Ulysses, KS; Bret Rooney, Satanta, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS; Ellen Verell, Meade, KS. **KWO Planner:** Diane Knowles 785-296-3185

Nick reported he is initiating a WTF.

Calvin reported that the City of Liberal is getting a new wastewater treatment plant and will reuse water on golf courses and parks, but must also maintain Arkalon so some discharge will occur. There is also some discussion of working with National Beef.

Next Meeting

Cimarron RAC: Diane and Nick will suggest a date for the next meeting, possibly late May or early June at Conestoga in Liberal.