



Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am November 28, 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	Y
Michael Bryant	SW, HS, GR, ME, ST Counties	Agriculture 2	N
Calvin Burke	Liberal, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	Y
Luke Grubbs	Hugoton, KS	Irrigation	Y
Brian Hemman	Hugoton, KS	Agricultural Industry	N
Matt Higgins	Elkhart, KS	Public Water Supply 2	Y
Danny Law	Ulysses, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	N
Bret Rooney	Satanta, KS	Groundwater Management	Y
Jim Sipes	Stanton County, KS	Agriculture (cc)	Y
Gary Boldt	Ulysses, KS	At Large Public (cc)	Y
Jason Norquest	Garden City, KS	At Large Public	Y

Others in attendance:

Mark Rude (GMD3), Jared Kneisel (NRCS), Mike Meyer (KDA-DWR), Richard Rockel (KWO), Alexandra Davis (KWO)

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

Approval of Agenda: The draft agenda was accepted as presented.

Meeting Notes: Meeting notes from August 2017 were approved as presented.

Regional Activities:

The State of the Resource project was discussed after an overview of the project by Richard. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding implementation needs and priorities for the region. Chairman Hatcher mentioned the need for much more education and communication in regards to water topics within the area. Discussion was had about ways to increase communication and ways to get the message out. The Committee discussed using social media, getting radio ad spots, working with agriculture related groups within the region, and see if Farm Bureau would send items out in their E-news.

Mark Rude Groundwater Management District No. 3 distributed and presented a document titled "GMD3 Request for support from Cimarron RAC". The GMD3 document requested that there be three "Priority Action Goals" added for the region. Discussion was had by the Committee about goal setting and the goal setting process. It was stated that new goals would need to be submitted to the Kansas Water Authority for review and approval. It was asked what criteria would be used to evaluate a new goal, Richard Rockel told the Committee new goals would be evaluated per fulfilling the S.M.A.R.T. goal setting process.

Membership: Nick Hatcher, Chair, Liberal, KS; Trista Brown, Satanta, KS; Michael Bryant; Calvin Burke, Liberal, KS; Luke Grubbs, Hugoton, KS; Brian Hemann, Hugoton, KS; Matt Higgins, Elkhart, KS; Danny Law, Ulysses, KS; Bret Rooney, Satanta, KS; Jim Sipes, Manter, KS; Gary Boldt, Ulysses, KS; Jason Norquest, Garden City, KS. **KWO Planner:** Richard Rockel 785-296-3185

Discussion was had by the Committee about what demonstration projects were wanted and what the education needs for the Region were. Having more demonstrations and continuing with the Water Technology Field days were discussed.

There was further discussion by the group about communication and that the Committee should get on public radio broadcasts to discuss water issues, specifically working to get on agricultural radio shows to discuss the Region's water situation. Other ideas were to have a session at the GMD3 annual meeting to present Regional Advisory Committee information.

The Committee discussed ways to encourage exploration of alternative crops, to include reducing barriers to risk management for alternative crops, putting a focus on local silage production, specifically discussing if the forage sorghum program could be restarted as was used in southeast Colorado. Also, how conservation should be documented and that there was a need to establish a baseline of where the Region currently is on the adoption of irrigation management strategies, cotton or alternative crops already grown, livestock water reuse. The Committee discussed if a survey would be useful to beginning documenting the status of the Region.

Jim Sipes gave some information about having an interstate coordination meeting with stakeholders from the panhandle of Oklahoma. Coming from the August 2017 meeting where the Committee discussed interstate coordination, the Committee discussed how a producer led meeting would be held. There was discussion of having the local Farm Bureau groups collaborating on holding a meeting to discuss the two states water issues.

Richard Rockel (KWO) gave a brief update on Water Technology Farms and the expansion of the program in 2017.

Other Business:

Agency Reports

KDA, DWR- Mike Meyer gave information about online water use reporting.

GMD3 – Mark Rude stated that the GMD3 Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant had been modified to a 3.5 gallon per minute per acre limit.

NRCS – Jared Kneisel stated that it was a record year for Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts in Kansas, with \$35 million being given for conservation.

Public Comments- none