

Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

11:30am, Thursday, November 1st, 2018
Conference Call/Webinar

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.

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 27th and on November 28th 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).



Cimarron Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

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 13th & 14th in Manhattan

Adjourn
12:14pm

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
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