

MEMO



DATE: January 26, 2022
TO: Equus-Walnut RAC and Agency Advisors
FROM: Sara Maguire, Kansas Water Office
RE: February 2, 2022 RAC Meeting

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The meeting of the Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held virtually on **February 2, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/382629237>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(408\) 650-3123](tel:+14086503123)

Access Code: 382-629-237

The main items of discussion at the RAC meeting will be regional and statewide updates from the Kansas Water Office.

Enclosed please find:

- Agenda
- Updated Goals and Action Plans
- Previous Meeting Notes
- News Release

Please let me know if you cannot attend, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting. Please contact me by e-mail at sara.maguire@kwo.ks.gov or by phone at (888) KAN-WATE(R).



**EQUUS-WALNUT
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: February 2, 2022

TIME: 9:30 am

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AGENDA DETAILS

- I. Welcome and Roll Call**
- II. Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda**
- III. Kansas Water Office Updates**
 - a. Statewide issues and updates**
 - i. Legislature
 - ii. Kansas Water Plan
 - iii. Kansas Water Authority Update (January 26-27 meeting)
 - b. Regional issues and updates**
 - i. RAC Membership
 - ii. Open discussion from members
- IV. Regional Activities**
 - a. Produced Water Pilot Update**
 - b. Review Goals and Action Plans**
- V. Other Business**
 - a. Public comments**
 - b. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members**
 - c. Future Meetings**
 - i. Equus-Walnut RAC: TBD
 - ii. Winter Water Tech Expo (February 3, 5pm-9pm)

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
1:00 pm August 3, 2021
Remote

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Denise Noonan Middleton (Chair)	Burden, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	No
Brian Meier (Vice Chair)	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2021	Yes
Kurt Bookout	El Dorado, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	No
Libby Albers	Newton, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2023	No
David Bogner	Mt. Hope, KS	Groundwater Management	2023	No
Don Koci	Hutchinson, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	No
Jesse McCurry	Colwich, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	No
Chad Milligan	Derby, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2023	No
Roger Black	Arkansas City, KS	Watershed Protection	2023	No
Don Henry	Wichita, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	No
Steve Hieger	Wichita, KS	Industry/ Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Russell Tomevi	Winfield, KS	Integrated Planning	2023	No
Byron Warta	Newton, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
David Bollenback	Kansas Corporation Commission
Steve Frost	KDA
Ted Saranchuk	
Scott Satterthwaite	KDHE
Ronald Graber	Kansas State University
Allison Herring	KDHE
Vanessa Salazar	KDWP
Jeff Lanterman	KDA
Richard Basore	
Sara Maguire	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO

Welcome and Roll Call: Brian Meier called the meeting to order at 1:02pm as the Chair was unable to participate.

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda: The RAC member present approved the agenda as written.

Kansas Water Office Updates

a. Budget Update

- i. Budget presentation from KWO:** Matt Unruh of KWO gave an abridged virtual presentation on budget information, summarizing fiscal year (FY) 2021, discussing FY 2022, and looking ahead to FY 2023. Matt answered questions from the group and encouraged representatives from the state agencies present to highlight the budget items they felt were important.

- ii. **Budget input from RAC members:** The RAC member present decided to prioritize the same budget items as the Equus-Walnut RAC had highlighted last year. These items are promoting sustainable water resource management, Equus Beds contamination remediation, Water Technology Farms, and improving watershed practices.
- b. **Statewide Updates**
 - i. **Legislature:** Sara Maguire of KWO provided information on the House Water Committee. The House Water Committee will be holding a meeting in Garden City, KS on August 18, 2021.
 - ii. **Kansas Water Plan:** Sara discussed plans to complete the Water Plan by the August KWA meeting. Following the August KWA meeting, there will be a 30-day window for public comments, after which time a final version of the Water Plan can be produced and distributed. Water Plan updates can be found on [this page](#).
 - iii. **Kansas Water Authority Meeting:** Sara summarized the previous three Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meetings, held on May 18, June 9, and June 23, 2021.
- c. **Regional Updates**
 - i. **RAC Membership:** Sara explained KWO has received a handful of applications for the RAC and those chosen by the KWA during their August meeting will be notified.
 - ii. **Open discussion from members:** Sara opened the floor for open discussion from members, but no comments were made.

Other Business

- a. **Public comments:** None.
- a. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** None.
- b. **Meetings**
 - i. **Equus-Walnut RAC:** The next RAC meeting will be scheduled around October 2021.
 - ii. **Kansas Water Congress:** The next Water Congress meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2021 in Garden City, Kansas.
 - iii. **Kansas Water Authority:** The next KWA meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2021 in Garden City, Kansas.
 - iv. **House Water Committee:** The next Water Committee meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2021 in Garden City, Kansas.

Adjourn: Brian adjourned the meeting at 1:45pm.

Equus-Walnut RAC Goals and Action Plans

Priority Goal #1: Promote sustainable balance of groundwater withdrawals with annual recharge in the Equus Beds Aquifer. Ensure safe yield and recharge rate calculations in the Equus Beds Aquifer are accurate through a district wide, integrated groundwater and surface water model.

Action Plans:

- I. Maintain the Groundwater Management District #2 model developed by the Kansas Geological Survey 2020 (GMD 2 model).
- II. Utilize GMD 2 model results to support refinement of aquifer recharge rates.
- III. Encourage application of the revised recharge rates to support safe yield calculations within GMD 2 model boundaries.
- IV. Support utilizing GMD 2 model results to identify areas of over-appropriation within the Equus-Walnut planning region.
- V. Promote an integrated approach to the management of all water resources, by non-domestic users within the Equus-Walnut planning region, especially in over-appropriated areas.
- VI. Continue to encourage communication and collaboration between all responsible agencies and organizations tasked to accomplish these actions.

Priority Goal #2: Encourage the development and use of comprehensive water supply plans by major water users in the region. Plans should account for long-term supply and demand, vulnerabilities within a water supply system, and potential for improved water efficiency.

Action Plans:

- I. Continue to support The Kansas Water Office (KWO) Assessment and Evaluation's technical assistance grant for water conservation planning while promoting additional planning assistance programs.
- II. Coordinate with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) -Bureau of Water and Kansas Department of Agriculture - Division of Water Resources (DWR) on a database of all public water suppliers within the Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory

Committee (RAC) that includes contact information and chief responsible staff person and chief governance person for each supplier.

- III. The KWO will develop a survey document to ascertain the current state, practice, and plans of each public water supplier as to their long-term water supply plan, including their consideration of non-potable water and existing water supplies.
- IV. If deemed appropriate, the results of this survey document will be made available to each public water supplier within the Equus-Walnut Planning Region.
- V. The RAC will work with the KWO to prepare a report to the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) that conveys the results of the survey and identifies any further actions that may be necessary in pursuit of the goal.
- VI. Promote a regulatory framework for the use of graywater.
- VII. The Equus-Walnut RAC, through the KWO and others, will promote water resource conservation strategies within the region by speaking with major water users, sharing success stories and organizing informational webinars, conference presentations, and other educational opportunities.

Priority Goal #3: Implement watershed protection measures to improve the reliability and health of surface water resources in the region.

Action Plans:

- I. Utilize targeting strategies of Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) and KWO to identify appropriate locations for (best management practice) BMP programs or other watershed projects.
- II. Identify ways to leverage funds for BMP implementation through public and private entities.
- III. Support watershed education and BMP demonstration activities.

Priority Goal #4: Allocate necessary resources to accurately locate, characterize, prioritize and remediate contamination sites within the Equus-Beds Aquifer.

Action Plans:

- I. Maintain an inventory of contamination sites within the Equus Beds Aquifer.

- II. Identify and fill data gaps associated with inventoried contamination sites. This could include lack of definition regarding vertical or horizontal extent of contamination, concentration of contaminants or the source of contamination of an identified site.
- III. Install additional monitoring wells and piezometers as necessary to collect data where needs are identified.
- IV. Complete pilot studies as required to facilitate groundwater remediation feasibility.
- V. Develop a process to test and promote new treatment technologies that address contaminated groundwater sites within the Region and State.

Priority Goal #5: Increase efforts to establish sustainable, water-conserving agricultural production practices.

Action Plans:

- I. Preserve water resources and coordinate programs to develop less water-intensive crops.
- II. Coordinate public/private research for the development of viable drought tolerant crops.
- III. Identify and support markets for less water-intensive crops.
- IV. Support federal and state programs that evaluate new irrigation technologies.
- V. Promote federal and state programs that offer incentives for operators to implement irrigation efficiency improvements.
- VI. Support agriculture workshops and field days that demonstrate water-conserving practices.