

MEMO



DATE: April 28, 2021
TO: Equus-Walnut RAC and Agency Advisors
FROM: Sara Maguire, Kansas Water Office
RE: May 13, 2021 RAC Meeting

900 SW Jackson St., Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.ks.gov

The meeting of the Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held remotely on **May 13th, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.** via GoToMeeting.

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

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/935429117>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(786\) 535-3211](tel:+17865353211)

Access Code: 935-429-117

Join from a video-conferencing room or system.

Dial in or type: 67.217.95.2 or inroomlink.goto.com

Meeting ID: 935 429 117

Or dial directly: [935429117@67.217.95.2](tel:+17865353211) or 67.217.95.2##935429117

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: May 13, 2021
TIME: 1:00 pm
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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 (April 26th meeting)
 - b. Regional issues and updates**
 - i. RAC Membership
 - ii. Open discussion from members
 - c. Budget Webinar (April 30th)**
 - i. Budget input from RAC members (memo needed by late July/early August)
- IV. Other Business**
 - a. Public comments**
 - b. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members**
 - c. Future Meetings**
 - i. Equus-Walnut RAC, TBD
 - ii. Kansas Water Authority, TBD

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m., March 17, 2021
Remote

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Denise Noonan Middleton (Chair)	Burden, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	Yes
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	Yes
David Bogner	Mt. Hope, KS	Groundwater Management	2023	Yes
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	Yes
Steve Hieger	Wichita, KS	Industry/ Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Russell Tomevi	Winfield, KS	Integrated Planning	2023	Yes
Byron Warta	Newton, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Gary Koons	KWO
Sara Maguire	KWO
Kirk "Tj" Tjemeland	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO
Lauren Koons	KWO
Allison Herring	KDHE

Welcome and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 9:03am by Gary Koons of KWO.

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

Kansas Water Office Updates

a. Statewide issues and updates

- i. Staff Changes:** Dawn Buehler has been appointed the Chair of the Kansas Water Authority. Gary Koons will be leaving KWO and Sara Maguire will take his place as the Equus-Walnut RAC planner.
- ii. Legislature:** Matt Unruh of KWO provided information on the new House Water Committee and encouraged RAC members to follow the committee online via the [legislative YouTube channel](#). Matt also highlighted budget items from the SFY2022 Kansas Water Plan.
- iii. Kansas Water Plan:** Tj of KWO reviewed the current draft of the Equus-Walnut regional section of the 2021 Kansas Water Plan. A copy of this section will be sent to Equus-Walnut RAC members when KWO reaches a farther point in the editing process. Water Plan updates can be found on [this page](#).

b. Regional issues and updates

Membership: Denise Noonan Middleton, Chair, Burden, KS; Brian Meier, Vice-Chair, Wichita, KS; Roger Black, Arkansas City, KS; Kurt Bookout, El Dorado, KS; Don Koci, Hutchinson, KS; Jesse McCurry, Colwich, KS; Russell Tomevi, Winfield, KS; Byron Warta, Newton, KS; Libby Albers, Newton, KS; David Bogner, Mt. Hope, KS; Chad Milligan, Derby, KS; Don Henry, Wichita, KS; Steve Hieger, Wichita, KS
KWO Planner: Gary Koons, 785-296-3185; gary.koons@kwo.ks.gov

- i. **RAC Membership:** Gary reminded members with a 2021 expiration that they will be receiving new membership applications this spring.
- ii. **Open discussion from members:** Don Henry offered to provide a detailed overview of Wichita's ASR facility at the next RAC meeting. RAC members were asked to provide feedback on specific topics to KWO for the next meeting.
- iii. Gary provided an update on the Arbuckle Study Group and mentioned that the current contract with KGS will wrap up in June 2021.

Other Business

- a. **Agency updates:** Allison Herring of KDHE shared information on a collective project with the University of Kansas and multiple public water suppliers to trace COVID-19 in wastewater. Don Henry offered to connect Allison to a similar study conducted by Arizona State University, the city of Wichita, and others across the country.
- b. **Public comments:** None.
- c. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** None.
- d. **Messages to the KWA:** None.
- e. **Meetings**
 - i. **Equus-Walnut RAC:** The next RAC meeting is estimated to be scheduled for the beginning of May.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned by Gary Koons at 10:30am.

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.

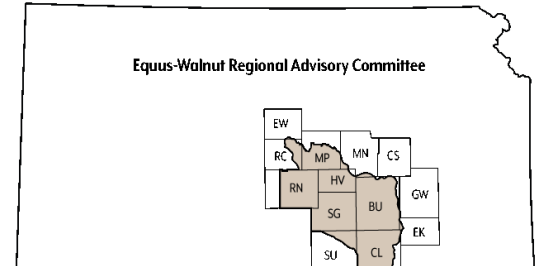


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Connie Owen, Director

Phone: (785)-296-3185
Fax: (785)-296-0878
www.kwo.ks.gov
Laura Kelly, Governor

Meeting Notice:
April 30, 2021

For More Information:
Katie Patterson-Ingels
(785) 296-3185, katie.ingels@kwo.ks.gov



Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting *May 13, 1 p.m., by GoToMeeting*

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will have a meeting to discuss plans related to goal implementation and legislative updates.

The remote meeting will be Thursday, May 13 at 1 p.m. The main agenda item will be an update on the Kansas Water Plan and any regional discussion.

The agenda and meeting materials will be available at www.kwo.ks.gov or you may request copies by calling (785) 296-3185 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283).

If accommodations are needed for a person with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404, Topeka, KS 66611-1249 or call (785) 296-3185 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Note to Editor: The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101) requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations messages.

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As the state's water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.

The agency prepares the KANSAS WATER PLAN, a plan for water resources development, management and conservation.