

MEMO



DATE: June 1, 2020
TO: Equus-Walnut RAC and Agency Advisors
FROM: Gary Koons, Kansas Water Office
RE: June 15, 2020 RAC Groundwater Meeting

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Topeka, KS 66612
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www.kwo.ks.gov

The meeting of the Equus Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held remotely, **June 15th**, at **9:00 a.m.**

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

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/972204989>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

Access Code: 972-204-989

Join from a video-conferencing room or system.

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

Meeting ID: 972 204 989

Or dial directly: [972204989@67.217.95.2](tel:972204989@67.217.95.2) or 67.217.95.2##972204989

The main items of discussion at the RAC meeting will be updating goals and action plans related to groundwater within the Equus-Walnut planning region.

Enclosed please find:

- Meeting notice
- Agenda
- Current Groundwater Goals and Action Plans

Please let me know if you cannot attend, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting please contact, me at gary.koons@kwo.ks.gov; by phone at (785) 296-0863 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATE(R).



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

DATE: June 15, 2019
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AGENDA DETAILS

I. Welcome and Roll Call

II. Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda

III. Regional Activities

a. Update Goals and Action Plans

- ***Sustainable Groundwater Withdrawals***
Goal and action plan updating (Goals #1 and #6)
- ***Groundwater Contamination***
Goal and action plan updating (Goal #5)

IV. Other Business

a. Public comments

b. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members

c. Messages to the KWA

i. *Review Message from February Meeting

- Formation of KWA Subcommittee

d. Future Meetings

i. Equus-Walnut RAC,

- Municipal, Commercial, Industrial water use
- Watershed Protection

EW Groundwater Goals

GREEN: Accomplishment RED: Not accomplished or unsure of progress.

Goal 1.

Achieve and maintain sustainable balance of groundwater withdrawals with annual recharge in the Equus Beds Aquifer by 2020. Ensure safe yield and recharge rate calculations in the Equus Beds Aquifer are accurate through a district wide, integrated groundwater and surface water model by 2018. (GMD 2)

Action Plans

- Complete ongoing KGS modeling effort currently scheduled for completion during 2016.
- Utilize the model results to support refinement of aquifer recharge rates.
- Consider application of the revised recharge rates to support safe yield calculations within modeled boundaries.
- Complete expansion of existing USGS Equus Beds MODFLOW Model to cover all of GMD2. (On going, Josh) KWO 50.50 partners with gmd2
- Continue to encourage communication and collaboration between all responsible agencies and organizations tasked to implement this action.
- Utilize modeling results to inventory areas of over-appropriation or within the Equus Beds Aquifer.
- Consider implementation of management strategies for over-appropriated areas identified by model within the Equus-Walnut Region.

Goal 5.

Allocate necessary resources (\$1-5 million) within five years to identify and prioritize current contamination issues impacting the Equus Beds Aquifer and develop a plan to manage and mitigate the contamination. Review existing studies and emerging technologies to develop a

new conceptual plan with estimated costs. **Begin implementation of the plan within 10 years of completing the study.**

Action Plans

- Develop an inventory of known contamination sites within the Equus Beds Aquifer.
- Concurrent with development of contamination site inventory, identify data gaps associated with inventoried 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.
- Prioritize sites for additional investigation utilizing development of prioritization criteria.
- Utilize and refine existing groundwater models to address site specific data needs associated with the performance of additional investigations.
- Install additional monitoring wells and piezometers as necessary to collect data where needs are identified.
- Complete a remediation feasibility study for the top three prioritized sites.
- **Complete pilot studies as required to facilitate groundwater remediation feasibility.**
- **Develop a process to address the contaminated sites within the Equus-Walnut Region.**

Goal 6.

~~While focused on the preservation of our water resources agricultural water users will double the value of irrigation-based production over the next 50 years.~~ Coordinate with public/private research and development programs to develop and promote less water and nutrient intensive crops. Provide incentives for operators to implement irrigation efficiency improvements immediately. Increase efforts to implement water conserving agricultural production practices utilizing no-till methods, cover cropping systems and a rangeland cedar tree management program.

Action Plans

- Preserve water resources and coordinate programs to develop less water-intensive crops.
- Coordinate public/private research and development for development of viable drought tolerant crops.

- Identify and develop markets for alternative crops.
- Establish a technology farm within the Equus-Walnut Region where no-till, cover cropping systems and a rangeland management program can be evaluated. Rely on expertise of state and local experts to identify an appropriate location for technology farm within the Equus-Walnut Region.
- Provide and support workshops and field days starting in February/March 2017 in advance of annual burn season for fire management of invasive vegetation for improved rangeland management.