

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m., February 13, 2020
Harvey County Health Department,
Newton, KS

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	No
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	Yes
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	Yes
Russell Tomevi	Winfield, KS	Integrated Planning	2023	No
Byron Warta	Newton, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Tim Boese	GMD 2
Dave Bollenback	District Geologist, KCC
Sarah	Geology Intern, KCC
Daniel Clement	Burns & McDonnell
Allison Herring	KDHE
Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO
Gary Koons	KWO

1. **Approval of Agenda:** No additions to the agenda.
2. **Approval of Meeting Notes:** No changes to previous meeting notes.
3. **Welcome and Introductions:** Gary Koons welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Everyone present provided introductions of themselves. New RAC members were introduced.
4. **Kansas Water Authority (KWA) Update:** Gary Koons provided an update on the December and January Water Authority meetings and corresponding legislative visits. A few topics related to the Equus-Walnut Planning Region were discussed at both meetings. Chairperson Dennise Middleton thanked those who helped facilitate the legislative visits. From her experience, legislators were receptive and understanding of water issues in the state.

5. Regional Activities

- a. **Equus Beds Chloride Plume Update:** The report of the Burrton Oil Field Brine Plume was discussed at both meetings and has sparked interest among Water Authority members and potential remediation partners. Dave Bollenback discussed KCC's new efforts to update records and fill data gaps by drilling new monitoring wells. More information can be found on our website: [Equus Beds Project](#).
- b. **Arbuckle Study Group:** At the Governor's request, the Kansas Water Office (KWO) continues to work with class I and II well users in the state to develop a reasonable scope to study the formation and any current or future capacity issues. The group is meeting monthly and plans to focus their efforts in south-central Kansas.
- c. **Water Technology Farms Update:** Last year was our first year to put out a growing season report for our tech farms. This report and information on the program can be found on our website at [Water Tech Farms](#). The next growing season report should be available on our website by May and the Equus-Walnut Planning Region will have four operating Water Tech Farms. Additionally, the newly established Flickner Innovation Farm, near Moundridge, KS, is conducting a suite of experimental farming practices that should serve as another resource to the Kansas agriculture community. More information here: https://www.kcare.k-state.edu/wrip/flickner/Flickner_Farm.html
- d. **Wichita ASR Permit Modification Proposal Update:** Tim Boese provided a brief update on where the proposal currently sits. Expert witnesses are now being heard prior to an intervenor group presenting their case. Following the last hearing date, a public comment period will open. A comprehensive overview can be found here <https://www.agriculture.ks.gov/WichitaASR> and updates or important upcoming dates can be followed by going to the DWR webpage here <http://kda-dwr-updates.org/category/wichitaasr/> and subscribing.
- e. **2019 Flooding:** Gary Koons shared an update on efforts to partner with NASA and ESA on evaluating flood impact using Sentinel I and Sentinel II satellite data. When projected on a map, areas that experienced pro-longed inundation are revealed. The map can be used to identify flood prone areas and quickly calculate an event's economic impact.
- f. **RAC Goals & Action Plans Update:** Gary Koons asked the committee to review their goals and action plans and consider any needed additions or revisions. For this update, water quality goals are being considered when previously, goals were limited to supply or quantity concerns. Bobbi Luttjohann provided information on the updating process and encouraged members to use the [SMART goal concept](#). As the KWO updates the Kansas Water Plan, we look to have updated goals coming in, from the RACs, by August of 2020.
- g. **Budget Task Force Update:** Gary Koons and Bobbi Luttjohann shared the performance-based budget presentation created by Richard Rockel from KWO. This work is meant to be used as a tool for the RAC's to see how well Water Plan spending is aligning with their regional goals. In April, KWO will be hosting a budget overview webinar. Like last year's in-person presentation, this remote presentation will go over the state's water related programs and how they are being funded.

6. Other Business

- a. **Agency Reports:**
 - i. Dave Bollenback discussed KCC's on-going efforts to plug abandoned wells. He also shared information on additional monitoring wells at the *Running Turkey Creek* site.

- ii. Tim Boese of GMD 2 gave an update on calculating safe yield, their KGS groundwater model, and mentioned their upcoming annual meeting on Tuesday, March 24th at the Halstead High School.
 - b. **Message to the Water Authority:** Byron Warta made a motion to send the message stating, “The Equus-Walnut RAC is in the process of developing a goal to minimize the impact of groundwater contamination within the Equus-Beds Aquifer. At this time, they are requesting leadership and guidance from KWA to ensure they set a reachable goal with achievable action steps.” The motion was seconded by Steve Hieger and motion carried.
 - c. **Future Meetings not previously mentioned:**
 - i. Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas will be held in Wichita on November 7th and 8th
 - ii. Kansas Water Authority
 - 1. April 14th 2020, Hutchinson
 - iii. Equus-Walnut RAC: TBD (April budget webinar)
7. **Adjourn:** Chairperson Denise Middleton adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.