



# Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting  
9:00 a.m., October 11, 2018  
Harvey County Health Department  
Newton, KS

### Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Steve Hieger (Chair)	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Roger Black	Arkansas, City, KS	Watershed Protection	2019	Yes
Kurt Bookout	El Dorado, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	No
Dan Haines	Leon, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2019	Yes
Bob Seiler	Valley Center, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Don Koci	Hutchinson, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	No
Jesse McCurry	Colwich, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	No
Brian Meier	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2021	No
Denise Middleton	Burden, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	No
Joseph Pajor	Wichita, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Lewjene Schneider	Maize, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Russell Tomevi	Winfield, KS	Integrated Planning	2019	Yes
Byron Warta	Newton, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes

### Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
David Bollenback	KCC
Hakim Saadi	KDA-DOC
Norman Roelfs	Grouse-Silver Creek Watershed District Engineer
Allison Herring	KDHE
Tom Kneil	Sierra Club
Tim Boese	GMD2
Herb Graves	SAKW
Joe Dom	KDHE-BER
Jeff Lanterman	KDA-DWR
Julie Carey	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ted Saranchuk	Public
Gary Koons	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Steve Hieger welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Everyone present provided introductions of themselves.
- Approval of Agenda:** Meeting agenda was approved as present.
- Approval of May 2018 Meeting Notes:** Byron Warta made the motion to approve the May 2018 meeting notes, second provided by Dan Haines. Motion carried.

**Membership:** Steve Hieger, Chair, Wichita, KS; Roger Black, Arkansas City, KS; Kurt Bookout, El Dorado, KS; Dan Haines, Leon, KS; Don Koci, Hutchinson, KS; Jesse McCurry, Colwich, KS; Denise Middleton, Burden, KS; Joe Pajor, Wichita, KS; Lewjene Schneider, Maize, KS; Bob Seiler, Valley Center, KS; Russell Tomevi, Winfield, KS; Byron Warta, Newton, KS;  
**KWO Planner:** Matt Unruh, 785-296-3185; [matt.unruh@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:matt.unruh@kwo.ks.gov)

4. **Kansas Water Authority Update:** Matt Unruh provided an update on the SFY 2020/21 budget recommendations put forth by the KWA and their support of restoring the 8 million for project work.
5. **State of the Resource:** Matt Unruh provided an update on the status of the State of the Resource reports developed for each of the 14 regional planning areas, including the Equus-Walnut Region. The Equus-Walnut report can be found on the KWO webpage at [https://kwo.ks.gov/docs/default-source/State-of-the-Resource/stateoftheresource\\_equuswalnut\\_final.pdf?sfvrsn=4d9c8414\\_0](https://kwo.ks.gov/docs/default-source/State-of-the-Resource/stateoftheresource_equuswalnut_final.pdf?sfvrsn=4d9c8414_0). Infographics have also been developed for each region and will be available soon on the KWO website.
6. **Regional Activities**
  - a. **Wichita ASR Permit Modification Proposal Update:** Matt Unruh, Jeff Lanterman, Tim Boese, and Joe Pajor discussed the latest in the timeline for the Wichita ASR permit modification timeline. The public hearing in the matter of Wichita's proposed changes to Phase II of its ASR project will now be held December 11, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. and will continue the following day of the 12<sup>th</sup> if needed. The hearing will be located at 4105 North Ridge Road, Wichita, Kansas, 67205. Information on Wichita ASR Proposed Permit Modification 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.
  - b. **KDHE Update on Contaminated Site Assessment Backlog:** Joe Dom (KDHE) shared examples of work done in the region that focused on water connections and drinking water projects. The Environmental Stewardship fund and Environmental assurance fund were mentioned as funding sources for the remediation of contaminated groundwater sites in the state's Orphan sites, Superfund sites, and dry-cleaning programs. See **ATTACHMENT 1** for the full presentation.
  - c. **Equus Beds Water Technology Farm Update:** Matt Unruh briefly discussed the 2 Water Technology Farm field days which took place in August for the new Tech Farms within the Equus-Walnut Region as well as discussed potential planning efforts for establishment of new Tech Farms, including those which are focused on surface water quality. Information on the two existing Water Technology Farms within the Equus-Walnut Region can be found on the KWO webpage at <http://www.kwo.ks.gov/projects/weber-farm> and <http://www.kwo.ks.gov/projects/jacob-farms>. There was also discussion amongst the RAC regarding RAC involvement from committee member Dan Haines to initiate surface water quality technology farm establishment with the region. The RAC provided general support of his effort.
  - d. **South Central Kansas Water Summit – RAC Action Plan Breakout Session:** Steve Hieger, Joe Pajor, and Matt Unruh discussed the South Central Kansas Water Summit which took place in May and the breakout session which took place in the afternoon of the Summit. The general sentiment was that it was unclear what information would be of use to the RAC for future discussion and planning purposes. Matt mentioned some follow up work which would be done to attempt to provide information of note to the RAC.

- e. **Drought Update:** Matt Unruh provided an update of drought conditions impacting the Equus-Walnut Region as well as other areas of Kansas. Recent rainfall has helped to improve drought conditions across much of Kansas over the last several weeks. Drought and climate reporting information can be found online at the KWO webpage at <https://kwo.ks.gov/reports2/climate-and-drought-monitoring-response>.
- f. **Watershed District Unfunded Liability Discussion:** Roger Black discussed an emerging issue with watershed districts Kansas in relation to cash on hand to address any damages to watershed district structures from which no federal emergency response/recovery dollars become available to local watershed districts. A situation such as this took place in the Big Caney Watershed District and a number of watershed districts across Kansas could be in a similar situation to this.

The RAC had a great deal of discussion on this topic and thought it to be worthwhile to elevate this issue to the KWA for their attention and feedback.

### 7. Other Business

- a. **Agency Reports:** David Bollenback (KCC) noted an upward trend in construction and development over old wells within the region and mentioned his concern over lack of inspection of well bores during construction activities. Both David and the RAC noted the benefit a public education effort could provide to help address this issue.
- b. **Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** Two messages to the KWA were approved at the meeting. These messages are as follows:
  - i. *The Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) endorses the state fiscal year (SFY) 2020 and 2021 budget recommendations approved by the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) at the August 22, 2018 meeting in Manhattan. It is the hope of the RAC that if funding is approved by the Governor and Legislature as noted within the KWA budget recommendations that implementation of a remediation project to address the Burrton chloride plume will be able to move forward.*
  - ii. *The Equus-Walnut RAC was briefed by Roger Black, President of the Grouse-Silver Creeks Watershed Joint District No. 92 and Equus-Walnut RAC member (Watershed Protection membership category) on the potential unfunded liability many watershed districts across Kansas can encounter if emergency damages occur to watershed district structures as a result of flood events in which no federal emergency response dollars are made available to individual watershed districts and structure impacted. It is the hope of the RAC that the full KWA is made aware of this situation and that the feasibility of an insurance pool concept which would/could include any interested and up to all watershed districts in Kansas be explored.*

- c. Public Comments: None provided

8. **Adjourn:** Motion made to adjourn the meeting made by Roger Black, seconded by Joe Pajor. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.