

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m., February 28, 2019
K-State Research and Extension, Cowley County Courthouse
Winfield, 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	No
Bob Seiler	Valley Center, KS	Groundwater Management	2019	Yes
Don Koci	Hutchinson, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	Yes
Jesse McCurry	Colwich, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	No
Brian Meier	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2021	No
Denise Middleton	Burden, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	Yes
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
Kalvin Kissick	GMD 2, Kansas Water Authority
Ron Graber	K-State Extension
Lisa French	Cheney Watershed
Sandy Koontz	Butler County Conservation District
Dale Steward	Watershed District
Tim Boese	GMD2
Ted Saranchuk	Public
Gary Koons	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Meeting agenda was approved as present.
2. **Approval of October 2018 Meeting Notes:** Roger Black made the motion to approve the October 2018 meeting notes, second provided by Joe Pajor. Motion carried.
3. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Steve Hieger welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Everyone present provided introductions of themselves.

4. **Kansas Water Authority Update:** Matt Unruh provided an update on the December and January Water Authority meetings and corresponding legislative visits. The Governor's Budget recommendations were presented by highlighting items of interest to the region. New administration will be working on an annual budget. Chairman Steve Hieger, expressed the need to find additional ways to engage the legislature and discuss water issues at a deeper level.
5. **Regional Activities**
- Wichita ASR Permit Modification Proposal Update:** Matt Unruh provided handouts from the latest public hearing that took place on December 11, 2018, and alerted committee members of upcoming public hearings. The March 26th hearing has been postponed. A new date for the formal phase of the hearing will be announce in the near future. Tim Boese of GMD 2 shared an update on their four expert reports and offered to provide those to anyone interested. Joe Pajor directed the committee to the city's website <https://wichitaasr.org/> for additional information including videos, expert testimony and reports. 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.
 - RAC Action Plan Implementation Update:** Matt Unruh asked the RAC what the Water Office could do to provide more frequent updates on goal status. The RAC was also asked if there were opportunities to elevate water issues through educational activities. Mr. Hieger expressed his concerns, shared by other RAC chairmen, on how keep the RACs relevant and maintain momentum. The chairman asked the committee and audience to provide ideas on how they adapt to various levels of funding and how that impacts the execution of a 50-Year Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas. The group discussed the need to share examples of success in the region as tools for awareness and education. Mr. Hieger suggested incorporating these concepts into actionable items.
 - Equus Beds Water Technology Farm Update:** Matt Unruh briefly discussed planning efforts for potential establishment of new Tech Farms in the Equus-Walnut region. 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>. The 2018 growing season report can be viewed here, https://www.kwo.ks.gov/docs/default-source/project-pages/2018_report_watertechnologyfarms_corrected.pdf?sfvrsn=24138514_0
 - 2019 RAC Membership Drive:** Committee members with 2019 term expirations were notified and will be up for reappointment. Members interested in continuing to serve the region should submit the form found here, https://kwo.ks.gov/docs/default-source/regional-advisory-committees/rac-membership/application_rac_060915.pdf?sfvrsn=56f28414_0 by the end of May 2019. During the month of May, KWO will have an open call for applications to all RACs. All applications will be reviewed in June, and action will be made at the July Water Authority meeting in Goodland, Kansas. Newly appointed members will have a 4 year term that runs through June 30, 2023.

Matt Unruh discussed upcoming training in RAC operations this fall. The effort is meant to more clearly define roles and responsibilities of RAC members. Mr. Black requested there be information on advocacy in the training. Matt Unruh asked for additional ideas on training topics.

- e. **WRAPS Program Changes:** Ron Graber highlighted the restructuring of WRAPS projects and the focus on de-listing streams. More information can be found here, <http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/wraps/index.htm> or here <https://www.kcare.k-state.edu/wraps/>.
 - f. **Watershed District Unfunded Liability Discussion:** Gary Koons shared background information on the extent of watershed districts and structures within the Equus-Walnut planning region. The committee expressed continued concern with the design life of these structures and implications to water supply statewide.
- 6. Other Business**
- a. **Agency Reports:** Ron Graber gave an update on offsite BMPs and the Atrazine program for the Little Ark group and discussed efforts for a water quality demo farm in the Mound Ridge area.
 - b. **Future Meetings:**
 - i. Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas will be held in Wichita on November 7th and 8th
 - ii. Wichita ASR Public Hearing: TBD
 - iii. Kansas Water Authority
 - 1. April 2019, Abilene
 - 2. July 2019, Goodland
 - iv. Equus-Walnut RAC: TBD (Early June)
 - c. Matt Unruh announced Gary Koons as new planner for the Equus-Walnut Region
- 7. Adjourn:** Motion made to adjourn the meeting made by Byron Warta, seconded by Denise Middleton. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.