

**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**

- 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.