



Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Equus-Walnut Regional Advisory Committee Meeting 9:00 a.m., June 5, 2019 K-State Research and Extension Wichita, Kansas

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	No
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	No
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	Yes
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	Yes
Russell Tomevi	Winfield, KS	Integrated Planning	2019	Yes
Byron Warta	Newton, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Ron Graber	K-State Extension
Don Henry	City of Wichita
Sandy Koontz	Butler County Conservation District
David Bollenback	KCC
Rob Reschke	Public
Cara Hendricks	KWO
Gary Koons	KWO

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Meeting agenda was approved as present.
2. **Approval of February 2019 Meeting Notes:** Don Koci 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.

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: Gary Koons, 785-296-0863; gary.koons@kwo.ks.gov

4. **Goals and Action Plan Revisions:** Gary Koons introduced the Vision modification process. A timeline for this effort was shared with RAC members and was distributed in the pre-meeting mailing materials.

Objectives:

- Evaluate Progress
- Make changes based on implementation results
- Identify additional issues not previously addressed
- Identify priority regional water resource projects
- Reorganize *Vision* and incorporate action items into *Kansas Water Plan*

Core Principles

- Ensuring Each Citizen has Reliable Water Supply
- Conserving and Extending the High Plains Aquifer
- Securing, Protecting and Restoring our Kansas Reservoirs
- Improving our State's Water Quality
- Developing and Maintaining our State and Local Water Infrastructure
- Develop a Long-Term, Affordable & Sustainable Method to Provide Financing for Implementation of the *Kansas Water Plan*

The RAC discussed the need to stay focused on sustainability during these times of flooding. Chairman Steve Hieger stated that the region should plan for both flood and drought concerns moving forward. Improving the region's water resources will continue to pose challenges regardless of seasonal precipitation.

Aging watershed structures continue to be a concern of the RAC. Sedimentation is a challenge that impacts these structures in wet and dry years. Brian Meier and Chairman Steve Hieger both expressed the need for watershed districts to be able to dredge sediment in drought years. This would require a faster permitting process, or a plan that would allow for sediment removal in somewhat small windows of time.

5. Regional Activities

- a. **Equus Beds Chloride Plume Remediation, Request for Proposals (RFP):** Mr. Pajor and others expressed concern over the lack of movement on funds that were allocated for GMD 2 to plan a remediation process. Gary Koons suggested that the Water Office would take over the RFP to avoid losing the funds.
- b. **Regional Flooding:** Cara Hendricks reported that she and her staff have been assisting the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) in recent weeks. Their role has been essential in allowing managers to deploy resources to areas based on model predictions. The RAC discussed the physical and operational dynamics that Kansas reservoirs are currently experiencing. At the time of the meeting, 60 counties in the state had been issued an emergency flood declaration. 33 of those were federal declarations.
- c. **Equus-Walnut Water Technology Farm Update:** Gary Koons updated the RAC on the two new tech farms for the Equus-Walnut planning region. Unfortunately, due to flooding, only one new farm will be coming online this growing season, bringing the total to 3. The fourth farm will officially enter the program in the 2020 growing season. 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

- d. **Review of 2020 Water Plan Budget and RAC Recommendations for SFY 2021:** Ms. Hendricks explained the process we are using this year to incorporate input directly from the 14 planning regions into the budget process. She and Rob Reschke, Director of the Division of Conservation, provided an explanation of each funding line to help the RAC make informed recommendations.

Mr. Pajor stressed that the State should consider the ability to fund maintenance of existing projects before starting new ones. As we consider the challenges facing watershed districts and our reservoirs, additional unfunded liabilities to future generations of Kansans should be avoided.

Chairman Hieger proposed delaying the RAC's budget recommendations to allow time to consider all the information presented. A phone conference will be scheduled for Thursday June 27th, at 9:00 am. RAC members are encouraged to participate and provide their priority projects or funding lines.

6. Other Business

- a. **Agency Reports:** Sandy Koontz provided a watershed district info packet to RAC members and gave an update on Butler County watershed district concerns. Questions were raised by the RAC regarding how these districts were leveraging their ability to raise taxes to fund maintenance. David Bollenback mentioned KCC started a plugging program and they were able to complete three out of the nine before wet weather stalled the work.

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. Kansas Water Authority
 1. July 30th and 31st 2019, Goodland
- iii. Equus-Walnut RAC: TBD

7. **Adjourn:** Motion made to adjourn the meeting made by Mr. Pajor, seconded by Mr. Meier. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.