

Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m., July 12, 2018
Kinsley City Hall
Kinsley, KS

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Berry Bortz (Chair)	Preston, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Keith Miller (Vice-Chair)	Barton Co., KS	Agriculture 3	2019	Yes
Jay Dill	Kinsley, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	Yes
Roy Eckert	Pratt, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2019	No
Daniel Filbert	Macksville, KS	Agriculture 2	2021	No
Mark Fincham	Pratt, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2019	No
Orrin Feril	Stafford, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
John Haas	Larned, KS	At Large Public 2	2019	Yes
Jeremiah Hobbs	La Crosse, KS	Watershed Protection	2019	No
Jeff Holste	Burdett, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	Yes
vacant		Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	vacant
Tom Turner	St. John, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Taggart Wall	Sterling, KS	Public Water Supply 4	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Jeff Lanterman	KDA-DWR
Russel King	First State Bank, Larned
Janet Strawn	Edwards Co CD
Duane Mathes	
Greg Graff	KWA
Steve Frost	KDA,DoC
Gary Boltz	Cimarron RAC
J Westrom	
Stephen Heinz	
Tracy Streeter	KWO
Diane Knowles	KWO

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Berry Bortz welcomed those in attendance to the meeting, noting this is not a public meeting about the R9 transfer.

Approval of Agenda - Agenda was accepted as presented.

Regional Advisory Committee Approval of past meeting notes

John Haas made the motion to accept the meeting notes from March 2018 as presented. Keith Miller seconded. The motion carried.



Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Kansas Water Authority

KWA update: Berry Bortz provided a summary of the April 2018 Kansas Water Authority meeting in Lenexa. Discussion included the Education Campaign which is summarized a July 10, 2018 memo to the RAC “Development of a Statewide Education and Public Outreach Marketing Campaign”. The theme will be Kansas Runs on Water. A website is underdevelopment.

Budget: Tracy Streeter introduced the budget information (memo and tables) and request of KWA for input on the fiscal years 2020 & 2021 state water plan budgets. Tracy reviewed the items briefly noting that under Conservation on the second table (grouped by the four major Vision categories) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Water Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) items are included. In response to questions, Tracy noted the produced water treatment pilot project is already budgeted in an earlier year.

There is a need to reduce the recommended budget to \$8 million from over \$15 million. The KWA can consider priorities suggested by the RAC. Discussion of specific projects of interest to the region occurred with suggestions of contacts for getting the feed wheat research moving (Dan Devlin, Susan Metzger, Dr. Dan Thompson, the Beef Sustainability Group in Montezuma). Also noted were the need to keep working on the salt water issues, watershed dams and mapping.

Keith Miller made a motion, seconded by Tom Turner that the top five priorities of the Great Bend Prairie RAC (not in order) are: Conservation Programs (including CREP, WTAP); feed Wheat Research; fresh water protection from salt water; watershed dams; and continued mapping/Lidar. The motion carried.

Regional Activities

Updates on Regional Water Issues

Jeff Lanterman reported for Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (DWR) on the status of the R9 Ranch water transfer request by the cities of Hays and Russell. The water right changes are nearing completion using the estimated sustainable yield of 4800 acre-feet per year. Chief Engineer held an informational public meeting in Greensburg in late June where this was reviewed and public comments taken. The conditional change orders may be finalized in August. The water transfer process will begin after that and take an estimated 9-15 months. The draft water right changes and other documents are available on the KDA-DWR web site. Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 will provide comments and encourages public to also comment.

Activities Update

Discussion of salt filters for produced water, the Red Hills produced water treatment pilot project, updating of model data for area (sustainability modeling), and candidates stand on funding the State Water Plan occurred. Orrin Feril noted GMD5 has a model of the region and plans to update it in 2018, but GMD5 priorities relate to the impairment issue not defining sustainability. Tracy noted that the State has a model maintenance program with the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) through which groundwater models for are scheduled to be updated. Since KGS does not manage the GMD5 model it has not been included. Additional discussion occurred on the need for modeling the region for sustainability.

A motion was made by Jeff Holste, seconded by Keith Miller. The Great Bend Prairie RAC asks the state and GMD5 to participate in a sustainability run of the GMD5 model for the Great Bend Prairie region sharing the cost. The motion carried with Orrin Feril abstaining.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)-Berry provided the background that led to development of the SOP. He lead a discussion of the challenges to move forward with so many goals and actions for the 14 regions. The resources available, including funding cannot address all the goals and actions immediately. Greg Graff (KWA) observed that the Blue Ribbon Task Force prioritized a \$50 million annual budget to achieve the 50 Year Vision for Water. Subsequent discussion noted that the coordination of agencies has improved, as have other relationships; legislators do have an interest in water resources; funding to address all the water related needs is an issue; KWO planners work on action activities; and the natural resources sub-cabinet should include Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) and other agencies when issues involve their authorities. It was also noted that one RAC role to point out barriers to moving forward.

It was the RAC consensus to move the SOP forward. Taggart Wall volunteered to clean up the document.

Discussion occurred on how to gain support and actions from KCC and other agencies to address an issue under their authorities. Tracy noted that MOUs with the natural resources subcabinet and specific agencies might be an appropriate method to get the needed agency involvement towards action plan goals.

Drought Update- Diane provided the July 6, 2018 state drought declaration, a summary of drought conditions and an overview of emergency water assistance.

Other activities- Diane reported on efforts to prioritize public water suppliers to assist with water conservation plan development (Goal 2) and efforts to quantify the salt water leakage from KCC information (Goal 3) .

Other Business

Agency Reports not already covered

Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation - Steve Frost noted he met with representatives of The Nature Conservancy and WaterPACK to work the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) into WTAP.

Public Comments-none

Messages to KWA (if any) -none

Discussion returned to the lack of a standard operating procedure for the regional action plans, including assigning each goal to an agency with consequences for failure to act, requesting KWA report on the implementation of action plans, goal adjustments and other ideas to address implementation of actions plans items.

Upcoming meetings of interest

Kansas Water Authority- August 22, Manhattan

GBP RAC next meeting to be determined

Adjourn