



# Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm June 14, 2022

Virtual

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Craig Crossette (Chair)	Sterling, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2023	Yes
Isaac Aberson (Vice-Chair)	Jetmore, KS	Watershed Protection	2023	No
Berry Bortz	Preston, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Kendal Francis	Great Bend, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Orrin Feril	Stafford, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
Veronica Coons	Great Bend, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	No
James Oberle	Pawnee Rock, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2025	No
Daniel Filbert	Macksville, KS	Agriculture 2	2025	No
Mark Fincham	Pratt, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2023	No
Stephanie Royer	La Crosse, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	Yes
Jeff Holste	Burdett, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2025	Yes
Cammie Vaupel	St. John, KS	Commerce/Industry 2	2025	Yes
Vacant				

### Others in Attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Veronica Whitlock	Groundwater Management District #5 (GMD5)
Angela Anderson	Kansas Water Office (KWO)
Sara Maguire	Kansas Water Office (KWO)

**Welcome and Roll Call:** Craig Crossette called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

**Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda:** RAC members approved the agenda as written.

### Kansas Water Office Updates

#### a. Statewide Updates

- i. **Kansas Water Plan:** Sara explained a draft of the Water Plan was posted for public comments in the fall and KWO is currently working through these comments to create a finalized document.
- ii. **Kansas Water Authority Update:** Sara summarized the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting held on April 20, 2022.
  1. The group voiced concerns regarding their previously proposed message regarding Bill 2686 to KWA and the lack of attention given to this conversation in the most recent RAC meeting notes. Many were disappointed that the proposed message to KWA was not passed on. KWO representatives explained that the RAC Operations Committee did review the message and decided against sending it through to KWA as the bill had already been dissolved at that point in time. Committee members agreed to reword their message to encompass all similar bills in the future.
  2. The group voted in favor of amended the meeting notes from February 2022.

#### b. Regional Updates

- i. **RAC Membership:** Sara reminded everyone of the vacancy in the committee.
- ii. **Open Discussion from Members:** None.

**Membership:** Craig Crossette, Chair, Sterling, KS; Isaac Aberson, Vice Chair, Jetmore, KS; Jeff Holste, Burdett, KS; Berry Bortz, Preston, KS; James Oberle, Pawnee Rock, KS; Orrin Feril, Stafford, KS; Daniel Filbert, Macksville, KS; Mark Fincham, Pratt, KS; Kendal Francis, Great Bend; Stephanie Royer, La Crosse, KS; Veronica Coons, Great Bend, KS; Cammie Vaupel, St. John, KS.

**KWO Planner:** Sara Maguire, 785-296-0867; [sara.maguire@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:sara.maguire@kwo.ks.gov)

## c. Agency Updates

- i. Orrin Feril gave an update on GMD5, discussing data collection at Rattlesnake Creek, moving forward with Walnut Creek Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCA), the wheat harvest, and progress with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

## Regional Activities

- a. **Review Goals I and II:** The committee opened discussion regarding their first two sets of goals and action plans.
  - i. **Goal I:** Achieve water use sustainability within the Great Bend Prairie Regional Planning Area that includes a reasonable raising or lowering of the water table based on average weather conditions.
    1. The group discussed buzzwords such as “sustainability” and “reasonable.” Orrin confirmed the modeling references are still accurate.
  - ii. **Goal II:** Developed for Municipalities and Rural Water Districts. Maintain annual training funds of 15% from Clean Water Drinking Fee and increase technical training support to Public Water Supply (PWS) systems to enhance new technology and increase water efficiently and effectively, thus reducing water loss. Utilize available municipal/residential/commercial “LAWN” irrigation training programs provided by the Irrigation Association.
    1. Berry and Craig opened a discussion about the City of Winfield and data collection.

## Other Business

- a. **Public comments:** None.
- b. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** None.
- c. **Meetings**
  - i. **Great Bend Prairie RAC:** The next RAC meeting will be scheduled around early August.
  - ii. **KWA:** The next KWA meeting is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Pittsburg.
    1. Committee members inquired about RAC chairs speaking at future KWA meetings. The group would like to send an informational letter updating KWA of their activities.

**Adjourn:** Craig adjourned the meeting at 1:57 pm.