



Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m., March 12, 2018
Fire Station Conference Room
201 S Jackson Street, Pratt, 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	No
Jay Dill	Kinsley, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	No
Roy Eckert	Pratt, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2019	Yes
Daniel Filbert	Macksville, KS	Agriculture 2	2021	No
Mark Fincham	Pratt, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2019	Yes
Orrin Feril	Stafford, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
John Haas	Larned, KS	At Large Public 2	2019	No
Jeremiah Hobbs	LaCrosse, 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	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Heidi Mehl	The Nature Conservancy
Scott Alberg	Kansas Corporation Commission
Isaac Abersson	PWD
Cameron Conart	KDA-DWR
Doug Meyer	City of Pratt
Diane Knowles	KWO

I. Welcome and Introductions - Chair Berry Bortz welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda - Agenda accepted as presented.

III. Regional Advisory Committee Approval of past meeting notes

Orrin Feril made the motion to accept the meeting notes from October 2017 as presented. Tom Turner seconded. The motion Carried.

IV. Kansas Water Authority, Legislative and Budget Update

Diane Knowles began a review of the 2018 legislative activities with Orrin Feril explaining the lack of State General Fund (SGF) transfer to the Water Plan Fund for the past 10 or so years. Efforts to restore this funding were made this session however the \$8 million has been reduced to \$4 million. Last year there was \$1.2 million that did transfer in occur. Orrin noted SB 194 will allow GMD boards to increase water assessments from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per acre-foot. GMD5 assessment is currently at \$1.00 per acre-foot. Discussion of other funding occurred with Berry explaining his

Membership: Berry Bortz, Chair, Preston, KS; Jay Dill, Kinsley, KS; Roy Eckert, Pratt, KS; Orrin Feril, Stafford, KS; Daniel Filbert, Macksville, KS; Mark Fincham, Pratt, KS; John Haas, Larned, KS; Jeremiah Hobbs, La Crosse, KS; Jeff Holste, Burdett, KS; Keith Miller, Barton County, KS; Tom Turner, St. John, KS; Taggart Wall, Sterling, KS
KWO Planner: Diane Knowles. 785-296-3185 diane.knowles@kwo.ks.gov

calculations for sales tax revenues and distribution by planning region, summarizing that the Great Bend Prairie region would get about 3.3% compared to the Kansas regions, 39.9% and Equus-Walnut's 24.7%.

Orrin noted HB 2691 will change the application deadline to file for a multiyear flex account (MYFA) from October 1 to December 31. This is being worked in the Senate.

Discussion occurred on the KWA response for direction on the RAC role in implementation. The consensus was that the need for direction and clarification by KWA remains.

Discussion occurred on research and prioritization specifically related to feed wheat research. Discussion included KSU role as WRI and in crop research; that a draft feed wheat proposal has been developed by KDA; suggestions that the industry fund a trial and that observing if industry continues with trials also tells something about the potential.

V. Regional Activities

a. RAC membership – Berry noted there is one vacant position due to the retirement of John Sweet. This is a Public Water Supply (PWS) Core Category, but there are also two other PWS positions. Diane noted changing a non-core PWS category could be done by KWA if good candidates apply. Applications are available or can be sent to interested individuals. Berry noted the lack of attendance by one RAC member whom he will contact. Suggestions for geographic area representation and potential applicants were discussed.

b. Activities Update

i. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Water Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) are two existing voluntary water reduction programs. Berry reported on activities and a series of meetings to develop partnerships and discuss development of a program to meet needs in this region (to reduce pumping). One outcome was a draft letter dated February 23, 2018, composed by Pat Janssen (WaterPACK) and Heidi Mehl (TNC). Potential partners and support for the concepts in the letter were brainstormed along with the idea that the cap of acres by watershed might be more a factor to consider, not just county caps. Discussion also included endgun removal; the GMD5 LEMA and its components; educational demonstrations such as WTFs; aspects of WTFs such as funding, partnerships and community support.

A motion made by Tom Turner, seconded by Mark Fincham: **The Great Bend Prairie RAC endorses the concepts of the draft letter dated February 23, 2018 to establish a new voluntary incentive based water conservation program such as a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in the proposed Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) in the Big Bend Groundwater Management District #5 (GMD5).** Motion carried.

ii. Berry noted and Scott Alberg (KCC) have discussed the goal and actions needed to monitor salt water disposal lines. Scott provided an overview of their discussion. In summary, the initiation of a regulatory change/legislation is needed through the Oil and Gas Advisory Committee of KCC. Discussion included that new lines usually have tracer lines on them; no good way to make installation of tracer lines retroactive on older, legacy lines; the objective to have the lines become part of DIG SAFE are not clearly stated in the goal; and that it be suggested KWA elevate this to a statewide goal.

A motion was made by Orrin Feril, seconded by Jeff Holste: **The Great Bend Prairie, Red Hills and Equus-Walnut RACs put together a presentation of the long-term goal for the KCC Oil & Gas Advisory Committee and get on their agenda.** Motion carried.

c. Updates on Regional Water Issues

Cameron Conant reported for Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (KDA-DWR) on the status of the R9 Ranch water transfer request by the cities of Hays and Russell. Recently the cities completed a modeling analysis which estimated the reasonable long term yield of the water rights at 4800 acre-feet per year. Chief Engineer draft orders may be finalized by the end of April for review by the public. This will be followed by educational meetings on the water right changes. The water transfer process will begin after that and take an estimated 9-15 months. The model report and other documents are available on the KDA-DWR web site.

In regard to the retirement of the Chief Engineer, he has said he will give 6 month notice, which has not been given yet.

Orrin Feril reported for Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 (GMD5) on the efforts to address the US Fish and Wildlife impairment claim at Quivira NWR. The draft Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) includes removal of endguns, augmentation and a voluntary incentive-based water use reduction component. Information, maps and comments are on the GMD5 website.

d. State of the Resource Report and Meeting

Diane explained the status of the state of the resource document and asked for suggestions for regional sharing of the document and an event to get the information out to the public. Some feedback on the draft document was provided.

VI. Other Business

a. Agency Reports not already covered –none

b. Public Comments-none

c. Messages to KWA (if any) -none

Discussion moved to the lack of a standard operating procedure for the action plans with discussion including each goal be assigned to an agency with consequences for failure to act, requesting KWA report on their implementation of action plans goal adjustments and other ideas to address implementation of actions plans.

Motion made by Jeff Holste, seconded by Roy Eckert: **Berry Bortz draft a conceptual standard operating procedure to aide with the implementation of regional goals, including an update to IPM-4.** Motion Carried

d. Upcoming meetings of interest

i. Kansas Water Authority- April 18, Lenexa

ii. GBP RAC: to be determined, probably July

Adjourn