

Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 AM (CST), Wednesday July 28, 2021

GoToMeeting Conference Call

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Keith Miller (Chair)	Barton Co., KS	Agriculture 3	2023	Yes
Jeff Holste (Vice-Chair)	Burdett, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	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)	2021	Yes
Tom Turner	St. John, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No
Jay Dill	Kinsley, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	No
Craig Crossette	Sterling, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2023	No
Daniel Filbert	Macksville, KS	Agriculture 2	2021	No
Mark Fincham	Pratt, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2023	No
Stephanie Royer	La Crosse, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	Yes
Isaac Aberson	Jetmore, KS	Watershed Protection	2023	Yes
Cammie Vaupel	St. John, KS	Commerce/Industry 2	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Matt Unruch	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Steve Frost	KDA-DOC
Wade Kleven	KDHE
Jaide Allenbrand	KDHE
Cameron Conant	KDA-DWR
Veronica Coons	Barton County Conservation District

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM by RAC Chair. All present provided self-introductions.
- II. **Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes requested by the RAC members
- III. **Review of January 2021 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. There were two errors in need of correction on the meeting notes. The first being in the “Welcome and Introductions” and the second being in the review of the previous meeting notes. It was agreed upon the committee to have the KWO Planner make the necessary corrections.
- IV. **Updates**
 - a. **Kansas Water Authority (KWA):** Matt Unruh (KWO) informed the RAC of recent updates that had occurred at the KWA meeting.
 - b. **Kansas Water Officer (KWO):** Kirk Tjelmeland (KWO) gave an update on the recent membership drive and other agency changes that had occurred since the last RAC meeting

V. Regional Activities

- a. **Budget Discussion & Recommendations:** A presentation was given by Matt Unruh (KWO) over the State Water Plan Fund that included budget information specific to the region. The presentation was followed by discussion from RAC members on areas of interest that they wish to pass on as budget recommendations to the KWA budget committee for consideration. A motion was made by Berry Bortz and seconded by Stephanie Royer to send the following Budget Recommendation Message to the KWA Budget Committee:

“The Great Bend Prairie RAC requests the Kanas Water Authority to seek to provide funding to programs and projects benefiting the region consistent with the revenue derived from the Great Bend Region. The following programs would be the first priority to receive additional funding for the region.

- a) *Support for WTAP and CREP with increased funding*
- b) *Support for local Conservation Districts and ensuring that they receive their full funding allocations*
- c) *Water quality testing to address issues with chloride and nitrate concentrations*
- d) *Support GMD5 Groundwater Model update*
- e) *Continued support for research on alternative crops.”*

There was no discussion and unanimous approval was given.

VI. Other Business

a. **Agency Reports:**

- i. Steve Frost, KDA-DOC – reported on changes and updates to CREP that have occurred that pertain to the region.
- ii. Cameron Conant, KDA-DWR – reported that they had been busy with the usual actives and had nothing new to report on at this time.
- iii. Orrin Feril, GMD5 – reported on updates to the watershed planning project submittal, water banking, and CIG program.
- iv. Jaide Allenbrand, KDHE – had nothing to report at this time but would be available for any questions.

b. **Public Comments:** None

- c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** It was requested to have the next meeting in late October, with a presentation on CREP updates from Steve Frost. It was agreed to have Keadron Pearson (KWO) send out a doodle poll in the coming weeks to set up a meeting date.

- d. **RAC Messages to the KWA:** The motion was made by Stephanie Royer and seconded by Berry Bortz to send the following message to the KWA and KWA Budget Committee:

“The Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) would like to receive direct communication back from the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) on why they have accepted or rejected our FY 2023 budget recommendations.”

There was no discussion and unanimous approval was given.

e. **Future Meetings:**

- i. GMD5 Board Meeting: August 12
- ii. Kansas Water Authority: August 17
- iii. Governor’s Water Conference: November 16-18

The meeting ended at 11:51 AM.