

Great Bend Prairie Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

8:00 AM (CDT), Wednesday August 5th, 2020

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	Yes
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	Yes
Jay Dill	Kinsley, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2021	No
Craig Crossette	Sterling, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2023	Yes
Daniel Filbert	Macksville, KS	Agriculture 2	2021	No
Mark Fincham	Pratt, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2023	Yes
Stephanie Royer	La Crosse, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	Yes
Isaac Aberson	Jetmore, KS	Watershed Protection	2023	No
Cammie Vaupel	St. John, KS	Commerce/Industry 2	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Armando Zarco	KWO
Bobbi Lutjohann	KWO
Earl Lewis	KWO
Cara Hendricks	KWO
Sara Maguire	KWO
Jeff Lanterman	KDA-DWR
Steve Frost	KDA-DOC

1. **Welcome and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 8:01 AM by RAC Chair. Roll call was taken by Armando Zarco of RAC Members and others participating.
2. **Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes requested by the RAC members.
3. **Review of February 2020 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. No changes requested by the RAC members.
4. **Updates**
 - a. **Kansas Water Authority:** RAC Chair debriefed on highlights from recent KWA meeting. Armando elaborated on the proposed new LEMA in GMD1 and Certified Irrigator program in GMD4.
 - b. **Quivira NWR Impairment:** Orrin provided an update on the recent Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and GMD5 and that per the agreement there shall be no request for water from the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge until 2022. More details can be found at the GMD5 webpage; to include a copy of the signed agreement.

- c. **State Budget Update Presentation:** Earl Lewis, KWO Director, provided an update on the recent changes to the SWP FY22 budget requests as well as summary of the past funding utilized in the GBP region.

5. Regional Activities

- a. **Budget Discussion & Recommendations:** A memo was drafted indicating that the GBP RAC recommends funding priority towards addressing water quality concerns, supporting the GMD5 groundwater model, continued support for research on alternative crops, and support for WTAP and CREP funding in the Great Bend Prairie Region. A motion was made by Berry Bortz and seconded by Mark Fincham to forward this memo on to the KWA.
- b. **RAC Goals & Action Plans Update Recommendations:** No official changes were made at this time as the RAC members felt they needed more time to reevaluate their goal revisions based on the updates on the Quivira Impairment and budget recommendations. Much discussion was had and it was suggested to limit their goals to a 3-5 year timeline. It was also suggested to readdress their goals evaluating water quality concerns in the area and that a message should be submitted to the KWA in the near future to help promote more considerations on the effects to producers operations and domestic household use. Other discussions included attempting to initiate a program to test water samples in the area for evaluation; Orrin noted that GMD5 would be happy to assist analyzing the data but that they do not have the manpower to collect water samples.

6. Other Business

- a. **Agency Reports**
 - i. **KDA-DWR:** Jeff Lanterman did note that their office is still closed due to COVID-19 but are still conducting business. He also wanted to reiterate that the agreement for Quivira NWR states that they will not ask for water until 2022. As well, they are working on updating the aquifer storage program and wanted to mention that DWR's WCA program participation is increasing across the state and to contact him if there was any interest to sign up.
 - ii. **KWO:** Earl noted that the Governor's Water Conference has been cancelled in Wichita this year but plans are to hold it virtually on the same dates. Armando also wanted to mention that the next KWA meeting will be held virtually on August 24th.
 - iii. **KDA-DOC:** No reports at this time but did note that he appreciated the feedback to DOC on budget items.
 - iv. **GMD5:** Orrin reminded the RAC members of their next regular scheduled Board Meeting on August 13th and also wanted to note that they are working with KGS to expand the number of observations wells in the Index Well program in their district.
- b. **Public Comments:** No public comments provided.
- c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** It was requested to hold the next GBP RAC meeting in early September to primarily address revising goals.
- d. **RAC Messages to the KWA:** No messages to submit to KWA at this time.
- e. **Future Meetings:**
 - i. GMD5 Board Meeting: August 13th, 2020 (Regularly every second Thur of the month at 7pm)
 - ii. Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas: November 9-10, 2020
 - iii. KWO Winter Water Tech Expo: February 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 AM.