



Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Monday January 14, 2019
Westar Professional Development Center, 801 NE Hwy 24,
Topeka, Kansas 66608

Members Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Present</i>
Brad Bradley, Chair	Overland Park, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2021	Yes
Katie Miller, Vice-Chair	Junction City, KS	Conservation/Environment	2019	Yes
Marlene Bosworth	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	No
Dawn Buehler	Eudora, KS	Recreation	2019	Yes
Blake Follis	Topeka, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2019	No
Sarah Hill-Nelson	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce	2019	Yes
Heath Horyna	Topeka, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	No
Daniel Howell	Frankfort, KS	Agriculture	2021	Yes
Darci Meese	Lenexa, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
William Ramsey	Leawood, KS	Planning, Restoration and Protection	2021	Yes
Sharon Schwartz	Washington, KS	WRAPs	2019	No
Greg Wilson	Olathe, KS	Water Assurance District	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Representing</i>
David Hoover	KC	USACE
Michelle Probasco	Topeka	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Heidi Mehl	Lawrence	The Nature Conservancy
Larry Biles	Manhattan	Kansas Forest Service
Kirk Tjelmeland	Topeka	Kansas Water Office

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chair Brad Bradley. Brandon, from Every, formerly Westar gave the safety briefing for the building.
- II) **Review of October 15th Meeting notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.
- III) **Follow up from October 15th Meeting:**
 - a. Update on the Sustainable Rivers Program (SRP) was given by Heidi Mehl, from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The presentation is available [here](#). The SRP is a nationwide program that is a collaborative effort between the United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and TNC. The mission is to identify opportunities to improve river health while not adversely affecting project purposes. TNC is the lead partner on this with several other organizations participating in the core team and Stakeholder outreach meetings. Five outreach meetings were held for various user groups to gather information their use of the river and information they would like to know about the river. A regime prescription tool was developed by the USACE that will allow the group to use identified flow needs to build a model that will work for everyone. The Kansas Biological Survey (KBS) was contracted to conduct the literature and compile the information, summarize flow requirements for native species and identify data gaps. In 2018 the work was focused on fish species since that is where most of the data had been collected. The Kansas River was broken down into 4 segments below Milford, between Milford and Tuttle Creek, below Perry

Membership: Brad Bradley (Chair), Overland Park, KS; Katie Miller (Vice Chair), Manhattan, KS; Sarah Hill-Nelson, Lawrence, KS; Marlene Bosworth, Sabetha, KS; Glenn Brunkow; Dawn Buehler, Eudora, KS; Blake Follis, Topeka, KS; Heath Horyna, Topeka, KS; Daniel Howell, Frankfort, KS; Darci Meese, Lenexa, KS; William Ramsey, Leawood, KS; Sharon Schwartz, Washington, KS; Greg Wilson, Olathe, KS
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and finally from where the Wakarusa drops into the river to the state line. The gage at Waverly Missouri is the pinch point for the system which can dictate how the Kansas system is operated. Items for 2019 include continuation of the literature review, help from United States Geological Survey (USGS) on water quality and flow data, USACE will be updating the 2009 Kansas River Geomorphological Report. There will be a field trip to visit with the Des Moines SRP in July and a workshop held around August for stakeholders to review the progress that has been made.

IV) RAC Business:

- a. **December 19th Kansas Water Authority meeting:** Greg led this discussion talking about the Surplus Water Report and how Lake Level Management Plans have reduced the potential yield from the reservoirs. He also talked about the Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study, USACE sponsored project with a pretty big buy-in from the Kansas Water Office (KWO). The Chief Engineer, Dave Barfield, talked at length about the idea of an Interstate Water Management Fund, siting inadequate funds to respond to compact changes. There were also presentations on the Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative, 2018 Harmful Algal Bloom Update and Water Technology Farms. There was also a lengthy discussion on addressing Non-Public Household Water Well Project and how to provide better quality water to those well owners.
- b. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 1. **Funding and Governance:** Sarah and Darci led this discussion stating that members of the RAC had pledged to get out and deliver the power point to the public. Make sure to report date, type of group, numbers and which power point that was delivered to Tj. Brad had some updates to the power point and the new presentation will be made available. RAC members should select who they want to deliver the message to by the next RAC meeting. There was discussion about the dismantling of the Water and Environment Committee and that maybe more time should be spent on committees that are responsible for funding. Sarah brought up the changes to the KWA and educating the new legislators.
 2. **BMP and KBWM system:** Marlene led this discussion with discussion of the changes to the WRAPS and that we should have someone from KDHE come to the Next RAC meeting and talk about the WRAPS changes. David Hoover, USACE Biologist, was asked to explain the priority leases on federal property around the reservoirs. David said those were originally designed to last only five years however they had been allowed to linger on in some cases decades. He appreciated the RAC's interest in this and the meetings to shine the light on an issue that needed changed. The letter ending those leases has been given to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for use in upcoming lease agreements. This should make property management better for implementing necessary changes. Great accomplishment for the Kansas RAC. David said there were some good discussions that came out of a meeting with KDHE and KDWPT on cultivated fields that are often inundated and about taking those out of production and installing perennial vegetation. This would create a "zone of protection" for the reservoir. David said the USACE will continue to use contracts to get conservation practices implemented on their ground.
 3. **Education and Outreach:** Heath had been called away and there was no report from the committee.
- c. **Feedback from RAC members:** Katie mentioned that the annual Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) would be a great opportunity to get out and educate on RAC or water issues. Will

talked about point-source pollution and what regulations cities are dealing with. Marlene thought it would be good to get out and see some of the streambank sites since there are several relatively close.

- d. Discussion on Municipal Nutrients:** Brad led this discussion stating he had heard that there is a 50/50 split on Agriculture and Municipal as sources. Michelle Probasco from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) provided a diagram that is available [here](#). The pie charts display the source of phosphorus loading to the Kansas River by flow condition. Flow exceedance of 95% describes an ultra-low flow condition where point-source loading is predominant while 50% flow exceedance describes the higher, median flow condition where phosphorus loading from the tributaries and headwater becomes more pronounced. There was a good deal of discussion around on how certain cities were addressing the issue and the cost associated with treatment. It suggested that we get Tom Stiles or other experts to present to the RAC providing terminology and definitions of that terminology.

- e. Milford RCPP Update:** There was no update given.

- V) Agency or Public Comments:** Larry Biles, Kansas Forest Service (KFS), talked about the progress on their \$13 million Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant that was awarded in 2015. The grant was targeted at improving water quality and the reduction of sedimentation into federal reservoirs through tree plantings and timber stand improvement. Streambank stabilization was added to the list of practices that can be funded under the grant, there are hundreds of possible sites in the targeted area above Tuttle Creek Reservoir. There is approximately \$7 million left in the grant and KFS may file for a grant extension. Larry encouraged the group to get out and look at some streambank sites.

VI) Upcoming Meetings:

- a. KWA meeting, January 30th-31st, 2019, Topeka, KS
- b. Next Kansas RAC meeting (Doodle Poll April 1-5th or 8-12th)

- VII) Meeting Adjourned:** Brad adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.