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[www.kwo.ks.gov](http://www.kwo.ks.gov)

## MEMO

DATE: June 2, 2023  
TO: Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Members  
FROM: Amelia Nill  
RE: June 13, 2023 Meeting

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The Kansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will have a meeting on **Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Downtown Evergy Building located at 818 S Kansas Ave Topeka, KS.**

Meeting topics will include a discussion about the RAC's goals, an update on state-wide water education efforts and a discussion of a potential message to send to the KWA.

Enclosed are the materials for the June 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from the April 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- Press Release

If you cannot participate, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone at (816) 589-6044 or by e-mail at [amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov).



## MEETING AGENDA

**DATE:** Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**TIME:** 10:00 am

### AGENDA DETAILS

**I. Welcome/Introductions**

**II. Review of April 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes**

**III. RAC Business**

- a. RAC Goal Review (90 minutes)
- b. Kansas Water Education Update – Angela Anderson (KWO) (25 minutes)
- c. Discussion of message to KWA (45 minutes)

**IV. Messages to the KWA**

**V. Agency or Public Comments**

**VI. Upcoming Meetings**

- a. **Next Kansas RAC meeting (July/August – Doodle Poll)**

**VII. Adjourn**

**LOCATION:** 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Downtown Evergy Building

located at 818 S Kansas Ave Topeka, KS

\*Public Comments are limited to 3-5 minutes and limited to issues related to regional goals, action plans or other water resource issues or concerns.

**10:00 am, Tuesday, April 25th, 2022**

**Evergy Professional Development Building, 801 NE Hwy  
24, Topeka, Kansas 66618**

**Members Attendance:**

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Marlene Bosworth, Chair	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	Yes
Darci Meese, V-Chair	Lenexa, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	No
Adam Bauer	Milford, KS	WRAPS	2023	Yes
Bill Heatherman	Manhattan, KS	Public Utility	2025	Yes
Brad Bradley	Overland Park, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2025	No
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2025	No
Sarah Hill-Nelson	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce	2023	Yes
Leslie Holthaus	Beattie, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Daniel Howell	Frankfort, KS	Agriculture	2025	Yes
Sylvia Davis	Topeka, KS	Water Assurance District	2025	Yes
Melissa Michels	Maple Hill, KS	Industry/Commerce	2025	Yes
Ian Fannin-Hughes	Overland Park, KS	Planning, Restoration and Protection	2025	Yes
Vacant	Vacant	At Large Public	2023	

**Others in attendance:**

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Amelia Nill	KWO	Michael Thompson	Kansas Soil Health Alliance
Angela Anderson	KWO	Erich Glave	Kansas Soil Health Alliance
Richard Rockel	KWO	Dave Jones	KDA-DOC
Brice Custer	Kansas Soil Health Alliance	Katie Acree	KDHE
Jennifer Simmelink	Kansas Soil Health Alliance	Riley Vande Ven	KDHE
Nick Voss	Kansas Soil Health Alliance	Tracy Streeter	Burns & McDonnell
Nick Guetterman	Kansas Soil Health Alliance		

- I) Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:14 am by RAC Chair, Marlene Bosworth (Conservation/Environment). Marlene called on each attendee to provide a brief introduction before beginning the meeting.
- II) Review of January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting notes:** The meeting notes from the January meeting were discussed. A correction was made to the spelling of the word ‘illicit’ on page 2. A correction was made to the agency comments section as well. A motion was then made by Sarah Hill Nelson (Industry/Commerce) and seconded by Bill Heatherman (Public Utility) to accept these notes with the aforementioned corrections.

### III) RAC Business:

- a. **Kansas Soil Health Alliance:** Nick Guetterman from the Kansas Soil Health Alliance gave a presentation about the organization. He stated that the KSHA was started in February of 2021 and their mission is to improve soil health within the state of Kansas through farmer and rancher led education and resources. He mentioned that they host several field days and get their funding through the KDHE Clean Water Grant. Marlene Bosworth (Conservation/Environment) asked what are the organization's current needs. Nick said that their main needs at the moment are funding, time and resources to be able to fill the education requests they receive. Sarah Hill Nelson (Industry/Commerce) asked if it is a possibility for the Kansas Bankers Association to give better interest rates to farmers when their soil is healthier. Nick said this is something that would be ideal and mentioned a video called the "Biggest Little Farm" as an example.
- b. **Nature-Based Solutions Goal Discussion & Project Presentation:** Richard Rockel from the Kansas Water Office informed the RAC that a stakeholder group has recently been meeting in order to potentially identify wetland projects within the Kansas Region. Richard stated that they wanted to loop in the Kansas RAC because of the emphasis on partnership and nature-based solutions within the RAC's goal #4 and goals preamble. Richard asked the RAC if they had any input or ideas about potential wetland projects. Bill Heatherman and Sarah Hill Nelson both shared ideas of where wetland projects might be developed. Ian Fannin Hughes (Planning, Restoration & Protection) also mentioned a possible funding sources through MARC. The RAC told Richard that they would like to stay updated on this topic and would like to see some mapping done in order to identify opportunity areas.
- c. **Legislative Updates:** Amelia Nill updated the RAC on 2 bills that were recently signed by the Governor, HB 2302 and HB 2279. She described the changes that each bill contains and what that means for the KWO and the KWA. She described that HB 2302 allocates more money (\$35 million) to the SWPF. Some of this money is shared into new grant funds, run by the KWO. Additionally, she stated that \$52 million was allocated to pay for the Milford and Perry Reservoirs debt. She went onto describe HB2279, which increases GMD reporting requirements.
- d. **RAC Membership & Expectations:** Marlene Bosworth briefly talked to the RAC about their expectations of being a RAC member. She stated that it is very important for RAC members to attend the meetings, preferably in person, or at least virtually. She said that each member's voice is vital to the RAC's success.
- e. **Goal #1 Subcommittee Update:** The RAC decided to discuss this goal further at a June RAC meeting.
- f. **Goal #3 Subcommittee Update:** The RAC decided to discuss this goal further at a June RAC meeting.
- g. **KWA/KWO Updates:** Amelia Nill mentioned that the RAC membership drive will be opening

up this summer. She said that current RAC members that have expiring terms will be notified soon and will be able to reapply when the drive opens. Additionally, Amelia informed the RAC that the budget discussions for the RACs will begin to take place later in the summer too. She also brought up that at the most recent Kansas Water Authority meeting, held the week before in Kansas City, Kansas, the Authority discussed how the 2 new bills would affect funding for water and that the RAC's should begin to identify their priorities that they would like to see funded.

**h. Discussion of regional events:** No regional events were shared at this meeting.

**Messages to the KWA:** A message was introduced by Marlene Bosworth with the intention of getting the RAC members' feedback and potentially sending it onto the KWA. This message highlighted how a state-wide educational campaign on water is essential in order for the public to gain a deeper understanding of water in the state of Kansas. The letter stated how the Kansas Runs on Water campaign has the potential to be highly effective, but more attention and funding needs to be placed on the campaign. Many RAC members gave feedback on this message stating that some of the wording needed editing in order to be more concise as well as acknowledge other educational efforts that have been ongoing up to this point. After several minutes of discussion, it was decided that there was not enough time remaining in this meeting to effectively edit and send on this message. The RAC members stated that they would readdress this message at the June RAC meeting. Also, at the June RAC meeting, Angela Anderson (KWO) would provide an update to the RAC about ongoing educational efforts and the progress of the Kansas Runs on Water campaign.

**IV) Agency or Public Comments:** There were no agency or public comments at this time.

**V) Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. Kansas Water Authority meeting (June 7<sup>th</sup> – Dodge City)
- b. Next Kansas RAC meeting (June – Doodle Poll)

**VI) Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned with no further business at 12:47 pm.



## Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

**Membership:** Marlene Bosworth (Chair), Sabetha, KS; Darci Meese (Vice Chair), Lenexa, KS; Adam Bauer, Milford, KS; Brad Bradley, Overland Park, KS; Glenn Brunkow, Westmoreland, KS; Sarah Hill-Nelson, Lawrence, KS; Leslie Holthaus, Beattie, KS; Daniel Howell, Frankfort, KS; Melissa Michels, Maple Hill, KS; Ian Fannin-Hughes, Overland Park, KS; Sylvia Davis, Topeka, KS; Bill Heatherman, Manhattan, KS; **KWO Planner:** Amelia Nill, 785-296-0878: [amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov)

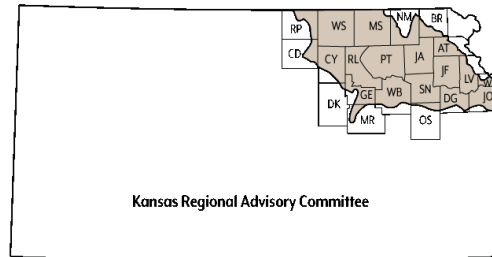


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Laura Kelly, Governor

Meeting Notice:  
June 2, 2023

For More Information:  
Kristin Kaipust  
(785) 296-3185, [kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov)



### **Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**

*June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Downtown Evergy Building located at 818 S Kansas Ave Topeka, KS.*

The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Kansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will have a meeting to discuss current water issues affecting the region as well as the state.

The RAC will meet at 10:00am on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Meeting topics will include a discussion about the RAC's goals, an update on state-wide water education efforts and a discussion of a potential message to send to the KWA.

The agenda and meeting materials can be found when available at [kwo.ks.gov](http://kwo.ks.gov) or you may request copies by calling (785) 296-3185 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283).

If accommodations are needed for a person with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404, Topeka, KS 66611-1249 or call (785) 296-3185 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Note to Editor: The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101) requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations messages.

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*As the state's water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.*

*The agency prepares the KANSAS WATER PLAN, a plan for water resources development, management and conservation.*

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