

MEMO



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DATE: August 26, 2019
TO: Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Kirk Tjelmeland
RE: September 9, 2019 Meeting

The Kansas Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on **Monday, September 9 at 9:00 am at the Evergy Professional Development Center, 801 NE Hwy 24, Topeka, KS 66618.**

This August has been one of the wetter August's on record with our reservoirs being maintained at 50% of their flood capacity. The Missouri River continues to run high limiting releases from our Kansas Reservoirs. Our next meeting will touch on possible reservoir management issues with a presentation on the Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study. Our main objective is to review Goals #1 & 2 as part of the Vision update along with an update on the progress of the Milford RCPP. Remember following the meeting we'll travel to Holton to visit Shane New's farm, 11760 254th Rd. in Holton. I'm looking forward to seeing you on Monday September 9th.

Enclosed are the materials for the September 9th Meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting notes from the June 24th Meeting
- RAC Goals and Action Plans (#1 & #2)
- Press Release

If you cannot attend, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone at (785) 368-8149 or by e-mail at kirk.tjelmeland@kwo.ks.gov.



MEETING AGENDA

DATE: Monday September 9, 2019

TIME: 9 am - Noon

LOCATION: Evergy Professional Dev. Center
801 NE Hwy 24, Topeka, KS 66608

AGENDA DETAILS

- I. Welcome/Introductions**
- II. Safety Review – Heath - Evergy**
- III. Review of June 24th meeting notes**
- IV. Follow up from June 24th Meeting**
 - a. Update on Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study – Laura Totten – USACE
 - b. Review of RAC Goals and Action Plans (#1 & #2) – Tj & Nate - KWO
- V. RAC Business**
 - a. September 3-4th KWA meeting – Brad
 - b. Subcommittee Reports
 1. Funding and Governance – Sarah Hill-Nelson
 2. BMP and KBWM – Marlene Bosworth
 3. Education and Outreach – Heath Horyna
 - c. Feedback reports from RAC members
- VI. Agency or Public Comments:**
- VII. Upcoming Meetings:**
 - a. **Governor’s Water Conference, November 7-8th, Wichita, KS**
 - b. **Next Kansas RAC meeting (November/December?)**
 - c. **KWA meeting, December 2019, Wichita, KS**
 - d. **Adjourn**

*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.

Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Monday June 24, 2019
Trails End Café, 601 Arizona Ave.,
Holton, Kansas 66436

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	No
Marlene Bosworth	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	Yes
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	No
Sharon Schwartz	Washington, KS	WRAPs	2019	No
Greg Wilson	Olathe, KS	Water Assurance District	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
Judy Boltman	SN Co. Con. Dist.	Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Rob Reschke	KDA-DOC	Allyn Lockner	Public
Carla Greisen	Tuttle Creek WRAPS	Kent Askren	KFB
Ginny Moore	The Conservation foundation	Shane New	Soil Health
Herb Graves	SAKW	Tracy Streeter	Burns & Mac
Amanda Reed	KDHE	Andy Lyon	KDHE
Jackie Craine	KWO	Earl Lewis	KWO
Cara Hendricks	KWO	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
John Wonder	JF Co. Con. Dist.		

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 12:55 pm by Chair Brad Bradley. Self-introductions were given around the room.
- II) **Review of April 9th Meeting notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.
- III) **Follow up from the April 9th Meeting:**
 - a. **Watershed Districts Update 2020** was given by Herb Graves, Executive Director of the State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW). The presentation is available [here](#) Herb mentioned that most of the Watershed Districts began in the 1960's and were a combination of state and federally funded structures. These structures were meant to reduce not eliminate flooding and there are over 1,500 structures across the state. There are 75 Watershed Districts in the state with the majority of these in the eastern half of the state. Herb stated that \$150 million was appropriate nationwide in the omnibus bill and currently 9 dams in the construction phase using that funding. The Watershed Districts that received

funding for these structures include: Upper Black Vermillion, Delaware 10 and Wolf River. In the FY2020 State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) budget there was \$550,000 approved for Watershed Dam construction or rehabilitation however this is insufficient to address all the concerns. Greg asked if the Districts had taxing authority and Herb stated they do. Herb mentioned some challenges moving forward: Federal and State support, Rehabilitation of Dams and Environmental Compliance to name a few. Marlene brought up the breached dam at Sabetha and Herb was quick to point out it was a failed tube and not the failed dam.

- b. **Soil Health on a Jackson Co. Farm** was given by Shane New, local producer. The presentation is available [here](#). He stated that the great plains use to be this lush area and we have turned it into a monoculture which causes us problems like serious mineral depletion in fruits, vegetables and meats. These mineral losses are directly related to increased rates of numerous diseases. The goal on his farm is to improve soil health to a level where the system is functioning the way it was meant to, “iron doesn’t build soil plants do.” Shane showed a slide of the upper end of Perry Reservoir and the large amount of silt that had accumulated, “cover crops are essential.” The use of cover crops helps eliminate chemical use improving the producers bottom line. He mentioned that soil organics should be above 7% showing a slide from Colorado 2014 compared to 1935, the 1935 dust cloud was much darker, more organics. Below the soil surface it is a water film environment that functions best when there is surface protection to reduce soil temperature. It is assumed that haying is good because it keeps the ground covered most of the year however soil tests prove otherwise. The use of cows with rotational grazing is a must as well, helps cycle nutrients making them available for organisms in the soil. Healthy soil provides nutrients to plants that a normal producer would need to apply, increasing their production costs. Shane has seen a 73% reduction in input costs over the last several years making him a more sustainable producer. Healthier soil provides for a healthier environment for all types of animals, from frogs to birds. Shane has achieved an infiltration rate of 8+ inches/hour using regenerative grazing which would have a profound impact if we consider the flooding we’ve been experiencing lately.
- c. **Update on Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study** was given by Cara Hendricks, Kansas Water Office (KWO). She mentioned that this is a \$3 million study in conjunction with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with KWO and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) as co-sponsors. USACE, KWO and KDWPT are working on a Project Management Plan which will help guide the groups toward the overall goal of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Study. We have begun to reach out to individuals to put together an advisory committee with the intent of having their first meeting in August. She said some people in this room have been contacted and Brad asked if this was something the RAC should be handling. Cara said this committee will be made up of a broader group of individuals. Sarah asked about the adjustment to the manuals to provide more beneficial reservoir releases, this is something that could be advocated for once the plan is completed. Greg wanted to make sure that the results of the study are applicable, study produces something tangible.
- a. **Information on The Conservation Fund** was presented by Ginny Moore, Midwest Field Representative. She gave a ppt that is available [here](#) and a handout that can be found [here](#). In her presentation she talked about the Blue River Watershed which is in Kansas and Missouri and has water quality impairments for bacteria, nutrients and oxygen. The upper Blue River has experienced a considerable amount of development: housing, businesses and impervious surfacing. The Conservation Fund is working with willing landowners to purchase particular pieces of property within the watershed that will have the greatest impact. She said they are working with Kansas Land Trust and Heartland Conservation Land Trust to hold these small parcels of property. Better management of these will provide a better way of life for Johnson County residents by providing outdoor experiences and helping to eliminate inputs into the system. This is a multi-million dollar project that will take years to complete.

IV) RAC Business:

- a. **April 18th KWA meeting:** Darci attended this meeting for Brad and led this discussion. She mentioned the information that Matt had presented on the 5-year Vision review that will be talked about later in this meeting and also the membership application process. Leo Henning gave a report on potential Perfluorocarbon (PFC's) regulation and contamination, "there is a lot of bad chemicals out there." There was a message by the Upper Ark RAC on Inter-basin transfer and the aqueduct, moving water from the Missouri River to south west Kansas. The old train depot was right by the tracks and a train came by twice, stopping the meeting for a bit.
- b. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 1. **Funding and Governance:** Sarah said we are in a wait and see position with no progress on the funding from the Blue-Ribbon Task Force. Funding must be secured on a regional level however there is no authority to do this. There was discussion about the KWA and the new members and what kind of impact they might have on the future of water in Kansas. Sarah believes an equitable tax would be some sort of drinking water tax. The committee will provide some recommendations at the next RAC meeting.
 2. **BMP and KBWM system:** Marlene said her committee had met with Dustin from KDWPT and visited about the letter the USACE had drafted for them to use when conducting leasing last winter. The bulk of the priority leases are around Milford Reservoir. She also mentioned the 2nd year of the Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative (KRPI), which was funded to the tune of \$700,000 for this year. There has been a good deal of interest generated and with less money there are likely to be more applications than funds.
 3. **Education and Outreach:** There was no report from this committee however Brad wanted to make sure this group was working towards presenting the State of the Resource document at some Annual Conservation District meetings this winter.
- c. **Update on the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) Budget:** Jackie led this with the spreadsheet available [here](#). The goal of this item is to solicit budget recommendations from the RAC that will be passed onto the Kansas Water Authority (KWA). She went through the spreadsheet of agency requests and her and Earl provided additional information on each of the items as questions were raised. There was a good deal of discussion about reservoir storage, sedimentation rates and the use of Water Injection Dredging (WID). A motion was unanimously adopted to send a message to the KWA, the following items were listed off by RAC members to be put into the memo to the KWA:
 - Conservation BMPs in watersheds to reduce sedimentation and improve water quality
 - Purchase of storage in Reservoirs (with the suggestion that an appeal be made to obtain a lump-sum payment for half or more of the cost, from the arrearage in the State Water Plan Fund now approaching \$80 million)
 - Continued funding of experimental Water Injection Dredging (WID)

- d. **Review of RAC Goals and Action Plans:** Tj started this discussion with a memo that Matt presented to the KWA at their April meeting. This is basically a 5-year review of the Goals and Action Plans to make sure they are lined up with the Vision and make any changes necessary to make the Action Plan more pertinent. The ppt that he presented is available [here](#). In the ppt there was a timeline laid out for moving forward, which included public meeting to review Goals and Action Plans coupled with the RACs input on improving/modifying these with a completion date of summer 2020. In the ppt there are two links, one to a spreadsheet for tracking Action Plan and the other for a state-wide dashboard showing all 14 RACs and their progress on their Action Plans, both provide valuable details.
 - e. **Feedback from RAC members:** Brad thought this was a lot of information to cover in one day especially after our streambank tour in the morning. He suggested that the RAC look at Goals #1 & #2 at the next meeting in September. He also suggested seeing soil health in action at Shane's farm, which will be the afternoon of September 9th.
- V) **Agency or Public Comments:** Andy Klein and Tim McCoy led the stream bank tours and their handout is available [here](#).
- VI) **Upcoming Meetings:**
- a. KWA meeting, August, 2019, Goodland, KS
 - b. Next Kansas RAC meeting, Monday, September 9th
- VII) **Meeting Adjourned:** Brad adjourned the meeting at 3:40 pm.



Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Priority Goal #1 Action Plan

Priority Goal #1: Increase water storage capacity and availability in federal reservoirs. By 2020, purchase all available storage in federal reservoirs to secure an adequate water supply for the region. By 2025, evaluate the ability to raise the conservation pool in each federal reservoir.

Action Steps

- ❖ Increase water storage capacity and availability in federal reservoirs. By 2020, purchase all available storage in federal reservoirs to secure an adequate water supply for the region.
 - ◇ The Kansas Water Office should conduct an analysis of the impacts of the draw downs at Milford, Tuttle Creek and Perry reservoirs due to Missouri River navigation support. The results of this study will inform the decision as to whether or not to accelerate the purchase of the remaining storage at the aforementioned reservoirs.
 - ◇ Working with Kansas River Water Assurance District, KDHE, KDWPT and other stakeholders, determine the amount of storage necessary within Milford and Perry reservoirs to meet instream purposes through controlled releases.
 - ◇ Complete necessary background work to support a request to reallocate storage from water supply to water quality in Milford and Perry reservoirs.
 - ◇ Determine amount of additional annual costs for calling into service the remaining water supply storage not needed to meet instream purposes and request full funding. When funding is secured, call into service storage not to be included within reallocation request.
 - ◇ Request reallocation of remaining storage from water supply to water quality.
- ❖ By 2025, evaluate the ability to raise the conservation pool in each federal reservoir.
 - ◇ Using existing modeling, determine amount of additional yield that can be gained in each reservoir by permanently raising the conservation pool by 1, 2 and 3 feet.
 - ◇ Working with Kansas River Water Assurance District, KDHE, KDWPT, KDA-DWR and other stakeholders, begin NEPA evaluation of impacts and benefits at the reservoirs with increased pool level
 - ◇ Work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to determine updated costs of reallocation and purchase of storage.
 - ◇ Secure federal funding for reallocation study.
 - ◇ Where feasible and appropriate based on cost and impact evaluation, request the USACE reallocate storage from flood control to water supply storage.
- ❖ The Kansas Water Office shall gather data to determine steps to maintain consistent storage levels at specific reservoirs. As a long term goal, KWO should incorporate existing studies and information to study the possibility of future dredging and other measures by the State of Kansas on a more consistent basis to maintain storage.
- ❖ As articulated in the “*Basin Restoration Approach: Kansas Lower Republican*,” the Kansas RAC directs the KWO to improve coordination with the USACE on reservoir releases, management plans, and future actions to address water quality and quantity issues.



Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Priority Goal #2 Action Plan

Priority Goal #2: By 2050, explore additional storage possibilities such as construction of multipurpose lakes so that new water sources can be brought online.

Action Steps

- ❖ Use the existing Kansas Water Office “*Basin Restoration Approach: Kansas Lower Republican*” as a guide for planning future storage in the Region.
- ❖ Maintain an updated inventory of existing reservoir sites not built, along with pertinent data.
- ❖ Contract with a consulting firm to determine the feasibility of building larger reservoir sites based on the “New Site Selection Criteria” from the “*Basin Restoration Approach: Kansas Lower Republican*”, with the addition of the potential sedimentation rate and upstream protection practices.
- ❖ Working with KDA-DOC, NRCS and local watershed districts, identify existing watershed structures that are in need of restoration and have potential to be made larger and provide supplemental water supply.
- ❖ Working with KDA-DOC, NRCS and local watershed districts, identify watershed dam sites that were not constructed, but could be built to provide supplemental water supply.
- ❖ KWO shall develop criteria to determine whether these sites should be expanded or built based on a broad range of issues.
- ❖ Seek partnership and funding opportunities to rehabilitate existing watershed reservoirs and/or construct new reservoirs that meet the established criteria.



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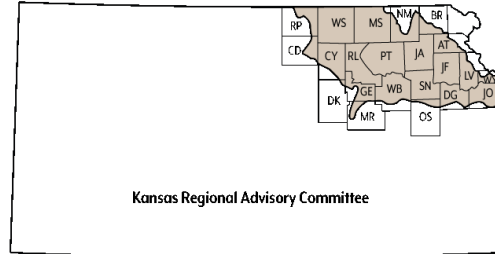
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Earl Lewis, Acting Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

Meeting Notice:
August 26, 2019

For More Information:
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(785) 296-3185, katie.ingels@kwo.ks.gov



Kansas RAC Meeting in Topeka
September 9, 9 am, Everage Professional Development Center

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

The RAC meeting will be Monday, September 9 at 9 am, at the Everage Professional Development Center, 801 NE Hwy 24 in Topeka, Kansas. The main topics of discussion will include: the Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study, review of RAC Goals #1 & 2 and a Milford RCPP update. Following the meeting everyone is invited to Shane New's farm just north of Holton to see Soil Health in action. His place is located at 11760 254th Rd. Holton, KS 66436.

The agenda and meeting materials can be found when available at www.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.