



Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

**11 am Thursday, April 30, 2020
GoTo Meeting and Conference Call**

Members Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Present</i>
Dawn Buehler, Chair	Eudora, KS	Recreation	2023	Yes
Heath Horyna, V-Chair	Topeka, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	No
Adam Bauer	Milford, KS	WRAPs	2023	Yes
Rick Bean	Topeka, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2023	No
Marlene Bosworth	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	Yes
Brad Bradley	Overland Park, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2021	Yes
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	No
Sarah Hill-Nelson	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce	2023	Yes
Leslie Holthaus	Beattie, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Daniel Howell	Frankfort, KS	Agriculture	2021	Yes
Darci Meese	Lenexa, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
William Ramsey	Leawood, KS	Planning, Restoration and Protection	2021	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>
Josh Olson	KWO	Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Kirk (Tj) Tjelmeland	KWO	Andy Lyon	KDHE
Bobbi Lutjohann	KWO	Amanda Reed	KDHE
Scott Carlson	KDA-DOC	Sam Zipper	KGS
Steve Frost	KDA-DOC	Tracy Streeter	Burns & McDonnell
Dave Jones	KDA-DOC	Allyn Lockner	Public

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Chair, Dawn Buehler. Self-introductions were given with RAC roll call completed on the conference call line.
- II) **Review of February 21st meeting notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.
- III) **RAC Business:**
 - a. **Review of the proposed Kansas RAC message to the KWA regarding funding and the Blue Ribbon Task Force:** Dawn opened the discussion, asking for any comments regarding the memo. There were some questions about the format and process of submitting RAC messages. Bobbi explained that RACs are only responsible for the message portion, and the RAC Operations Committee actually submits the full memo to the KWA. The KWA approves the resolution if they agree. Sarah suggested including a request for action on the Blue Ribbon Task Force. Greg mentioned that the KWA had already established a position on the Task Force, and that they need to reaffirm support again or give an alternative funding option. He also expressed a need for guidance on how to approach outreach related to funding. A request for action on the Task Force and clarification on funding approach was added to the message. Dawn moved to approve the message as written, and Leslie seconded. All RAC members present voted in favor.

Membership: Dawn Buehler (Chair), Eudora, KS; Heath Horyna (Vice-Chair), Topeka, KS; Adam Bauer, Milford, KS; Rick Bean, Topeka, KS; Marlene Bosworth, Sabetha, KS; Brad Bradley, Overland Park, KS; Glenn Brunkow, Westmoreland, KS; Sarah Hill-Nelson, Lawrence, KS; Leslie Holthaus, Beattie, KS; Daniel Howell, Frankfort, KS; Darci Meese, Lenexa, KS; William Ramsey, Leawood, KS; Greg Wilson, Olathe, KS;
KWO Planner: Josh Olson, 785-296-0875: josh.olson@kwo.ks.gov

- b. **Review of the KWO RAC Informational Budget Webinar** (available [here](#)): Josh asked if there were any questions regarding the information presented at the webinar or additional information regarding the budget that the RAC would be interested in. Greg commented that the RAC may want to prioritize funding goals better based on potential funding issues for FY21. Greg recommended the RAC come up with a priority list. Greg suggested the RAC look at the RAC's FY21 recommendations from the previous year as a template for FY22 recommendations.
- c. **Review of Goal 2 and Action Plan:** Dawn opened the discussion and mentioned that the RAC could still make additional goals. Goal 2, regarding exploring additional storage possibilities for construction of multipurpose lakes, was discussed. Brad mentioned that it seemed like a one-time goal, not really an ongoing task. Dawn questioned the timeline of accomplishing the goal. Sarah suggested giving some specific criteria for evaluating sites. Tj said the Water Office had a map related to regional water demand. Bobbi suggested the RAC focus on determining if there are already sites that have been identified as a source of water supply, as well as what the alternative options are. Specifically, what is the issue that needs to be solved? Marlene mentioned multipurpose small lakes in Holton and Sabetha that have alleviated water supply issues in the northern part of the Kansas region that are not as heavily populated. Dawn pointed out the need to ensure water supply for rural areas, and stated that it was an informational question, "What areas have water supply issues?" Marlene stated that large land areas without readily available sources of good water, surface or groundwater, are sometimes forgotten about. Josh suggested Goal 2 focus first on identifying areas with water supply shortages. Dawn recommended a review of regional water needs, with Sarah supporting the emphasis of focusing on water supply for the whole Kansas region. Leslie mentioned the effort involved with mitigation projects. Marlene discussed the difference between smaller watershed dams and larger multipurpose lakes, which have significant costs and mitigation expectations, pointing out that costs and mitigation scale based on the size of the lake. Marlene brought up that the Kickapoo Reservation currently has water supply issues, particularly during drought, as well as water quality issues. Tj mentioned lawsuits related to the Kickapoo Reservation, and Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR) clarified that the lawsuits have ended/been finalized with the State recognizing a formalized tribal right. Dawn stated that there is a need for additional information regarding the KWO's involvement with tribal water supplies. Bobbi mentioned that all watershed districts have a plan with sites identified, and the goal would be to review those plans. Dawn asked how many watershed districts there were in the Kansas region, and Dave Jones (DOC) stated that the DOC has that information. Josh updated the draft Goal #2 and Action Plan as revisions were suggested.

Review of Goal 4 and Action Plan: Dawn and Sarah suggested that Goal 4, related to water consumption reductions, be removed. Dawn pointed to difficulties in the RAC's ability to directly make progress on the goal, and questioned if it should be a high priority for the RAC. Dawn suggested the RAC review and comment on Goal 4 and submit all new ideas (potentially to replace Goal 4) to Josh by the next RAC meeting.

IV) Agency or Public Comments

- a. Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR) shared that the DWR Topeka Field Office had been moved to 1131 SW Winding Road behind Academy Sports. Katie also said that the office is currently closed due to COVID-19. However, technically, everything is still operating as usual with staff working remotely.

- b. Tracy Streeter (Burns & McDonnell) mentioned that the NRCS has resources available to assist with some of the multipurpose small lake needs discussed related to the Kansas RAC Goal 2 and Action Plan.
- c. Allyn Lockner asked if there was a plan to contact stakeholders from Nebraska and Missouri regarding BMP issues. Tj said there had been discussion, but no actions yet. Dawn pointed out that it was written into the Action Plans for sedimentation.
- d. Dan discussed the significant soil erosion and runoff in 2019 and mentioned the role of the farm program in supporting crop growth on areas that aren't suited for it. Dan stated he would like information on how the farm bill will quit paying for more production and focus on other things to promote that address issues for the long-term. He stated that he would like the topic discussed at the 2020 Governor's Water Conference. Dan also suggested David Montgomery, author of Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations, as a potential speaker for the Governor's Water Conference. Related to the Governor's Water Conference, Sarah suggested Ben Goldfarb, author of Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter, as a speaker covering natural solutions to water-related issues.

V) **Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. **Next KWA meeting, May 20th, GoTo Meeting**
- b. **Next Kansas RAC meeting (end of May or first part of June, Josh will send Doodle Poll)**
- c. **Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm**