

Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

10:00 am, Wednesday, October 12, 2022
Energy 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	Yes
Adam Bauer	Milford, KS	WRAPs	2023	Yes
Rick Bean	Topeka, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2023	No
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	No
Melissa Michels	Maple Hill, KS	Industry/Commerce	2025	Yes
Ian Fannin-Hughes	Overland Park, KS	Planning, Restoration and Protection	2025	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Amelia Nill	KWO	Dave Jones	KDA-DOC
Matt Unruh	KWO	Dawn Buehler	KWA
Angela Anderson	KWO	David Schmitz	Delaware Watershed
Steve Frost	KDA-DOC	John Reinke	KDWP

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:07 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 May 13th meeting notes:** The meeting notes from the May meeting were discussed. There were no additions or corrections and the notes were approved as written.
- III) **RAC Business:**
 - a. **Overview of KWA & Budget:** Dawn Buehler (KWA) led the RAC in a discussion about recent Kansas Water Authority activities as well as the KWA’s recent budget approval. She highlighted the topics from the agenda at the most recent water policy discussion, hosted by the KWA. That included the conversation of what the intent of the ‘Conserve & Extend the High Plains Aquifer’ section of the recently approved Kansas Water Plan is. Dawn stated that a

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committee of KWA members has been appointed to further discuss and research the Ogallala. Additionally, one of the topics brought up was the organization of water management for the state of Kansas. She expressed that currently, there is not a lot of agreement on the way to approach this issue, and we continue to work towards an effective solution. She also brought up that despite the lack of agreement on the approach, there is a lot of energy surrounding the topic of funding for water in the state and people are agreeing that more funding for water is necessary. Kansas RAC members brought up the idea of the Kansas Basin Water Management System (KBWMS), which is a science-based approach to manage water issues in a particular basin. They stated that this approach could be tailored to work on a state-wide basis. The RAC is planning to discuss this item at their next meeting as it could be relevant to the organization of management for water in Kansas. The second item Dawn discussed was the recent approval of the budget recommendations. She provided an overview of what was recommended and enhanced, highlighting that the debt for some reservoirs had been paid off. Dan Howell (Agriculture) asked the question of whether there is some other use for the sediment that is captured in the reservoirs. Dawn responded by saying that anything could be on the table, so it would be useful to continue pushing this idea. In regard to the budget, Dawn also stated that the KWA budget committee will set a budget timeline in addition to a stretch budget plan in order to implement the Kansas Water plan. The stretch budget is intended to identify the full amount of funding that would be necessary to implement all projects, practices and policies stated in the Kansas Water Plan. Dawn urged RAC members to talk to their local legislators about the water issues and to participate in the upcoming legislative visits if possible.

- b. **Milford RCPP & KRPI Update:** Matt Unruh (KWO) updated the RAC on the status of the Milford RCPP & KRPI projects. He stated that with the Milford RCPP project, there is a potential extension of the program that would add 5 years, putting the new end date at FY27. The existing program has covered around 41,000 acres of cropland with cover crops and other nutrient management practices. Matt said that the KRPI is in its FY23 signup and that the program has retained the original 4 watersheds. There is an estimated 18,000 tons of sediment savings from the KRPI program.
- c. **Delaware Watershed Presentation:** David Schmitz (Delaware Watershed) gave a presentation to the RAC about the Delaware Watershed and the State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW), which he is a part of. David stated that the general watershed plan includes 461 structures, with 135 currently completed. He said that a little more than 30 of the completed structures are PL566 and the remainder are state funded. The Watershed Districts are tasked with maintaining existing dams as well as monitoring all 135+ dams. David stated that because the watershed districts are tasked with those high maintenance items previously mentioned, they continuously deal with a general lack of funding. Additionally, David mentioned that watershed districts have taxing authority.
- d. **Goal #1 Subcommittee Update:** Darci Meese (Public Water Supply), subcommittee chair, updated the RAC on recent subcommittee activities. She informed the RAC that the subcommittee has been going through an education process in order to gain all information necessary in relation to the subcommittee goal. This has included presentations from John Shelley with the USACE about WID and Nate Westrup with KWO about reservoir

sustainability.

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- f. **Additional KWO Updates:** Amelia Nill (KWO) reminded the RAC of the upcoming Governor's Water Conference that will take place in Manhattan, KS on November 16th & 17th.

IV) Agency or Public Comments: Dave Jones (KDA-DOC) provided an update to the RAC stating that irrigation technology funds are available for landowners/tenants within the Groundwater Management Districts and that the DOC is currently partnering with GMD4. Additionally, Dave mentioned that there is a DOC working group looking at the annual working plans of all conservation districts. Sarah Hill Nelson (Industry/Commerce) reminded the RAC of the Beers of the Kaw event happening in Lawrence on November 6th.

V) Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority meeting (October 18 & 19, Wichita, Kansas)
- b. Next Kansas RAC meeting (January – Doodle Poll)

VI) Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned with no further business at 12:05 pm.



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