



Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

**9 am Thursday, October 29, 2020
GoTo Meeting and Conference Call**

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
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:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Josh Olson	KWO	Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Angela Anderson	KWO	Amanda Reed	KDHE
Earl Lewis	KWO	Travis Sieve	KDHE
Richard Rockel	KWO	Dustin Mengarelli	KDWPT
Nate Westrup	KWO	John Reinke	KDWPT
Daniel Meyerhoff	KACD	Allyn Lockner	Public
Andrew Lyon	KDA-DOC		

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chair, Dawn Buehler. Self-introductions were given with RAC roll call completed on the conference call line.
- II) **Review of July 8th meeting notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.
- III) **RAC Business:**
 - a. **Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study (KRRFSS):** Laura Totten (USACE) provided a status update presentation on the KRRFSS watershed study, available [here](#). Laura noted that KRRFSS started in March 2019. Since then, efforts have included stakeholder outreach, such as the small group workshop prior to the Governor’s Conference last year, which provided great feedback on problems and opportunities. Laura noted that a document had been made with the identified goals and opportunities. Laura further detailed outreach efforts including updates to the KWA and RACs, communications with the KRRFSS Advisory Committee, focused interest group discussion, and four public involvement meetings. Laura explained that study efforts have recently focused on assessing existing conditions and expected future conditions, such as sedimentation and sediment management. In that process, a spin-off study was identified for a Tuttle Creek Lake long-term sediment management plan. Laura detailed topics

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;
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covered in the study scope, including flood risk, water supply, sediment management, drought, ecosystem, system operating plans and reservoir operations, infrastructure, and others. Laura also noted that economic costs were being considered and that head cuts and erosional hot spots were being looked into. The three primary focus areas of the study include flood risk management, sediment management, and reservoir operations. Laura discussed opportunities identified by the study, such as the Tuttle sediment management plan, and provided the KRRFSS Shared Vision Statement. Laura reviewed the draft goals and explained that the main goal is to develop a comprehensive, basin-wide management plan, which includes assessing federal, state, and/or local project opportunities. Laura mentioned that the plan is to have another small group workshop later this fall to discuss measures, strategies, and alternatives. The RAC was invited to attend the meeting, which will likely be virtual or a hybrid of in-person/virtual. Laura noted that the recommendations phase next summer will include another small group workshop.

Laura shared example topics of strategies and alternatives, including extreme events, sediment management, structural restoration, and the use of innovative technologies and planning measures. Laura mentioned Water Injection Dredging (WID) as an example of an innovative technology, noting efforts of manufacturers to build a portable WID that could potentially be leased for a WID demonstration in Kansas. Laura outlined additional sediment management strategies being considered, which included hydrosuction with downstream discharge, WID, in-lake hydraulic dredging, streambank stabilization, drawdown flushing, and repurposing upper reservoir areas to capture sediment. Laura mentioned Tuttle Creek Lake sedimentation specifically and questioned what will be left of the multipurpose pool in 100 years. Dan suggested that, though it had been thought to be too expensive, dredging near Fancy Creek to keep what we have might be possible. Laura noted that we need to think about maintaining what's there, and the hope is WID can be part of preserving storage that's left. Dan noted a lot of property leases above Tuttle that had CPR were not renewed, so they've gone back to corn and soy bean. Laura mentioned there is ongoing conversation with the Iowa DNR regarding beneficial use of sediment, and the study group is thinking about what could be included in the study recommendations. Laura shared a graphic depicting projected remaining multipurpose at Tuttle in future years, and Dawn commented that it was one of the more powerful graphics she had seen regarding Tuttle sedimentation. Josh noted that the presentation would be posted on the RAC page for those that wanted to use it as a reference. Dawn asked for more information about the spin-off study. Laura noted that the KWO submitted a 7001 proposal related to WID and sediment management, and the Corps put together a justification sheet for a general investigation of Tuttle sediment management that was submitted internally. Laura said the hope was for a study in the next 2-3 years, potentially before KRRFSS is expected to be complete in 2024. Brad expressed an interest in the idea of taking sediment out and injecting it downstream, noting the Mississippi delta has been sediment starved. Laura reiterated that the Corps and KWO are working toward a WID demonstration. Josh noted that the variety of sediment management strategies included in the KRRFSS list were largely focused on two considerations: Can you move sediment downstream/what are the impacts? If transferring sediment downstream is acceptable, what is the cheapest way to do it with the least overall impact? Dan mentioned that water held up during flooding in 2018 became silt-laden and covered farmland with silt. Dan noted as much as 3-4" of silt deposited with a shift back to native grasses in that area. Darci said she was interested in the use of sediment for building materials, as is being done in Iowa, but noted she had heard that Tuttle sediment was generally not acceptable for that purpose. Dan suggested that mycorrhizae-treated soil could be used like a fertilizer. Laura discussed lost storage volumes in Tuttle and noted Tuttle contributes more to flood control, water supply, and navigation support than the other six reservoirs in the basin combined, preventing \$12.4 billion in damages. Josh noted that the KWO is in the process of completing a Tuttle bathymetric survey that will confirm lost

storage, but the current estimate is approximately 48% of multipurpose storage has been lost to sedimentation.

Laura moved on to water supply measures and strategies. Greg mentioned the possibility of a modification to low-flow targets, noting that Black & Veatch has done some investigation for the WAD that would be beneficial to include in the study. Sarah mentioned Bowersock was in the process of cleaning out their power house, and there was a huge amount of sediment in the flume. Sarah expressed an interest in potentially using a smaller-scale WID operation to remove the sediment. Laura moved on to discussion of water quality measures and strategies, including BMPS, HABs, reallocation/repurposing of reservoir storage to water quality, and operational opportunities. Laura noted that the ultimate study outcomes will be recommendations with the final report serving as a strategic roadmap and planning document that identifies the sequencing of priorities in the basin. Laura specified that the study won't directly initiate implementation projects. Greg noted that the RAC has a goal of utilizing flows for maintaining water quality downstream, not just minimum releases. Laura noted the Corps wants to continue talking about the potential for such an effort and what is in the best interest of the state. Greg mentioned that there also financial considerations with state control of that storage. Laura outlined the upcoming study schedule, noting the Final Watershed Study Report milestone meeting is anticipated in Fall 2023. Laura also provided additional information on the upcoming small group workshop the RAC is invited to, explaining it would occur in late fall/early winter 2020. A Doodle poll will be sent out to schedule that meeting. Laura encouraged the RAC to think about the measures and actions they would take to address issues in the Kansas River Basin. Greg noted that there were 7-8 subgroups at the small group workshop in Wichita. Greg suggested it might be beneficial to have subgroups on day one of the upcoming workshop and come together on the second day. Laura responded that the plan was to do something similar to the previous workshop, likely with 4-5 breakout groups, making sure everyone has an opportunity to comment on all of the focus areas. Referring to Sarah's previous comment about Bowersock sedimentation, Dan suggested he could connect Sarah to a hygienist with an air pressure system that might work well for Sarah's sediment issue. Sarah mentioned the possibility of bringing in pictures of the sediment accumulation. Darci asked about the funding situation for WID. Josh replied that the originally appropriated \$660,000 for SFY21 was expected to be reduced due to COVID-related budget impacts. However, the revised funding amount had not yet been finalized. Dawn expressed a desire to coordinate RAC Goals with KRRFSS. Laura noted that the study group has seen the RAC's draft Goals, but should probably make sure there aren't any goals missing from the study. Laura mentioned the possibility of linking to the RAC Goals within KRRFSS documents. Dawn stated that the RAC would like to formally submit their Goals to KRRFSS once they are official. Josh noted the RAC could submit a formal message for KRRFSS when the Goals were officially approved by the KWA. Josh encouraged the RAC to think about what Goals aren't being represented sufficiently in the study and to discuss them at the upcoming small group workshop.

- b. BMP Subcommittee:** Marlene provided an update of recent efforts by the BMP subcommittee. The subcommittee met on September 10. Marlene asked for feedback from the RAC regarding ongoing subcommittee efforts. Marlene noted they had accomplished the goal of having representation on the NRCS technical committee with Glenn and Marlene participating. Glenn attended the Kansas technical meeting in September. Marlene noted the subcommittee is trying to get involved in NRCS sourced water protection efforts as well. Marlene mentioned that the group has been talking about BMP implementation on federal land around reservoirs. A Perry Reservoir field visit with KDWPT had been scheduled for that purpose, but was postponed due to weather. Marlene referenced an Action Item in RAC Goal 3 to make a

list of BMP implementation programs for landowners and agencies that was current and readily available:

The KWO shall take the lead to create a partnership list of all BMP implementation programs available to the public from Federal and State agencies, natural resource organizations and other groups. This list will be created and shared via a website hosted by KWO as well as in a 1-page flyer (or multiple page booklet as needed) that will be made available to the public. This information will be updated in real time on the KWO website and quarterly on the flyer by KWO staff and distributed widely to all agencies and partners for use and distribution. This document will be a key means to inform the public about all available cost share and technical assistance available for BMP implementation.

Marlene noted it was a big task to gather all of the necessary information and keep it up-to-date. The subcommittee discussed what the list should look like, where to post it, and how to gather the needed information at the previous meeting. Marlene mentioned that some RAC members had been given assignments for the task, such as talking to other agencies and programs to understand what is out there. The subcommittee has talked about sending a letter to all agencies about the project to get their input. Marlene noted the group wants to develop a standardized way to prevent the information. The final product will be submitted to the KWA, through the KWA operations committee. Marlene mentioned that, as a WRAPs coordinator, she was consistently asked about where to get such information. Marlene asked the RAC for thoughts and ideas. Greg asked if the subcommittee had talked with the Kansas Farm Bureau about hosting the info on their website. Marlene responded that the group wants to host the information on one website and have other sites link to that information. Greg noted it would be beneficial to have KFB make their members aware. There was some discussion about new RAC Goal 4 (natural solutions) and how the KWA responded to it. It was suggested that the group should think about natural solutions, providing information about what is being used and what opportunities exist. It was recommended that the RAC get all interested parties together to discuss natural solutions once the RAC Goals are officially approved to discuss opportunities, including grants and outside funding sources. KDHE's cover crop program was mentioned, and Amanda Reed (KDHE) stated that the interseeders for the program were purchased through SRF loan. Amanda noted there are a lot of opportunities with private organizations that KDHE could share.

- c. **Funding and Governance Subcommittee:** Sarah provided an update of recent efforts by the Funding and Governance Subcommittee. Sarah explained that the subcommittee has been thinking about how to generate and spend funds regionally for water issues, and Brad has been working on drafting potential legislation for such efforts. Sarah noted that the Blue Ribbon Task Force is at a standstill, and the group is trying to continue making progress. Sarah mentioned the possibility of modifying existing legislation, specifying the Kansas Reservoir Improvement Act as a potential candidate. Sarah noted a desire to layer organizations into efforts to protect water quantity and quality. The subcommittee has some concerns about over-complicating the situation and is trying to consider the implications of any proposed actions. Sarah noted the complex issues involved. Greg mentioned the extensive discussion at the previous KWA meeting regarding basin transfers, noting that it revealed a regional approach is necessary to reduce conflict. Greg stated that there is need for a regional solution. Brad stated that the focus is identifying and generating additional money, not adding to the bureaucracy of the situation. Brad noted that the act being modified is already on the books, but not being utilized. Brad expressed a need to think about funds generated and who manages them. Sarah noted that the situation is very complex. The subcommittee does

not want to alienate anyone and wants the approach to be done right. Greg shared three guiding goals the subcommittee is using to focus their efforts. Dawn noted that the group has worked hard and had several meetings on the topic. Dawn pointed out that these issues have existed for some time and are difficult, stating that the proper approach will take some time to figure out. Greg mentioned that the WAD is a consortium of water users that came together to solve concerns about drought. Legislation had to be passed to create that group. Greg questioned why a similar (non-profit/independent) approach couldn't be used in this situation for water quantity and water quality considerations, noting that similar efforts have been accomplished in the past.

- d. Additional RAC business:** Dawn concluded the subcommittee discussions, pivoting to additional RAC business. Dawn noted that the Perry Reservoir field day scheduled for October 28th had been canceled due to weather and would be reschedule in spring 2021. Dawn also mentioned the need to talk about the RAC's project prioritization matrix. Dawn, Greg, Marlene, and Josh will be meeting to refine the matrix with a goal of sharing it with the RAC early next year. Dawn opened up the meeting for any public comments.

IV) Agency or Public Comments

- a.** Allyn Lockner (public) stated that he had several comments and questions related to RAC business:
- Allyn noted the RAC has talked a lot about streambank stabilization. Allyn questioned if, given the fluctuations in natural lake/reservoir levels, there are issues related to reservoir bank stabilization and if those considerations are being included in the streambank stabilization efforts.
 - Allyn questioned if the region is properly organized to achieve its water goals.
 - Allyn suggested the RAC contact regional legislators, noting that there will be a new group for the 2021 session that will need to be educated on RAC goals and initiatives.
 - Allyn suggested a list be developed of unfunded issues that could be used to tell people how additional funding would be spent in the region.
- b.** In response to Allyn, Andrew Lyon (KDA-DOC) agreed that there is potential for erosion to occur on reservoir banks. Andrew mentioned that the primary purpose of reservoirs is flood control, which results in significant fluctuations that cause erosion. Andrew noted there is not a great way to address the issue currently, but suggested planting trees to stabilize the bank where it makes sense and working with KDWPT. Andrew also suggested thinking about potential measures for low-lying fields.
- c.** In response to Allyn, Greg noted that the state is divided into 14 Regional Advisory Committees (RACs), so some of the state organizational considerations needed to achieve regional water goals are already in place.

V) Upcoming Meetings:

- a.** Governor's Water Conference (November 9th-10th – Virtual)
- b.** Kansas Water Authority meeting (December – GoTo Meeting)
- c.** Next Kansas RAC meeting (February – Doodle Poll)
 - i.** Subcommittees will continue meeting through the winter

- VI) Adjourn:** Dawn adjourned the meeting with no further business at 11:11 am.