

9 am Friday, February 21, 2020
Evergy Professional Development Center, 801 NE Hwy 24,
Topeka, Kansas 66618

Members Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Present</i>
Brad Bradley	Overland Park, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2021	No
Leslie Holthaus	Beattie, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Marlene Bosworth	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	No
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	Yes
Dawn Buehler, Chair	Eudora, KS	Recreation	2023	Yes
Rick Bean	Topeka, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2023	Yes
Sarah Hill-Nelson	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce	2023	Yes
Heath Horyna, V-Chair	Topeka, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	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
Adam Bauer	Washington, KS	WRAPs	2023	Yes
Greg Wilson	Olathe, KS	Water Assurance District	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
Steve Adams	KDWPT	Andy Lyon	KDHE
Amanda Reed	KDHE	Savannah Khan	KWO
Tracy Streeter	Burns & Mac	Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO
Rob Reschke	KDA-DOC	John Reinke	KDWPT
Josh Olson	KWO	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Chair, Dawn Buehler. Self-introductions were given around the room. Josh Olson, KWO, will assume the Planner roll beginning at the next meeting and he gave a little background; heavily involved with Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study (KRRFSS) and Water Dredge Injection (WID) along with other issues in the Kansas basin.
- II) **Safety Review:** Heath, Evergy, talked about spring cleaning as our safety tip for the meeting. He reminded us to not rush through projects and always have a buddy, be mindful of tripping hazards, eliminate oily rags, property contain cleaning supplies and dump items that hold rain water.
- III) **Review of December 9th meeting notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.
- IV) **RAC Business:**
 - a. Review of the December 19th KWA meeting in Salina. Dawn led this discussion with items of importance including Equus Beds Chloride Plume, Performance-Based Budget and the Arbuckle Study.
 - b. Review of the Legislative Visits. Dawn, Darci, Sarah and Greg participated in these, all with positive feedback on fully funding the State Water Plan (SWP). Greg mentioned that in one of his visits the Legislator wanted to add more money to the SWP. Following the legislative visits, a RAC Chair meeting

was held at KWO. Dawn attended and said the SWP will be updated in 2020, supposed to happen every 5 years. The updated version will mesh with the Vision along with RAC Goals and Action Plans to provide a more comprehensive plan. She mentioned the budget updates today and in April are being provided so that the RAC is better informed to provide feedback at the June meeting. Also, there were some Legislators that wanted a tour of Milford and Tuttle Creek. Dawn went through the timeline for Goal and Action Plan adjustments, drafts completed by August, delivered to KWA for approval in December and 5 Goals is the optimum number for each RAC.

- c. Review of the January 29th KWA meeting in Topeka. Dawn stated there were some conversations with the Lt. Governor the previous day about having the Governor attend water related meetings, she did show up and spoke a few words of encouragement. Darci mentioned the Governor's listening tour in Johnson County that she and other had participated steering the breakout groups to water issues. Items on the agenda that stood out were the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) presentations by Liz from KDHE and Ted from KBS, the Burns & Mc study and the budget information.

V) **Follow up from the September 9th Meeting:**

- a. **Update on Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) funding sources: Dingell-Johnson (DJ) and Pittman-Robertson (PR)** was given by Steve Adams, Natural Resource Coordinator. Steve mentioned that KDWPT is almost entirely funded through fees, have had some general fund money in the past, 2012 was the last year for that transfer. PR is a federal excise tax, started in 1935, on hunting and outdoor equipment that is collected and returned to the state to fund wildlife management. DJ is a federal excise tax, started in 1950, on fishing related equipment that is collected and apportioned out to the states by land mass and participation. These funds are used for administration of the state's fish and wildlife. There are also about 100 active grants that KDWPT uses to fund activities. Annually the state receives approximately \$5 million from DJ to fund salaries at state fishing lakes, hatcheries and boating. PR funded approximately 25% of the 2019 budget with another 3-4% coming in from Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) for the Tourism Division of KDWPT. Dawn asked about management of public land around the federal reservoirs. Steve stated typically the USACE or BOR owns these properties and KDWPT leases them for management activities. Most of the Ag leases are competitive bid however there are a few priority leases. Leslie asked about producers paying cash rent even though the land was inundated, Steve said yes. Dan thought most of them had crop insurance. Steve mentioned the loss of park revenue due to flooding this past year and Greg asked about FEMA reimbursement. Steve said this is a long process and there are lots of infrastructure repairs. Heath asked about the impact of HABs, Steve said there has been no real damage to fish or wildlife however it does limit access so that reduces revenue as well. Adam mentioned that management of the areas is a local responsibility and the manager Milford is eliminating crop production below a certain elevation. Steve brought up the Coast Guard funding and that it takes a 50/50 match for these dollars and sometimes these funds are returned. Sarah wanted to know if there was a way for communities to help secure these funds and Steve said the actions she suggested had failed. Dawn brought up continuous cover to help protect the reservoirs however this could be a revenue loss. Adam injected information on a WRAPS project that they are working on to show producers that the recent deposited sediment on federal land doesn't have to be disturbed and that a cover crop can be established. Andy stated that WRAPS funding could be used on federal land. Steve was not comfortable answering specific area questions so Ryan Stucky, KDWPT, will be invited to the next RAC meeting to explain this.

VI) RAC Business Continued:

- d. **Review of Budget Information/Water Plan:** Bobbi, Chief of Planning, led this discussion and her presentation is available [here](#). This information was presented at the January 29th KWA meeting and is meant to inform the RACs on the budget process. Bobbi talked about where the funding comes from for the State Water Plan (SWP) Fund (fees/taxes), shortfalls from State General Funds (SGF) and Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF), about \$78 million since 2009. For 2020 there was \$4.5 million from SGF and EDIF that were added to the SWP. She stepped back to talk a little about the Vision and funding recommendations by the Blue-Ribbon Funding Task Force, restoration of the \$8 million from SFG and EDIF and 1/10 of 1% state sales tax to fund the \$55 million annual implementation needs. She showed a slide of water use, mostly municipal east and irrigation west. Sarah wanted a different color for non-consumptive industrial water use. Bobbi stated the idea behind this is to look where SWP revenue is being generated and where that revenue is being spent. There was also a breakdown of the funding into 5 areas to better see where the funding is going for each county. This was compiled to put funding/region as well. The idea is to make sure SWP is tied to Action Plans. There was some discussion on Aid to Conservation Districts and how that it is a blended fund and this should be broken out to give a more accurate picture. Rick asked the value of the long-term obligations. Bobbi also mentioned there will be a webinar where the agencies will be providing more information on how these particular funds are being used. No date has been set yet. The idea behind all this budget information is to get the RACs better informed so they can provide more informed budget input in June. Reviewing a budget handout, a lengthy discussion followed with Josh providing information on the background, current status, potential cost and expected benefits of WID. Dawn mentioned she had heard the figure of 8% storage loss in Tuttle Creek from the 2019 flooding, Dan stated it will be at least that much in 2020. Heath suggested there needs to be more information made available on WID so good decisions can be made.
- e. **Subcommittee Reports:**
1. **Funding and Governance:** Sarah led this discussion saying her subcommittee had met with Earl in January to discuss some of their ideas. They would like to see a reorganization of units of state government the deal with water, trying to make it more efficient. She thought this might be a second term issue for the Governor. Sarah stated everything is tied to funding and we need to know the intentions of the KWA. Darci would like to see an affirmation from the KWA on funding moving forward. This will be a message drafted by Tj and approved by the RAC to be sent forward to the KWA. The subcommittee will present at the next RAC meeting on how other states are making a single unit of government that deals with water issue work.
 2. **BMP:** Dawn led this discussion in Marlene's absence. She said the committee had not met since the last meeting however they had done a good deal of work on Goals #3 and #5. With this the group launched into review of the goals.
- f. **Review of Goals and Action Plans:** The discussion lasted most of the afternoon. Josh did a great job adjusting these to reflect the ideas of the RAC, modified Goals and Action Plans have been sent out to the RAC for review prior to the April meeting. Goals #2 and #4 will be addressed at the next meeting

including any possible new goals. Some information needs to be gathered on water supply lakes and sedimentation rates prior to that meeting.

- g. **Milford RCPP update:** Tj showed a presentation that was given at the February Jewell County Annual Conservation District meeting, available [here](#). The RCPP is off to a good start with over 20,000 acres enrolled last year in practices to reduce phosphorous loading into Milford Reservoir with an annual goal of 31,000 lbs. One of the slides showed the practices to be implemented in 2020 illustrating a lack of practices in Clay County. Targeted mailing will be delivered to that area along with other outreach. The 30+ partners are assisting producers financially to help develop better soil health and improve their bottom-line buy funding some of the practices up to 90%. Funding may be used up before the 5-year program is over so producers are encouraged to apply now.
- h. **Feedback reports from RAC members:** Dawn mentioned she had recently given the PowerPoint to a group that she was confident would carry the message to their legislators.

VII) **Agency or Public Comments:** There were no comments at this point of the meeting.

VIII) **Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. **Vision Meeting?** Tj explained this a meeting to invite public comments on the current RAC Goals and Action Plans. The recent meetings have not been very well attended. The idea is to get this conducted in the next month with the assistance of RAC members on possible dates and locations. Dawn thought attendance might do better if the meeting was done in conjunction with another meeting.
- b. **Next KWA meeting, April 14th, Hutchinson, KS**
- c. **Next Kansas RAC meeting (end of March or first part of April, Josh will send Doodle Poll)**
- d. **Meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm**