



Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

April 9, 2018
Westar Professional Development Center, 801 NE Hwy 24,
Topeka, Kansas 66608

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	Yes
Marlene Bosworth	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	No
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	Yes
Dawn Buehler	Eudora, KS	Recreation	2019	Yes
Blake Follis	Topeka, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2019	Yes
Sarah Hill-Nelson	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce	2019	Yes
Heath Horyna	Topeka, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2021	Yes
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	Yes
Sharon Schwartz	Washington, KS	WRAPs	2019	No
Greg Wilson	Olathe, KS	Water Assurance District	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Representing</i>
Bruce Wells	Salina	NRCS
Andy Lyon	Topeka	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Amanda Reed	Topeka	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Dave Jones	Manhattan	KS Dept. of Ag, Division of Conservation
Nina Meyer		Washington Co. Conservation District
Judy Boltman	Topeka	Shawnee Co Conservation District
Katie Tietsort	Topeka	Kansas Dept. of Ag – Division of Water Resources
Leslie Holthaus		Marshall Co. Conservation District
Allyn Lockner	Topeka	Public
Matt Unruh	Topeka	Kansas Water Office
Kirk Tjelmeland	Topeka	Kansas Water Office

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting started a few minutes after 1pm, called to order by Chair Brad Bradley. Brad had everyone around the outside of the room give self-introductions.
- II) **Review of January 18th Meeting notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.
- III) **Follow up from January 18th Meeting:**
 - a. Update on programs in Region by Bruce Wells, Assistant State Conservationist-NRCS. Bruce delivered a power point presentation that is available [here](#). In his presentation the first couple slides broke down the state into Areas and those Areas into Management Units, not every county has an NRCS office. Funding for conservation practices in FY2018 totaled \$18,583,000 with the bulk of this funding Grazing Lands Health and Livestock Waste practices. Most of the Practice ranking is set at the national level however

Membership: Sarah Hill-Nelson, Lawrence, KS; Marlene Bosworth, Sabetha, KS; Brad Bradley, Overland Park, KS; Glenn Brunkow; Dawn Buehler, Eudora, KS; Blake Follis, Topeka, KS; Heath Horyna, Topeka, KS; Daniel Howell, Frankfort, KS; Darci Meese, Lenexa, KS; Katie Miller, Wichita, KS; William Ramsey, Leawood, KS; Sharon Schwartz, Washington, KS; Greg Wilson, Olathe, KS
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there is some local influence through local work groups and the Kansas Technical Committee. Slide #8 in the presentation showed EQIP and RCPP practices that have been funded and those that are planned through 2020 in the region along with the total dollar value associated with the practice. Bruce stated that from 2015-2017 NRCS for the Kansas Region had 390 contracts with Water Quality contracts topping the list at nearly \$5.5 million. The top practice in the region is still terraces. In response to a question Bruce stated that NRCS funds can be used on state managed property however the length or term of the leases might be different and so a producer wouldn't want to participate. A question was raised about the percentage of the state that is covered by a Conservation Plan, Bruce and Conservation District representatives in the room thought it was a large percentage but couldn't give an exact figure.

IV) RAC Business:

a. Subcommittee Reports:

1. **Funding and Governance:** Sarah led this discussion and presented a power point (ppt) that is available [here](#). The draft presentation was produced for RAC members to deliver to interested groups to help build up a constituency that was informed and hopefully moved to promote funding of water issues. The ppt will be edited by Sarah's committee and another draft prepared for Brad to present at the KWA on April 18th. Some of the suggestions were to: improve the images, more bullet points, fewer words, add RAC goals and add details on what additional funding would be used for. Sarah also presented a draft candidate survey to establish the position of candidates on funding of the Blue Ribbon Task Force recommendation. There was a good deal of discussion on this with two camps: good idea and not the RACs responsibility. Brad will take this to the KWA and see how they feel about this. The consensus of the group was that the question needs to be asked but not sure who should be doing the asking.
2. **BMP and KBWM system:** Dawn led this discussion with a two page handout, available [here](#), detailing their involvement with the Milford RCPP. They are participating in two of the three workgroups: Conservation Practice Implementation and the Education & Outreach. Dawn thought WaterOne is doing a great job on the Education & Outreach portion. She also reported that their subcommittee has been working with David Hoover, USACE, and Dustin Mengarelli, KDWPT, on property around federal reservoirs. They are expecting some more information from Mr. Hoover regarding property leases.
3. **Education and Outreach:** Heath led this discussion about media outlets and who the group is targeting and the message to deliver. Consensus of the group was everything they do or attend is an education and outreach opportunity. Funding is the key issue and there will be little or no movement on water related issues until that is resolved. Having Jason, KDA, present at the next RAC meeting would be a good way to see where the Education piece of the Vision is and where the RAC ties into this.

- b. **State of the Resource (SOTR) document:** Tj led this discussion presenting the most current version of the document. Tracy and Earl are currently reviewing this draft and their comments will be addressed and a final document will be available soon. All 14 SOTR documents will be rolled statewide and one or two needs of each RAC will be highlighted. The feeling of the group was that having a link to the document in

the ppt that is being prepared, producing a fact sheet and publishing it on the KWO website would be sufficient for this year.

- V) **Update on the Milford Lake Watershed RCPP:** –Tj led this discussion with printed materials available [here](#). The RCPP is laid out in the most recent Waterfront: \$2.88 million of EQIP dollars over the next 5 years with 28 partners contributing a little over \$4 million, some in-kind and some cash. These dollars will be spent on conservation practices that limit nutrient and sediment loading into Milford Reservoir. There have been monthly partner meetings along with the three workgroup meetings to get this up and running. KWO should have a contract in hand by July of this year. Prior to this, work spent by partners doesn't count towards their proposed match so we can't get too far ahead of ourselves.
- VI) **Agency or Public Comments:** Allyn said since the meeting was running long if anyone wanted to hear his comments they could just email him.
- VII) **Upcoming Meetings:**
- KWA meeting April 18th Lenexa, KS
 - Next Kansas RAC meeting (Doodle poll-morning meeting at this location in July)
- VIII) **Meeting Adjourned:** With no further business Brad adjourned the meeting.