

Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Monday December 9, 2019
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	Yes
Leslie Holthaus	Beattie, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Marlene Bosworth	Sabetha, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	Yes
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	No
Darci Meese	Lenexa, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
William Ramsey	Leawood, KS	Planning, Restoration and Protection	2021	Yes
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>
Laura Totten	USACE	Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Jennifer Henggeler	USACE	Troy Munsch	NRCS
Tracy Streeter	Burns & Mac	Kay Heley	WaterOne Board
Ely Sprenkle	KDWPT	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Chair, Brad Bradley. Self-introductions were given around the room.
- II) **Safety Review:** Heath, from Evergy, passed out a sheet of the Top 10 Holiday Safety Tips which can be found [here](#). He relayed a story about overloading an electrical circuit, with this being the Christmas season please check all lights and wiring. Heath proceeded through the top ten list and instructed people to be careful.
- III) **Chair Transition:** Brad handed the Chairpersonship over to Dawn. Brad was presented with a small token of appreciation for his work on the RAC and for Kansas water issues.
- IV) **Review of the September 9th:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.
- V) **Follow up from the September 9th Meeting:**
 - a. **Update on the Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study** was given by Lauren Totten, Project Manager/Planner from USACE. The presentation she delivered is available [here](#). Laura mentioned that the Shared Vision statement was developed by the three partners and tries to capture the idea behind the study in a single sentence. The three primary focus areas are: flood risk management, sediment management and reservoir operations with multiple other considerations. There has been a considerable

amount of time spent on the Outreach and Public Involvement with the meeting before Governor's Water Conference, two public meetings last week and two this week. Written comments can be sent to Josh Olson at the Water Office or Laura or use the Kansas Water Office (KWO) website to submit comments, [here](#). There was a lengthy discussion on multiple topics ranging from what will happen to the final report to BMPs above federal reservoirs. Brad moved that the RAC submit comments on the study and Heath seconded it. Dawn will work with Tj to provide a set of RAC comments. The new brochures and comment cards were distributed.

- b. **Reservoir Allocation:** Jen Henggeler, USACE Economist, led this discussion and her presentation is available [here](#). She talked about the authority the USACE has to store water for Municipal and Industrial (M&I) uses in federal reservoirs. There are three avenues to reallocate water use from one purpose to another: Federally funded using Operation and Maintenance (O&M), Cost-share using investigations such as the current basin study or Solely funded through water user contributed funds like a Public Assistance to States (PAS) study. Jen showed a schematic slide of a reservoir showing the various pools of a reservoir with water supply being a portion of the conservation pool. She also showed the pools of Milford and Perry to illustrate the volume of water that available in each pool. The idea of obligating water supply storage to water quality storage is something that might be possible through the KS River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment study. She also spoke about pool rises in federal reservoirs which is not possible in any reservoir with a 1, 2 or 3 Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC). However, all four of the federal reservoirs in the Kansas Region are a class 4. Jen showed the price tag for a pool rise in a class 3 reservoir, over \$5 million.
- c. **Funding Sources (DJ & PR):** Steve Adams was unable to attend but will present at the next meeting.

VI) RAC Business:

- a. **November 7-8th Governor's Water Conference:** Tj led this discussion asking the committee what they thought of the conference in the new Wichita. The overall consensus seemed to be that they liked the Manhattan location better. However, there were really good speakers especially Jill Wheeler from Syngenta. Greg liked the idea of having to walk through the vendors. The committee would like to see the Governor more involved in the conference and water issues.
- b. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 1. **Funding and Governance:** Sarah led this discussion saying her subcommittee had met and had developed some ideas. She and Earl had had a phone conversation on her way into the meeting this morning with the intension of getting the subcommittee together to talk through their ideas. There was a lengthy discussion that followed with Sarah expressing a high level of frustration about the lack of accomplishments from many RACs. She thinks the future of water supply is the single most important issue facing the state. Others expressed concerns about who is advocating for water in Kansas, KWA or KWO? A long-term funding solution needs to be developed and, in the meantime, the bottled water tax should be implemented. The idea of limiting layers of bureaucracy could simplify water issues. Tj will send out the proposed budget to the committee. With tax revenues up this year might be the time to ask for more than the statutorily required \$8 million from SGF and EDIF. The group thought an additional goal needed to be added concerning a dedicated funding source.
 2. **BMP and KBWM system:** Marlene said her committee had met and worked on Goals #3 and #5 as well as the KBWM. Her subcommittee took the points out of the KBWM and established the 5 Watershed Principles which can be found [here](#).

These principles will be used as a guide to all the RAC goals and Marlene asked for members to review and make suggested edits. A lengthy discussion followed on the rewrite of Goal #3 with the major changes being: **To achieve watershed plan goals within the next 50 years in the Kansas Region through implementation of watershed best management practices.** Other minor changes were made and a final version will be review by the entire RAC. Time did not allow for the RAC to review the work the subcommittee had done on Goal #5 however Marlene encouraged the group to review this before the next meeting.

3. **Feedback reports from RAC Members:** Brad mentioned that he had presented to the Johnson County Commission with WaterOne present and there was some discussion about the slide in the series that states when demand will exceed supply. WaterOne has the Missouri River for supply so they don't have a supply problem. Dawn has a presentation coming up and would like the version with the adjusted slide, this will be sent to the entire RAC. There was a discussion on presenting at several Annual Conservation District meetings targeting some specific areas. Leslie would like to have someone come and present at the Marshall County meeting.

VII) Agency or Public Comments: Troy mentioned the Kansas Technical Committee (KTC) and would like to have the name of someone to set on that. Marlene volunteered to take Katie Miller's place with Brad serving at the backup.

VIII) Upcoming Meetings:

- a. KWA meeting, December 19, 2019, Salina, KS
- b. Vision meetings have been put on hold with public comments being taken on-line [here](#). Turn-out has been limited at the meetings that were held.
- c. KWA meeting, January 28-29, 2020, Topeka, KS
- d. Next Kansas RAC meeting (Doodle Poll 2nd and 3rd week of February) longer meeting
- e. Dawn adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm