

Kansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday April 9, 2019
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	Yes
Glenn Brunkow	Westmoreland, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	Yes
Dawn Buehler	Eudora, KS	Recreation	2019	Yes
Blake Follis	Topeka, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2019	No
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>
Judy Boltman	Topeka	SN Co. Conservation District
Brian McNulty	Manhattan	USACE - Tuttle Creek
Brian Twombly	KC	USACE – Water Management
Nathan Westrup	Topeka	KWO
Andy Lyon	Topeka	KDHE
Katie Tietsort	Topeka	KDA-DWR
Tom Stiles	Topeka	KDHE
Chris Shultz	Topeka	KWO
Matt Unruh	Topeka	KWO
Allen Lockner	Topeka	Public
Rob Reschke	Manhattan	KDA-DOC
Amanda Reed	Topeka	KDHE
John Wunder	Oskaloosa	JF Co. Conservation District
Kirk Tjelmeland	Topeka	KWO

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chair Brad Bradley. Self-introductions were given around the room.
- II) **Building Safety:** Heath gave the safety briefing for the building and a short safety talk about spring fever reminders, lawn and outdoor equipment checks.
- III) **Review of January 14th Meeting notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.
- IV) **Follow up from the January 14th Meeting:**

Membership: Brad Bradley (Chair), Overland Park, KS; Katie Miller (Vice Chair), Manhattan, KS; Sarah Hill-Nelson, Lawrence, KS; Marlene Bosworth, Sabetha, KS; Glenn Brunkow; Dawn Buehler, Eudora, KS; Blake Follis, Topeka, KS; Heath Horyna, Topeka, KS; Daniel Howell, Frankfort, KS; Darci Meese, Lenexa, KS; William Ramsey, Leawood, KS; Sharon Schwartz, Washington, KS; Greg Wilson, Olathe, KS
KWO Planner: Kirk Tjelmeland, 785-368-8149; kirk.tjelmeland@kwo.ks.gov

- a. **Changes to the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Program** were given by Amanda Reed, from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The presentation is available [here](#). A couple large changes have been made with more emphasis on delisting of water bodies (S21) EPA reporting and reallocating funds to high priority projects. The new funding approach reclassifies projects into Active or Partnership. The Partnership projects will compete annually for a pot of money around \$300,000 using the Watershed Plan as the guiding tool and BMP funding based on efficiency. The Kansas Region falls within the Active category, green on map slide #8 in ppt. The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) will be the grant coordinator for all of the Partnership projects. Active projects will develop a strategic plan with the help of KDHE to attack TMDL's and work on delisting water bodies. KDHE has been out and met with the Stakeholder Leadership Teams (SLTs) as they are scheduled through the winter months. There was considerable discussion following the presentation about Point and Non-Point sources, would KDHE be able to delist some streams and would the established SLTs go away. The group indicated that this focusing resource is a much better way to run the program.
- b. **Municipal Nutrients** was given by Tom Stiles, from KDHE. The four page document of terms and values is available [here](#). He stated that the Waters of the US (WOTUS) will have very limited impact on what KDHE is attempting to accomplish. Using the WRAPS map Tom restated the green areas are the most important and mostly agricultural which means we need to continue to educate individuals on controlling inputs that will boost their bottom line. On the municipal side KDHE continues to work with cities to help them improve their 12 month rolling averages especially if they are modifying plant operations. At low flow point sources like city releases drive the system however at higher flows the reservoirs drive the system contributing a good deal of nutrients to the system. Water Quality releases from the reservoirs increase flow but will increase nutrient level as well. The idea of implementing BMP's higher in the watershed is cheaper than urban work and more impactful, the City of Wichita is experimenting with this. Tom talked about oil, gas and road salt on impervious surfaces and the problem salt is causing in the northern states. There was also discussion of reclaiming phosphorus from waste treatment plants and marketing this to producers, since there is not a limitless supply.

V) **Missouri River Flooding:**

- a. **Impacts to Kansas River Basin Reservoirs:** Brian Twombly led this discussion with additional comments from Brain McNulty. Their presentation is available [here](#). Brian previewed the current conditions noting that Tuttle Creek was almost 40' over conservation pool or 50% of Flood pool. However in 1993 Tuttle Creek was 22' higher than it currently is when they started releasing 60,000 cfs. Milford, Perry and Tuttle Creek are all storing water in their flood pools at different percentages due to the inability to release water with flooding at Waverly Missouri. As the Missouri River drops there will be small releases from the Kansas Reservoirs starting with Tuttle Creek, this could be a while depending on flows in the river. Brian explained Phase I, II, III and surcharge for the three reservoirs and how the system works maintaining Kansas River elevations at certain points. Timing is part of this with time of travel for water released from a certain reservoir to reach a gage at a certain time. Brian switched to the Missouri River and talked about the big piece of the watershed that is uncontrolled and a much of the recent flooding came from the uncontrolled portion. The six mainstem reservoirs on the Missouri are 16% into Annual Flood Control, not even close to the maximum levels established in 2011. Gavins Point Reservoir is the smallest of the six and is currently releasing 55,000 cfs and will continue to do this for some time. Both Brians said it would take months to move all this water through the system including the forecasted snow melt. There was a good deal of discussion of how this was similar to the flooding of 1993. Brian McNulty noted that year Tuttle Creek filled and was lowered several times before the large event that filled the reservoir.

- b. **Animation of Kansas River Basin Reservoirs:** Chris Schultz led this short discussion with a couple animations. One was of the four reservoir elevations in 1993 and then the same four reservoirs with current elevations. Those presentations are available [here](#). There were more questions about the 1993 flooding. As long as Waverly Missouri is above 130,000 the possibility of moving water out of the Kansas Reservoirs is slim. The last slide of Brian's presentation give some good numbers for comparison sake.

VI) **RAC Business:**

- a. **January 30th Legislative visits:** Greg led this discussion stating that Education of the current Legislators on waters issues is critical. Sarah said this has to be a ground up education with the ppt that was created being a great opportunity to do this. There are serious issues this legislative session has to tackle (school funding and Medicare expansion) these limit the traction of any other issue. With the Agriculture Committee working on water issues it is more important than ever to educate these folks. Greg thought it would be good to have some legislative representation on each of the RACs.
- b. **January 31st KWA meeting:** Marlene attended this meeting for Brad and led this discussion, referencing her notes that are available [here](#). Marlene mentioned the three new department heads: Mike Beam (KDA), Brad Loveless (KDWPT) and Patty Clark (Dept. of Commerce). Also mentioned the Missouri RACs study of groundwater hand how that could be important in her area with increased irrigation. There was a considerable amount of time spent explaining the use of bathymetric surveys to the KWA. An update was given on the Milford RCPP which we will have also have update on shortly.
- c. **Subcommittee Reports:**
1. **Funding and Governance:** Sarah said her committee hadn't met but intend to have a short meeting right after the RAC meeting. She encouraged RAC members to think about who they want to present to. Greg thought we should use Brad Loveless and his water knowledge to help with this. Brad added that he has done several presentations and they are fun.
 2. **BMP and KBWM system:** Marlene said they hadn't met either but are meeting after the RAC meeting as well. They would like to meeting again with either David Hoover or Dustin Mengarelli to see what is happening on new contracts.
 3. **Education and Outreach:** Heath said he was glad the other two subcommittees hadn't met because they hadn't either. Brad would like this subcommittee to work with State of Resource release and possible presentations at Annual Conservation District Annual meetings.
- d. **Budget Update:** Matt led this with the spreadsheet available [here](#). On the sheet there are two columns, one of FY2020 Governor's recommendations and the other of Conference Committee recommendations. When the legislator comes back after its break they will be working on this. Big increases from column one include: **KDHE**-Contamination Remediation, adding Drinking Water Protection, **KDA**-Water Resources Cost Share, CREP, Livestock Research and **KWO**-Assessment and Evaluation. These additions total nearly \$1.5 million over the Governor's recommended budget. Legislators have some work when they come back from recess.
- e. **Feedback from RAC members:** Marlene wanted to make sure the group gets out to see a stream bank site in person. Greg asked if Earl was confirmed yet, no, and mentioned there will some changes to the KWA. There was talk about Herb Graves and what the State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW) does and that we need to get him at the next meeting.
- f. **Milford RCPP Update:** Matt led this discussion stating that through the two cutoff periods there had been 44 applications submitted. He didn't know what practices the applications were for or their dollar value or how many acres they covered. It was expected that the first contracts will hit the ground in July and there will be some tweaks for the second year of the program to make it even better.

- VII) Agency or Public Comments:** Rob Reschke, Department of Conservation (DOC), mentioned that he thought Mike Beam would be a great addition to the agency with his background with KLA. Rob also wanted to make sure the stream team is aware of our next meeting, site visits.
- VIII) Upcoming Meetings:**
- a. KWA meeting, April 18, 2019, Abilene, KS
 - b. Next Kansas RAC meeting, Monday, June 24th
- IX) Meeting Adjourned:** Brad adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.