

Monday September 9, 2019
Westar 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, Chair	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	No
Dawn Buehler	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	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>
Laura Totten	USACE	Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Rob Reschke	KDA-DOC	Allyn Lockner	Public
Earl Lewis	KWO	Nate Westrup	KWO
Josh Olson	KWO	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Chair, Brad Bradley. Self-introductions were given around the room.
- II) **Safety Review:** Heath, from Westar, reminded everyone that in front of the office is back in parking, a much safer way to exit the parking lot incase of an emergency. He also wanted us to be mindful of our surroundings as we drive, especially pedestrians.
- III) **Review of the June 24th Meeting notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed and approved as written.
- IV) **Follow up from the June 24th 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 gave is available [here](#). Laura mentioned that this study has been in the works for years but not funded. This \$3 million study is a 75/25% match with the Kansas Water Office (KWO) and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) as partners. An Advisory Committee has been formed with Darci and Greg participating in the first committee meeting on August 26th. A webpage is under construction on the KWO website and can be found [here](#) that lists important information about the study. Laura went on to explain that the study is designed to collect public input on a variety of issues in the Kansas River Watershed, develop a Shared Vision statement with 3 primary focus areas (Flood Risk Management, Sediment Management and

Reservoir operations). The soon to be formed Technical teams will develop and evaluate strategies and alternatives related to those issues. She emphasized that input will be sought from a wide variety of user groups with several different ways to solicit input. She also stated this is not an implementation document. The Sustainable Rivers Project (SRP) was brought up and will be a small piece of this study. Darci suggested there be some type priorities put in place since this study has limited funding.

- b. **Review of RAC Goals #1 & #2:** Nate Westrup, from KWO, gave this presentation. Which is available [here](#). He talked through a slide showing the impacts of navigation releases from Milford and Perry. With the purchase of all the storage in these reservoirs navigation releases wouldn't be an option for the USACE. Navigation releases modeled through the drought of record show limited impact to reservoir storage. However, the USACE would use Tuttle Creek water more often, releasing up to 6' for navigation. There is some financial advantage to paying off the storage loan early. Sarah thought this would be a good way to push for money in the State Water Plan Fund. It would cost approximately \$500,000/year for Perry and approximately \$315,000/year for Milford to purchase the Future Use Storage. There was an extensive discussion on who would pay for this. Nate brought up the idea of Forecast Informed Reservoir Operation that is being used in California using current conditions to help guide the use of the reservoirs not necessarily a plan that must be adhered to. Greg mentioned that the Water Assurance District (WAD) has enough water right now, with only a 1% growth, more efficient use and the coal fired power plant being costlier to operate holding a big water right. Nate also talked about the reallocation of some water to Quality Pool to meet downstream targets and it was suggested that someone from the USACE to visit with the group about allocations.
- c. **Goal #1:** The group moved on to recrafting the goals. For Goal #1 it was rewritten to say: *Increase water storage capacity and availability in federal reservoirs. Beginning in 2020 purchase all available storage in federal reservoirs (15-year option) to secure an adequate water supply to maintain water quality in the region. Simultaneously, pursue a reallocation of water to quality pool to potentially reduce the amount of the mandatory purchase. Also pursue Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations with the USACE.* The draft rewrite was moved by Sarah, seconded by Dawn with no discussion and passed unanimously.
- d. **Goal #2:** Goal #2 was rewritten to say: *Explore additional storage possibilities for construction of small multipurpose lakes so that new water sources can be brought online to alleviate specific regional issues.* The draft rewrite was moved by Dan, seconded by Greg with no discussion and passed unanimously.

V) RAC Business:

- a. **September 3-4th KWA meeting:** Brad stated there were three main items he took away from the meeting; investigation of salt water from the Arbuckle formation seeping into drinking water sources, State Water Plan budget and New Member appointments.
- b. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 1. **Funding and Governance:** Sarah said we need to draft an additional goal that makes long-term guaranteed funding a goal. She thinks we need to revisit the recommendation by the Blue-Ribbon Funding Task Force of 1/10 of 1 percent tax to fund water concerns in Kansas.
 2. **BMP and KBWM system:** Marlene said her committee had met and were working on goals that directly related to her committee. She mentioned the success of the 2nd year of the Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative (KRPI) 244 applications with the bulk of these in Marshall Co. totaling \$788,165.51. Funding for KRPI is expected to grow for next year. She also brought up the Milford

RCPP and her frustrations with the lack of NRCS participation on a recent partner phone call. There is a total of 19 contracts totaling \$1.1 million which is nearly half of the \$2.2 million that was set aside for NRCS Financial Assistance for the 5-year project. The majority of this funding is set to be used for cover crops.

3. **Education and Outreach:** Heath would like to shake up the committees since he has lost members and been unable to get together. Brad wanted to make sure this committee continues to work towards the State of the Resource document and also presentations at Annual Conservation District meetings.
4. **Feedback reports from RAC Members:** Brad mentioned that he had presented at the Sierra Club and stayed after to answer questions for at least 45 minutes.

VI) Agency or Public Comments: Allyn Lockner provided 5 points that he wanted to emphasize: Compatibility between region goals, Population growth in region, Increasing water quality, Would we be buying storage or sediment with storage purchase in federal reservoirs and Water quality and quantity are inseparable.

VII) Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Governors Water Conference, November 7-8th, Wichita, KS
- b. Next Kansas RAC meeting, Monday, December 9, Evergy Professional Development Center, Topeka
- c. KWA meeting, December 19, 2019, Salina, KS
- d. Brad adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am

VIII) Field Trip to Shane New's Farm