

1:00 pm, Tuesday, July 27, 2021
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library and GoTo Meeting

Members Attendance:

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

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Amelia Nill	KWO	Kristen Kloft	KDA-DOC
Josh Olson	KWO	Dave Jones	KDA-DOC
Cara Hendricks	KWO	Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Connie Owen	KWO	Travis Sieve	KDHE
Debra Jones	KWO	Chris Jassen	KDHE
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO	Jaime Wilson	KDHE
Allyn Lockner	Public	John Reinke	KDWP
Robert Atchison	KFS	Chris Steffen	KDWP
Laura Totten	USACE	Jack Fitzgerald	NRCS
Gary Satter	Glacial Hills RC&D	Mandie Lang	Pheasants Forever
Matt Hough	Ducks Unlimited	John Cleland	Renew West

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by RAC Member, Brad Bradley (Fish and Wildlife).
- II) **Review of May 26th meeting notes:** The meeting notes from the May meeting were discussed. There were no additions or correction. Will Ramsey (Planning, Restoration and Protection) moved, Rick Bean (At Large Public) seconded, and the notes were approved as written.
- III) **RAC Business:**
 - a. **FY22 SWPF Budget Update:** Cara Hendricks, Assistant Director KWO, led the discussion with a [PowerPoint](#) highlighting the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) appropriations for 2022. Cara reviewed how the SWPF is utilized and funded as well as the \$8 million transfer. Cara also described the programs that are funded through the SWPF and which agency they are operated by. One line item Cara noted was the addition of a Soil Health Program operated by KDA. Cara ended her presentation by bringing up the

RAC's previous year's FY22 budget recommendation memo as a reminder of the programs supported in the past.

- b. FY23 RAC Budget Recommendations:** Amelia Nill (KWO) displayed the [FY22 RAC Budget Recommendations memo](#) from the previous year to provide as a starting point for discussion. Brad Bradley (Fish and Wildlife) suggested to add a statement of support for the Soil Health Program in place of support for the purchase of reservoir storage. Brad also asked a question on the reason why there are two line items for nonpoint source pollution programs. Dave Jones (KDA-DOC) and Travis Sieve (KDHE) provided insight on the two nonpoint source pollution programs. Brad suggested adding a fourth point to the budget recommendations stressing the importance of supporting nonpoint source pollution programs from both agencies. Darci Meese (Public Water Supply) expressed that the purchase of storage space within reservoirs is something that will have to be addressed, and suggested to keep that point in the budget recommendations. Sarah Hill-Nelson (Industry/Commerce) agreed with Darci's point. The RAC decided to continue support for Conservation BMPs in watersheds, purchase of storage in reservoirs and funding for experimental Water Injection Dredging (WID) and add support for funding of Soil Health programs as well as funding for nonpoint source programs under KDHE and KDA. A motion was made by Darci and seconded by Rick Bean (At Large Public) to approve the FY23 RAC Budget Recommendations. The FY23 Budget Recommendations were approved unanimously.
- c. Ducks Unlimited's Wetland Conservation Programs in Kansas:** Matt Hough (Ducks Unlimited) provided a presentation on the purpose of Ducks Unlimited and the organization's activities within the state of Kansas. Matt highlighted the importance of wetlands and mentioned specific water projects going on in the state, such as flood abatement, phreatophyte control and beaver dam analogs.
- d. Pheasants Forever & Water Resources:** Mandie Lang (Pheasants Forever) provided a presentation overviewing Pheasants Forever's purpose and mission in Kansas. Mandie explained activities Pheasants Forever participates in such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.
- e. Financing Restoration with Environmental Markets:** John Cleland (Renew West) presented on Renew West's mission and how leveraging environmental markets can be beneficial for Kansas. He emphasized that growing environmental markets can create a mechanism which finances the restoration of water supply needs. John mentioned that first steps for this kind of project would be a feasibility assessment.
- f. BMP Subcommittee Update:** Amelia gave an update to the RAC in place of BMP Subcommittee Chair, Marlene Bosworth (Conservation/Environment). Amelia stated that this week or next, RAC members should send any final comments regarding the BMP Resource Document to her email and to cc Marlene. Additionally, she said that Marlene has drafted a letter to send to agencies requesting them to review and approve their respective sections within the Resource Document. Once agency sections are approved, it is planned to present the document to the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) for approval and likely host the document on the Kansas Runs on Water website.
- g. Funding & Governance Subcommittee Update:** Sarah reported on recent Funding & Governance Subcommittee activities, mentioning the subcommittee members' desire and reasoning for a push for action in regard to a permanent standing water committee. Sarah stated that the subcommittee would like to submit a second message to the KWA acknowledging their recent actions and recommending again

that the KWA advocate for a permanent standing committee on water. Josh Olson (KWO) mentioned that the KWA had sent a letter to the House Water Committee to support an interim session and that the upcoming August KWA meeting was planned to coincide with the House Water Committee interim session. Darci asked if call-in information will be provided for the House Water Committee interim meeting. Connie Owen (Director, KWO) answered yes, there will be a live broadcast of the meeting. Sarah emphasized the importance of water as a resource for the state and that the subcommittee feels it is essential for a standing committee to exist within the Legislature. Darci expressed support for the proposed message to the KWA, stating that it makes sense to have an entity to float ideas directly to. Rick also expressed support of the message, saying that a standing committee could help with the understanding of the many issues and funding mechanisms surrounding water. Brad wondered if this message could be circulated to all RACs in Kansas. Sarah suggested next steps may be requesting meetings with other RACs to discuss the proposal at hand. There was a motion by Sarah and seconded by Brad to approve the message and send it to the RAC Operations Committee. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

h. Additional KWO Updates:

- i. Kirk Tjelmeland (KWO) provided the RAC with an update on the RAC membership process. He said that RAC membership applications will be taken to the RAC Operations Committee for review. Once reviewed, all RAC applicants will be notified of their status.
- ii. Kirk also gave an update to the RAC on the current status of the Kansas Water Plan update. He mentioned that KWO staff are working to have a draft ready to present to the KWA at their upcoming meeting in August. Pending KWA approval, the Kansas Water Plan will then be open for public comment.

IV) Agency or Public Comments:

- a. Allyn Lockner (Public) shared several thoughts and opinions for the RAC to consider. First, he stated that water funding throughout the state is not as effective as it could be. He suggested that a fundamental reorganization could help with this and that an examination of a joint Water Committee within the House and Senate should take place. Second, Allyn brought up that the responsibilities for water are scattered within state government. He suggested that it could be beneficial for all water responsibilities to be distilled into one agency, a Department of Water Resources, headed by a Secretary of Water.
- b. Josh Olson (KWO) stepped in for Laura Totten (USACE) who had to leave the meeting early. He shared that the Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study (KRRFSS) group has been working on the measures and strategies portion of the study and is starting the process of getting feedback on measures for more focused areas. Josh noted that the Kansas RAC had been identified as a good fit to start the process and that it would be a valuable opportunity for the RAC to ensure their Goals and perspective were included in the study. Josh told the RAC to expect an email from Laura Totten in the near future to further detail the feedback opportunity and schedule a future meeting with the RAC

V) Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority meeting (August 17th – Garden City and GoTo Meeting)
- b. Next Kansas RAC meeting (August/September – Doodle Poll)

VI) Adjourn: Brad moved to end the meeting. The meeting was adjourned with no further business at 3:39 pm.