



Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m., February 27, 2018
Miami County RWD No. 2 Office,
25290 Harmony Road,
Paola, KS 66071

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Lori Kuykendall (Chair)	Lyndon, KS	WRAPS	2019	Yes
Keri Harris (Vice-Chair)	Ottawa, KS	At-Large Public	2021	Yes
Gary Armentrout	Centerville, KS	Public Water Supply	2021	No
Ron Brown	Fort Scott, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Wes Cole	Osawatomie, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Paul Ling & Stewart Kasper	Kansas City, KS	Water Assurance District	2019	Yes
Dan Riney	Ottawa, KS	Public Water Supply	2019	Yes
Allan Soetaert & Jerry Bennett	Gardner, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Gayla Speer	Wellsville, KS	Agriculture	2021	Yes
Larry Walrod	La Cygne, KS	Planning and Zoning	2021	Yes
Lyle Wobker	Paola, KS	Agriculture	2019	Yes
Scott Yeargain	Ottawa, KS	Conservation/Environment	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Katie Tietsort	KDA/DWR
Nathan Law	MdC WAD & PUA
Travis Sieve	KDHE
Don George	KDWP&T
Rob Reschke	KDA/DOC
Lesley Rigney	Hillsdale WRAPS & MiCo CD
Alexandra Davis	KWO
Chris Shultz	KWO
Nathan Westrup	KWO
Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00a.m. by Chairperson, Lori Kuykendall. All present provided self-introductions. Lori thanked Jerry Bennett and Miami County RWD No. 2 for hosting the meeting.
- Review of October Meeting Notes:** The minutes from the October meeting were discussed. There were no additions or corrections.
- MdC RAC Goals Update:** Nathan Westrup and Chris Shultz (KWO) gave an update on the MEKRO Modeling and the RAC goals as they pertain to water supply. As an update from the SOTR presentation, municipal and industrial demand projections and water supply management were discussed. Projections for each of the three federal reservoirs were assessed by looking at Lake Level Management Plans (LLMP), reduced sediment, and

Membership: Lori Kuykendall, Chair, Lyndon, KS; Keri Harris, Vice-Chair, Ottawa, KS; Gary Armentrout, Centerville, KS; Ron Brown, Fort Scott, KS; Wes Cole, Osawatomie, KS; Paul Ling, Kansas City, KS; Dan Riney, Ottawa, KS; Allan Soetaert, Gardner, KS; Gayla Speers, Wellsville, KS; Larry Walrod, La Cygne, KS; Lyle Wobker, Paola, KS; Scott Yeargain, Ottawa, KS
KWO Planner: Bobbi Luttjohann, 785-296-3185; bobbi.luttjohann@kwo.ks.gov

pool rise possibilities. Costs associated with building a new federal reservoir and conducting a pool rise were discussed. Nathan and Chris asked for feedback from the RAC about how they would like to approach working in the RAC goals and adequately securing water supply for the Region. They mentioned a report will need to be drafted to summarize needs for the Region and what each possible alternative could achieve and any costs associated.

Evaluation of smaller PWS lakes in the Region was also discussed. Nathan explained that currently they are being assessed, but have been delayed due to staff changes. However, the preliminary results have shown that most of the demand in the Region is being met.

Population, rate structures, growth by county, and projection changes were also discussed. Part of this discussion was for HAWC to review their demand projections through 2050 or possibly beyond.

It was suggested to model the increase in demand in specific areas to show what population booms may entail for certain areas, possibly showing a 1%, 5%, and 10% increase in growth.

It was noted that at the current growth projections, requesting and paying for a reallocation study and purchasing additional storage is not cost effective. However, sedimentation reduction is something that should be currently pursued to help with water supply and water quality. It was also mentioned that runoff from the intermodal should be looked at. It was noted that local governments have a larger impact on zoning and planning appropriately to reduce impacts of construction, runoff, etc.

At this time the RAC agreed to leave to goals and action plans as they stand and have HAWC review their projection demands and come back to the RAC at a later date with this information. It was also agreed to by the RAC to continuing looking at the smaller PWS lakes to ensure all areas of the entire Region have adequate supply now and into the future.

- 4. WRAPS, Conservation District, and RAC Project Coordination:** Travis Sieve (KDHE) gave an overview of soil health and how collaboration between the RACs, WRAPS, and CDs can accomplish the RACs goals to reduce sedimentation, secure water supply, improve conditions for producers, and reduce costs for PWS. Travis proposed that the RAC work with the local WRAPS and CDs to help with potential projects, in the areas of education, demonstration, and promoting producer and elected official participation.

The RAC agreed that involving both producers and elected officials is critical. The RAC thought having bus tours and hands-on activities and events would be beneficial. The DOC stated they have funds for soil conservation education grants that may be a possibility to use. The DOC stated that at the next RAC having examples of projects and speakers may be useful.

To begin involvement of the RAC with soil health and cover crop field days, it was suggested that the RAC attend and encourage participation on the March 15th DGCO field day and the March 16th MICO field day.

Scott Yeargin (Conservation/Environment) offered to help host a field day on rotational grazing and will work with Keri Harris (Vice-Chair & At-Large Public) to plan this. Lori Kuykendall (Chair & WRAPS) also mentioned that she will work to setup a field day in Osage County. Both Travis Sieve (KDHE) and Rob Reschke (KDA-DOC) will assist with these.

A review of the Education Supplement to the Vision progress was also given at this time. Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO) reported that the statewide ad campaign is still being worked on and that a teacher workshop focusing on western water resources will be held in June.

5. **State of the Resource Event:** Lori Kuykendall (Chair) and Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO) discussed the SOTR event that was held on December 6, 2017 at the Paola Town Square and sponsored by HAWC. Bobbi reported that a total of 58 people participated and that there were speakers from the KWO, KDHE, KDWP&T, and KRWA.
6. **Legislative, Funding, and Water Resource Updates:** Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO) reported that Ginger Harper (KWO) had put together an update and that it was sent out in an email on February 26th. If there are any questions, she will pass them on to Ginger.

This is the update that was given: The Kansas Legislature has wrapped up their first two months of the 2018 calendar. Earlier in the session, members of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) and Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) met with more than 100 legislators to discuss priorities for the \$8 million State General Fund/Economic Development Initiatives Fund (SGF/EDIF) transfer. KWA Chairman Gary Harshberger also testified before three committees, highlighting the 2018 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature.

There are several pieces of water-related legislation that were given hearings in various committees, but only two were considered by the full House and Senate. One bill which has passed the house favorably is HB 2691. This bill, as amended, would change the deadline to file an application for a multi-year flex account (MYFA) with the Chief Engineer from on or before October 1 to on or before December 31, of the first year of the MYFA term for which the application would be made. The Senate passed SB 194, which would permit groundwater management district boards to increase the maximum water withdrawal charge from \$1.50 for each acre-foot to \$2.00 for each acre-foot. In addition, the bill would eliminate a provision of current law that permits the boards of groundwater management districts to assess a greater annual water withdrawal charge if more than 50 percent of the authorized place of use of the water is outside the district.

The appropriations process will continue into March, as the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee has met to consider the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) budget, and will make a recommendation to the full House Appropriations Committee next month. The Senate Ways and Means Water Subcommittee will meet the week of March 5th to discuss the SWPF. We continue to hear from numerous legislators that water is an important issue they want to address this session.

7. **Questions and Future Issues from Members:** None at this time.
8. **Agency and Public Input:**
Frank Guilfoyle (KCC): was not able to attend the meeting but sent in the following report to be relayed to the RAC: The KCC has finished plugging 15 wells north of Rantoul. The wells had been cut off and buried years ago and were close to the Marais des Cygnes River, and in the floodplain. There is also one well left on the project that is going on in Anderson County.

Don George (KDWP&T): reported that the KDWP&T works on populating fresh water mussels and are currently raising them at the Farlington Fish Hatchery. He also reported that KDWP&T works with many landowners, producers, and state and federal agencies, and that in all their work they find what is good for the soil and water is also good for wildlife.

Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR): reported that March 1st is the deadline to turn in Water Use Reports.



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Rob Reschke (KDA-DOC): reported that if the RAC ever needs information from the DOC about their programs, the water plan fund, or any of the other areas they work with, the DOC would be happy to provide that.

9. Future Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority: April 18, 2018, Lenexa, KS
- b. MdC RAC: The next meeting will be held in June. A doodle poll will be sent out to find the best date.