



Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

GoTo Meeting

Members in Attendance:

| Name | City | Category | Term | Present |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| Keri Harris (Chair) | Ottawa, KS | At Large Public (cc) | 2021 | YES |
| Lyle Wobker (Vice-Chair) | Paola, KS | Agriculture 2 | 2023 | YES |
| Gary Armentrout | Centerville, KS | Public Water Supply 3 | 2021 | NO |
| Ron Brown | Fort Scott, KS | Conservation/Environment (cc) | 2021 | YES |
| Lori Kuykendall | Lyndon, KS | WRAPS | 2023 | YES |
| Paul Ling | Kansas City, KS | Water Assurance District | 2023 | YES |
| Michael Mix | Fort Scott, KS | Industry/Commerce (cc) | 2023 | NO |
| Mike Mabrey | Edgerton, KS | Public Water Supply (cc) | 2023 | YES |
| Gayla Speer | Wellsville, KS | Agriculture (cc) | 2021 | YES |
| Don Stottlemire | Rantoul, KS | At Large Public 2 | 2023 | YES |
| Larry Walrod | La Cygne, KS | Planning and Zoning | 2021 | YES |
| Scott Yeargain | Ottawa, KS | Conservation/Environment 2 | 2021 | YES |
| VACANT | | Public Water Supply 2 | 2023 | |

Others in attendance:

| Name | Agency |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Don George | KDWPT |
| Matt Unruh | KWO |
| Chris Steffen | KDWPT |
| Daniel Merkh | Public Works, City of Edgerton |
| Gary Koons | KWO |
| Angela Anderson | KWO |
| Bobbi Luttjohann | KWO |
| Patrick Martin | USFWS-MdC National Wildlife Refuge |
| Cara Hendricks | KWO |
| Earl Lewis | KWO |
| Connie Owen | KWA |
| Dave Jones | KDA-DOC |

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:01pm by Chairperson, Keri Harris (At-Large Public). Keri took roll call. Keri thanked everyone for joining the meeting.
- Agenda:** Larry Walrod (Planning and Zoning) moved to accept the agenda. Lyle Wobker (Agriculture 2) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Review of June Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the June meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections.

Membership: Keri Harris, Chair, Ottawa, KS; Lyle Wobker, Vice-Chair, Paola, KS; Gary Armentrout, Centerville, KS; Ron Brown, Fort Scott, KS; Lori Kuykendall, Lyndon, KS; Paul Ling, Kansas City, KS; Michael Mix, Fort Scott, KS; Mike Mabrey, Edgerton, KS; Gayla Speer, Wellsville, KS; Don Stottlemire, Rantoul, KS; Larry Walrod, La Cygne, KS; Scott Yeargain, Ottawa, KS
KWO Planner: Angela Anderson, 785-296-3185; angela.anderson@kwo.ks.gov

4. RAC Budget Discussion/Recommendations to KWA:

Earl Lewis, Director KWO, led the discussion with a [powerpoint](#) highlighting the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) appropriations for 2020/2021. Earl said it appears as if the Governor will pull back approximately \$2.8 million that had been slated for SWPF. In his powerpoint he discussed the budget categories covering issues such as Groundwater Initiatives, Water Quality, and Reservoir Water Supply & Sedimentation. Earl shared graphs and charts that illustrated expenditures that specifically benefitted the Marais des Cygnes basin.

The RAC members asked questions of Earl Lewis and Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) in order to help formulate a Budget Recommendation message to the KWA Budget Committee.

The RAC laid out two potential recommendation messages. Larry Wolrod (Planning and Zoning) moved to have Angela Anderson tidy up the track changes to the draft messages, send them out to the group to review, and set up a meeting in one week for further discussion and a vote. Gayla Speer (Agriculture) seconded the motion. Bobbi reminded the group to not reply all and for individual RAC Committee members to send messages to only the Chair or Angela. The motion passed unanimously.

The two draft messages read:

The Marais des Cygnes RAC supports the proposed budget and would like to highlight the following line items as priorities that are important to fund in order to accomplish and carryout the first two MdC priority goals and actions plans:

- * Non-Point Source Pollution (KDA),
- * WRAPS Program (KDHE),
- * Water Resource Cost Share (KDA),
- * Aid to Conservation Districts (KDA),
- * TMDL Initiatives (KDHE).

The MdC RAC supports the consideration of funding for the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program within the KDWP&T as it is currently a third priority goal. The funding should support public education about ANS, as well as resources to allow the KDWP&T staff to conduct boat checks at recreational lakes and engage with lake users.

Extreme flooding events, such as what occurred in 2019, and the flooding effects on the MdC Watershed, warrant funding for the goals and action plans of the MdC RAC.

The Marais des Cygnes RAC supports the proposed budget. All goals and action plans are important to our RAC. Recently, the MdC RAC added Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) as a third priority goal and encourage funding towards this program within the KDWP&T. If funding is limited, the following five are our top funding priorities:

- Non-Point Source Pollution (KDA)
- WRAPS Program (KDHE)
- Water Resources Cost Share (KDA)
- Aid to Conservation Districts (KDA)
- TMDL Initiatives (KDHE)

Extreme flooding events, such as what occurred in 2019, and the flooding effects on the MdC Watershed, warrant funding for the goals and action plans of the MdC RAC.

5. Questions and Future Issues from Members:

Keri Harris asked when the RAC would need to meet again. Bobbi answered that due to the RAC having completed its Goals/Action Plans and reported to the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) already, they would not need to meet in August. The next meeting could potentially be in September or October.

Connie Owen (KWA) thanked the RAC for their input and work on the RAC.

Don George (Kansas Department Wildlife, Parks & Tourism) discussed the importance of trying to stay ahead of Aquatic Nuisance Species for the health of Kansas waters.

6. Agency and Public Input:

Cara Hendricks (KWO) informed the group that the date for the next KWA meeting is yet to be determined and that the Governor's Water Conference has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

There was no public input.

Larry Walrod moved to adjourn. Ron Brown seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:46pm.

7. Future Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority Meeting: TBA (GoTo Meeting)
- b. MdC RAC: Date: TBA after Doodle Poll