

Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

June 4, 2019
City Hall
Study Session Room
101 S. Hickory Street
Ottawa, KS
10:00am

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	No
Vacant		At-Large Public	2021	
Paul Ling (David Beuhler)	Kansas City, KS	Water Assurance District	2019	Yes
Dan Riney	Ottawa, KS	Public Water Supply	2019	Yes
Allan Soetaert	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	No
Scott Yeargain	Ottawa, KS	Conservation/Environment	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Don George	KDWP&T
Frank Guilfoyle	KCC
Taylor Herman	KCC
Rob Reschke	KDA-DOC
Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Chuck Finley	JOCO WD No.7
Tracy Streeter	Burns & McDonnell
Earl Lewis	KWO
Savannah Smith	KWO - Intern
Chris Shultz	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 everyone for attending the meeting and Dan Riney and the City of Ottawa for hosting the RAC.
- Review of February Meeting Notes:** The minutes from the February meeting were discussed. There were no additions or corrections.

3. **KWA April Meeting Report: Earl Lewis (KWO)** reported on the KWA meeting that was held on April 18th in Abilene. Earl reported the KWA discussed the budget and Vision update process. Earl also reported that the Water Marketing rate was set at the meeting and the KWO is working with the City of Lawrence concerning their Water Marketing contract. Earl noted that the KWA discussed WTFs in Western Kansas, including issues they were experiencing due to weather, etc. The KWA also discussed the issues with PFOS in PWS, including the recent issues in New Mexico concerning the cleaning of chemicals leaking into groundwater and the effects that had on local dairies. Earl noted that the EPA will most likely have new guidance coming down in a few years in reference to PFOS.
4. **WRAPS, Conservation Districts, and RAC Field Day on July 1st: Lori Kuykendall (Chair & WRAPS)** reported on the workshop that is being cohosted by the RAC, along with CDs and WRAPS groups that will be held in Pomona on July 1st. Lori asked that the RAC members to please help publicize the event. Scott Yeargain (Conservation/Environment) noted there is workshop on the Dung Beetle being held the same day in Ottawa.
5. **RAC Membership, Chairmanship, Expiring Terms: Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO)** reported that the deadline to submit applications for RAC membership was May 31st. Bobbi also reported that the RAC had received three new applications for membership. She then explained the process for application review and appointment to the RAC by the KWA. Earl Lewis (KWO) discussed new appointments on the KWA and how that process works. He then noted that the KWA Chair appoints the RAC Chairs.
6. **RAC Goals and Action Plan Discussion: Bobbi Lutjohann (KWO)** presented a PowerPoint on the process of updating the RAC's Goals and Action Plans. The RAC then went through the Goals and Actions Plans and they, along with other attendees at the meeting, had the following suggestions, questions, and comments:

Priority Goal #1: Reduce cumulative sediment loads entering public water supply impoundments by 10 percent in the Marais des Cygnes River Basin every 10 years to extend the life of existing infrastructure.

1. Do we know the cumulative load that has entered PWS small lakes?
2. The 10% is unclear and allows for mathematical ambiguity. We will be approaching zero sediment, but cannot ever reach zero.
3. Can we actually reach this goal?
4. We need to have a better understanding of it.
5. The funding and the actual facts are two parts.
6. We still have a significant loss of storage, so this is not a sustainable capacity even if the goal achieved.
7. Estimates through bathymetric surveys isn't enough.
8. While the goal may not be 100% achievable, it does drive awareness for legislators, funding, etc. in order to reduce sediment and protect water supply. So, this is not a perfect goal, but it is still useful.
9. The state of Kansas is based on performance-based funding and not a programmatic budget, so it is outcome based.

Priority Goal #2: Increase sources of supply, at a minimum of one multipurpose structure, to meet increased demand in specific growth areas by 2035. In addition, ensure water supply available from storage exceeds projected demand by at least 10% through the year 2050.

1. The modeling of the mainstem has adequate/secure water supply.

2. Hillsdale with its current projections meets the supply needs, but doesn't meet the 10% listed in the goal. However, there is uncertainty about the current population because the current growth isn't as aggressive as projected. Therefore, we need refined population projections.
3. Hillsdale doesn't have a high sedimentation rate.
4. We could make operational changes. We could begin releases to targets instead of for minimum releases and we could save storage. This would be as effective as adding storage supply.

Action Steps:

1. Continue to work with CDs and WRAPS and make use of the WRAPS 9 Element Plans for ranking and funding.
 2. There is buy-in from almost all CDs in the Region.
 3. This is working with CDs and WRAPS so more money can go towards funding projects, etc. and their collective message will more likely be heard.
 4. Funding will be a part of the goals and action plans discussion this time around.
 5. The RACs are part of the KWA budget recommendation process
 6. Need to discuss what are user groups willing to pay for.
 7. Remove the term underutilized from the wording in the action plan in reference to Hillsdale Reservoir.
 8. What is our storage and purchase situation in Melvern and Pomona? The [Surplus Report](#) has this information.
 9. Do we have enough practices in place to reduce sediment or do we need to find new supplies to secure water supply?
 10. Need to truly decrease sediment loads by 10%.
 11. Should we look at new technologies to take sediment out, i.e. Water Injection Dredging (WID)?
 12. We need to sustain storage. Sedimentation goals and action plans are buying time. However, we cannot fully stop sedimentation, but prevention is much cheaper than removing sediment.
 13. We have been doing BMPs for a long time and need to evaluate what is most effective.
 14. It is difficult to evaluate what accomplishes the highest sediment savings because there are so many variables, including changes in climate.
 15. Is building new reservoirs sustainable?
 16. Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), specifically Zebra mussels should be included in goals and action plans and the budget recommendations.
 17. ANS is a statewide problem and KDWP&T needs additional funds to address this issue.
7. **RAC Budget Information and Recommendations: Earl Lewis (KWO)** presented on the KWA budget recommendation for FY20 and FY21. Earl explained the budget recommendation process and the budget terminology and timeline. He discussed the Governor's budget and how the SWPF is utilized, funded, as well as the \$3.25 million and \$8 million transfer. Earl then went through the budget recommendations, highlighting changes from the previous fiscal year. The RAC discussed which programs and projects they felt were a priority to fund in order to accomplish the goals and actions plans for the MdC Region. The RAC then made a motion to send the following message to the KWA:

A motion was made by Dan Riney (PWS) and seconded by Ron Brown (Conservation/Environment) to send the following Budget Recommendation Message to the KWA:

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 goals and actions plans of the MdC RAC. These items include Non-Point Source Pollution (KDA), WRAPS Program (KDHE), Water Resource Cost Share (KDA), Aid to Conservation Districts (KDA), and TMDL Initiatives (KDHE). The MdC RAC would also like funding to be considered for the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program within the KDWP&T. 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.

There was no discussion and unanimous approval was given.

- 8. RAC Goals and Action Plans Information: Chris Shultz (KWO)** provided the RAC with information during their goals and actions plans discussion, as well as during their budget recommendations discussion to assist them in making decisions concerning both issues.

- 9. Questions and Future Issues from Members:**

Larry Walrod (Planning and Zoning): stated that ANS affect clean drinking water and should be included in the budget recommendations.

Ron Brown (Conservation/Environment): reported that he attended a Kansas technical meeting called by State Conservationist. Ron also noted that Karen Woodrich is the new State Conservationist with NRCS. He then reported that the NRCS has had extensive discussion on switching gears, with the new Farm Bill changing the way NRCS focuses and implements programs and funding.

Scott Yeargin (Conservation/Environment): inquired about how many KCC abandoned well plugging coordinators are in the 3rd District. Frank Guilfoyle (KCC) stated that the Chanute Office is assisting with well plugging, but there is only 1 coordinator at this time. Frank noted he is a part of the KCC field staff. Scott then discussed his filing of a civil suit with the KCC and the legislation and the continuation of funding for the abandoned well program. He noted that the MdC Region is heavily involved in the well plugging program.

Allan Soetaert (PWS): reported that the Hillsdale WRAPS will be meeting on Thursday, June 6th at 6pm. Allan then reported that the City of Wellsville is in discussion with Baldwin City to purchase water. Wellsville may also begin utilizing water held in contract with HAWC. Allan noted Wellsville is already a member of HAWC and has a contracted quantity of water they purchase.

Lori Kuykendall (Chair & WRAPS): reported that she went to the USACE public meeting concerning Melvern and Pomona Reservoirs. She noted that at the meeting they discussed that no releases were being made because of the downstream flooding issues and the state of the flood storage capacity of Truman Reservoir. Lori mentioned that some people had to be moved out from the Melvern outlet area due to the flooding and high-water levels. She also stated that some roads have been closed for precautionary measures.

- 10. Agency and Public Input:**

Frank Guilfoyle (KCC): stated that the KCC is still plugging wells, however the weather has been an issue. Frank then introduced the new District Geologist, Taylor Herman.

Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR): stated that field inspections, etc. had been delayed due to the recent flooding. Therefore, much of the field staff is focusing on municipal and industrial water right inspections and certifications.

Rob Reschke (KDA-DOC): reported that the DOC has been working on their budget and if the RAC has any funding questions to please let him know.

Don George (KDWP&T): reported that Brad Loveless was named the new Secretary of KDWP&T. Don also mentioned that it would be helpful if the RAC discussed and educated people on ANS.

11. Future Meetings:

Kansas Water Authority: July 30-31st in Goodland, KS

MdC RAC: The next MdC RAC meeting will be held in the Fall after the Goals and Action Plans Public Comment Meetings have been completed and the comments have been compiled. A doodle poll will be sent out to pick the best date. It was suggested to have presentations at the next meeting on issues such as Water Injection Dredging (WID) from the KWO and contamination issues, nitrates, and Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) from the KDHE.