

# Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00am

Thursday, January 20, 2021

GoTo Meeting

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Lyle Wobker (Chair)	Paola, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	YES
Don Stottlemire	Rantoul, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	YES
Jared Morrison	Topeka, KS	Water Assurance District	2023	YES
Lori Kuykendall	Lyndon, KS	WRAPS	2023	YES
Mike Mabrey	Edgerton, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	NO
Gary Armentrout	Centerville, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	NO
Gayla Speer	Wellsville, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	NO
Keri Harris	Ottawa, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	YES
Ron Brown	Fort Scott, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	YES
Scott Yeargain	Ottawa, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2021	YES
James DePriest	Iola, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	YES
Ray Samuel	Richmond, KS	At Large Public 3	2025	YES
VACANT		Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Angela Anderson	KWO
Lauren Campbell	KWO
Taylor Herman	KCC

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chairperson, Lyle Wobker (Agriculture 2). Lyle took roll call. Lauren Campbell (KWO Planner) introduced herself as the new planner. Taylor Herman from the KCC was in attendance.
- II. **Agenda:** Ron Brown moved to accept the agenda. Keri Harris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Review of August 2021 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the August meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections.
- IV. **Governor's Conference Review/Discussion:** Angela Anderson (KWO Planning & Outreach Lead) explained the transition of roles within the KWO, Lauren Campbell being the new planner for the Marais des Cygnes RAC. The Governor's Conference was virtual this year, and presentation recordings can be found here, [2021 Governor's Conference Presentations \(ks.gov\)](https://www.ks.gov/governors-conference-presentations). Overall the conference went well, about 500-600 people registered even with the virtual format. The hope is that the conference this year will be in person in Manhattan on November 16-17. Keri Harris (At Large Public) mentioned that she thought the virtual format

went very well up until the technical issues with breakout rooms. Angela explained that having many co-hosts for the conference contributed to this problem. James DePriest (Public Water Supply 2) was interested in the presentation on technology changes for addressing sedimentation.

- V. **January KWA Meeting and Legislative Visit Day Overview:** Angela gave an overview of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting and legislative visit plans. The Governor recommended fully funding the State Water Plan, which will be an important part of legislative visits. Seating capacity and COVID limitations could make in person attendance uncertain. The zoom link for this meeting can be found on the KWO website, [Kansas Water Authority Meeting \(ks.gov\)](#). If more people are needed to join the legislative visits, those that are within a day's drive may be contacted for this. Otherwise, Angela encouraged calling local representatives and senators, and if talking points are needed, please reach out to her. Lyle thanked Keri for being able to attend this event in his place. He also mentioned that at the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Annual conference, it was said that the KWA is recommended full funding for the KWP and RACs expressed appreciation for that. Ron Brown (Conservation and Environment) asked about the status of the funding for the Conservation Districts, and Lyle explained that the legislature will make their budget decisions typically the day after the session is over, but hopefully sooner.
- VI. **Update on Kansas Water Plan process:** Angela explained that the Kansas Water Office (KWO) is working carefully through the public comments for the Kansas Water Plan (KWP) as it is the guiding document for the KWO for the next 5 years.
- VII. **RAC Membership update:**
- Vice-Chair interest:** Lyle brought up the need for a vice chair for the RAC, and Angela explained that the vice chair is a backup for the chair in running and attending meetings. She encouraged anyone that is interested to contact herself or Lyle.
  - Industry/Commerce (cc)- 2023 position vacant:** Lyle introduced the need to fill the Industry/Commerce role, especially since it is a core category. James DePriest (Public Water Supply 2) mentioned that he put in a request at the east Kansas ethanol plant for this role and he has an upcoming meeting with them. Jared Morrison (Water Assurance District) also mentioned that he thinks other people at Evergy might be interested in this role.
- VIII. **Questions and Future Issues from Members:** James asked if others have experienced issues with the affect of extreme events on the spillways of reservoirs and the effect on the dams. Angela offered to bring in a presenter for a future meeting on this topic.
- IX. **Agency Input:** There was no agency input.
- X. **Public Input:** There was no public input.
- XI. **Adjournment:** The next meeting will be around late-March or early-April, but there could also be a meeting sooner than that. Scott Yeargain (Conservation/Environment 2) asked if there was a timeline for wrapping up comments on the KWP and he asked if there will be another open comment period for the public. Angela explained that there is no timeline on the KWP, but there is a push to get it done while the legislature is in session. The next step is for the plan to go to the KWA and she does not believe there will not be another

comment period based on statute. Scott mentioned that there were a wide variety and a great depth of comments on the KWP, and he concluded that water in Kansas is a hot topic.

**XII. Adjournment:** Lyle declared the meeting adjourned at 9:35am.

**XIII. Future Meetings:**

a. KWA – January 26-27, 2022 – Topeka, KS