



Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00am
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
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 | No |
| Lori Kuykendall | Lyndon, KS | WRAPS | 2023 | Yes |
| Jared Morrison | Topeka, KS | Water Assurance District | 2023 | No |
| Mike Mabrey | Edgerton, KS | Public Water Supply (cc) | 2023 | No |
| 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 | No |
| Scott Yeargain | Ottawa, KS | Conservation/Environment 2 | 2021 | Yes |
| VACANT | | Public Water Supply 2 | 2023 | |
| VACANT | | Industry/Commerce (cc) | 2023 | |

Others in attendance:

| Name | Agency |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Angela Anderson | KWO |
| Tisha Richardson | Morris County Conservation District |
| Kirk (TJ) Tjelmeland | KWO |
| Katie Basiotis | KDHE |
| Chris Steffen | KDWPT |
| Taylor Herman | KCC |
| Don George | KDWPT |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:04am by Chairperson, Keri Harris (At-Large Public). Keri took roll call. Keri Harris gave kudos to the KWO and KWA for their virtual meetings and the budget webinar. She was impressed by the efficiency, smoothness, and information disseminated and is appreciative of the efforts.
- Agenda:** Lyle Wobker (Agriculture 2) moved to accept the agenda. Lori Kuykendall (WRAPS) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

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; Jared Morrison, Topeka, 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

3. **Review of July 21, 2020 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the July meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections.
4. **Review of April 26, 2021 KWA Meeting:** Angela Anderson (KWO Planner) and Kirk (TJ) Tjelmeland (Chief of Planning, KWO) highlighted the KWA meeting that took place on Monday, April 26, 2021. For those who were unable to attend, the meeting materials may be found on the Kansas Water Office website. Topics covered include House Water Committee water organizational chart, RAC membership drive, RAC Operations Committee decision on a Marais des Cygnes RAC application, official approval of all of the RACs Goals & Action Plans, and an update on the progress of the Kansas Water Plan timeline.
5. **Budget Webinar Follow-Up:** Angela and TJ offered to those unable to attend the budget webinar that was hosted by the KWO on April 30, 2021 the following link.
[RAC Informational Budget Webinar \(4/30/2021\)](#)
Angela stated that during the June/July RAC meeting, the RAC members will have the opportunity to put together a formal message to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee pertaining to which budget line items support and address their Goals/Action Plans, along with any other message they would like to send to the budget committee.
6. **Kansas Water Plan Update:** Angela went through the two sections that had been on the cancelled December meeting's agenda:
 - a. **Water Quality Section**
 - b. **Education Resource Section**
7. **Draft Updated Marais des Cygnes Regional Section Overview:** Angela Anderson provided a brief overview of the draft Marais des Cygnes Regional Section to go into the updated Kansas Water Plan. The Plan will go out for public comment around the end of summer, early autumn time-frame.
The RAC members offered the following suggestions for addition to the Regional Section:
 - Change the main crop varieties grown to corn & soybean
 - Insert a description of the Intermodel expansion in the Edgerton area
 - Additional language pertaining to the flooding of Melvern and Pomona Lakes in 2019 meetings were had concerning the water being held in the lakes and a lot of damage was incurred.
 - In regards to the Bourbon County Zoning statement, the local sanitary/environment code was approved in 1992 but has not been updated since then; the planning and zoning program is now under the county clerk's office in addition to a GIS person in located in that office
 - There is a new Industrial Park that covers nearly 300 acres
 - Golden, Kansas is new city development in mid-process of being formed (9 sq. miles ~ 750 people). It still needs county commission approval, but if passed it might need supplemental water from Wellsville
 - USFWS has several impoundments in the Basin

Chairperson, Keri Harris (At-Large Public), asked for the newly approved Goals and Action Plans to be emailed so that she may share them with Conservation District District Managers. New Department of Conservation programs are directing the District Managers to their respective RAC's for guidance as to recognized priorities & issues in the areas.

8. **Membership Discussion:** Angela Anderson and Kirk Tjelmeland (KWO) informed the group that new/incumbent RAC member applications are due June 15, 2021. The KWA will approve applications after that date. They expressed their sincere appreciation for all of the time and effort put forth by the members.
9. **Questions and Future Issues from Members:** Angela posed the question to the RAC in regards to their preference for future meetings to be in-person, virtual, or hybrid. Several members spoke in favor of the virtual platform stating its convenience for lack of travel time.
10. **Agency Input:** Don George (KDWPT) expressed to the group that Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) are still an issue and concern, therefore there is still a need for funding to help mitigate the spread. He stated it is not only the angler's responsibility, it is a problem for all Kansans. Linn Valley Lake has recently joined the list of lakes with zebra mussels. He encouraged the RAC to continue to urge the need for funds in the State Water Plan. Don reminded the RAC that public waters are a big economic driver for the state.

Chris Steffen (KDWPT) added to Don's message in that it is a message that is raised at the Federal level. There are currently funds available from the Federal Government that require a State funding match. If the State of Kansas supplies funds to help mitigate ANS, sometimes the Federal portion is 75% of the funds or at the very least 50%. KDWPT is currently working with other agencies and organizations to raise ANS awareness throughout the state. He then informed the RAC of the statewide fishing derby KDWPT is sponsoring. Tagged fish are placed in identified lakes. Those tags are linked to various rewards. Visit <https://beyond.fishing/derby/> for more information.

11. **Public Input:** There was no public input.
12. **Adjournment:** Chairperson, Keri Harris (At-Large Public) declared the meeting adjourned at 11:25pm.
13. **Future Meetings:**
 - a. KWA – Tuesday, May 18th, 9:00am
 - b. Marais des Cygnes RAC – June/July – Budget Recommendation – Doodle Poll
 - c. Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas – November 17-18th