



Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

8:00am

Thursday, May 19, 2021

Rural Water District No. 7, Johnson County

534 W Main St.

Gardner, KS 66030

And 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	YES
Gary Armentrout	Centerville, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	NO
Gayla Speer	Wellsville, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	YES
Keri Harris	Ottawa, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	NO
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
Laura Hines	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	YES

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Lauren Campbell	KWO
Angela Anderson	KWO
Katie McLaughlin	KDHE
Katie Basiotis	KDHE
Levi Short	KCC
Susie Adkins	Miami County Conservation District
Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Chris Cardwell	Miami County Conservation District
Jack Fitzgerald	NRCS Salina
Kate Glanville	NRCS
Don George	KDWP
Brigham Joy	ElevateAg
Sharron Autry	Miami County Conservation District

- I. Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 8:04am by Chairperson, Lyle Wobker (Agriculture 2). Lyle welcomed everyone and stated Lesley Rigney would not be available to do the tour, but other qualified individuals would be able to take everyone around. Lyle had everyone introduce themselves for roll call since it had been quite a while since last meeting in person.

Membership: Lyle Wobker, 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; Scott Yeargain, Ottawa, KS; James DePriest, Iola, KS; Keri Harris, Ottawa, KS; Ray Samuel, Richmond, K; Laura Hines, Lawrence, KS.
KWO Planner: Lauren Campbell, 785-296-3185; Lauren.Campbell@kwo.ks.gov

- II. **Agenda:** Gayla Speer (Agriculture) moved to accept the agenda. Mike Mabrey (Public Water Supply) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Review of January 2022 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the January meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections.
- IV. **Update on House Bill 2686:** Lauren Campbell (KWO) gave a brief update on House Bill 2686. During discussion within the House Water Committee, a substitute bill was introduced and passed. This went on to the entire house, but there was no further legislative action.
- V. **Introduction and overview of State Water Plan Fund (SPWF) insights webpage:** Lauren introduced the State Water Plan Fund insights webpage on the KWO website and gave a quick overview of the website tabs and functions. She discussed the issue of full statutory demand transfers from the State General Fund (SGF) and Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) and the history those transfers. The biggest benefit of the site comes from experimenting and exploring the tool.
- VI. **Discussion on drought in the region:** Lauren described that the state has been relatively dry over the past 6 or 7 months, but in recent weeks, the eastern part of the state has had precipitation to the point where a drought is not as much of a concern. The U.S. drought monitor informs the decisions of the agencies that inform the Governor on drought conditions in the state. The Governor can then declare counties in drought conditions of watch, warning, or emergency. Back in mid-March 2022, every county in the state was declared to be in either a watch, warning or emergency. With the recent precipitation, the new update of the drought declaration map will most likely remove designations of drought in eastern Kansas.
- VII. **Update on Kansas Water Plan process:** Angela Anderson (KWO) presented an update on the Kansas Water Plan process. She described that this plan is a guiding document to the Kansas Water Office for years to come so there is much care given to making changes and responding to the comments provided back in October, 2021. The amount of comments and the quality of the comments came as a surprise so the final editing period is taking longer than expected. The new timeline for completion is going to be the end of the year.
- VIII. **Review of regional goals and action plans:** As the Kansas Water Plan is finishing completion, the region will be starting to implement the goals and action plans outlined in the plan. Angela reviewed the region's three goals:
- a. **Reduce cumulative sediment loads entering Melvern, Pomona Lake, and Hillsdale Lake by 10% every 10 years to extend the life of existing infrastructure.** While all of these reservoirs have sedimentation, the focus will be on reducing sediment in Pomona. Angela explained the map that shows the water assurance members and the water marketing customers.
 - b. **Ensure water supply storage in the Marais des Cygnes is able to supply for 110% of the projected demands through the year 2050.** Angela discussed projected water supply graphs.
 - c. **Continually work to prevent the spread of ANS including Zebra and Quagga Mussels into Kansas Lake that are not currently infested by working with the agencies focused on ANS.** The emphasis for this goal is to focus on reservoirs not currently infested. Don Stottlemire (At Large Public) asked if someone was tracking Quagga and Zebra Mussel numbers over time to see whether their efforts are curbing ANS numbers or if the problem is getting worse. Angela and James Depriest (Public Water

Supply) explained that, for Zebra Mussels at least, their population numbers ebb and flow over time on seven-year cycles so that is difficult to track.

- IX. **Discussion on Hillsdale watershed best management practices (BMPs):** This agenda item was skipped.
- X. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** James Depriest mentioned that he would be interested in hearing about how more intense weather causes damage to dam spill ways, especially more intense and more frequent weather. Lyle suggested possibly bringing in someone to discuss this issue at a further meeting.
- XI. **Agency Input:** Don George (KDWP) said the agency just watched a great presentation on ANS and he thanked the RAC for the support in the effort to combat this issue. The funds for ANS are going to be put to work thanks to the RAC.
- XII. **Public Input:** Lyle mentioned that the RAC is still looking for a vice chair if anyone would is interested.
- XIII. **Adjournment:** Lyle declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35am.
- XIV. **Hillsdale watershed field tour**

Future Meetings:

- a. KWA – June 22, 2022 – Pittsburg, KS