



# Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday October 25, 2022, 1:30pm  
Miami County RWD #2 and GoToMeeting

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Lyle Wobker (Chair)	Paola, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	YES
Keri Harris (Vice-Chair)	Ottawa, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	YES
Don Stottlemire	Rantoul, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	YES
Jared Morrison	Topeka, KS	Water Assurance District	2023	NO
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	2025	NO
Gayla Speer	Wellsville, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2025	YES
Ron Brown	Fort Scott, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2025	NO
Scott Yeargain	Ottawa, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2025	YES
James DePriest	Iola, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	NO
Ray Samuel	Richmond, KS	At Large Public 3	2025	YES
Laura Hines	Lawrence, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	YES

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
James Cubit	Pottawatomie Creek Watershed
Kaitlynn Knauss	Hillsdale WRAPS
Trenton Morris	Miami County RWD #2
Jerry Bennett	Miami County RWD #2
Don George	Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Richard Rockel	KWO
Katherine Acree	KDHE
Herb Graves	State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)
Vanessa Salazar	Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:31pm by Chairperson, Lyle Wobker (Chair).
- II. **Agenda:** Gayla Speer (Agriculture) moved to accept the agenda. Ray Samuel seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Review of May 2022 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the May meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections.
- IV. **Updates- Angela Anderson (KWO)**

**Membership:** Lyle Wobker, Chair, Paola, KS; Keri Harris, Vice-Chair, Ottawa, 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; Ray Samuel, Richmond, K; Laura Hines, Lawrence, KS.  
**KWO Planner:** Lauren Campbell, 785-296-3185; Lauren.Campbell@kwo.ks.gov

- a. **Kansas Water Plan:** Angela Anderson (KWO) announced completion of Kansas Water Plan (KWP), and it is now on our website. The next stage is implementation where RACs will be heavily utilized. Angela thanked the RAC for their help and participation in the development of the KWP.
- b. **Kansas Water Authority:** Angela gave an overview of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 where the main items of discussion were public water supply, overview of the water policy discussion on August 10<sup>th</sup>, and updates from USACE on their recent sediment study.
- c. **FY24 State Water Plan Fund:** Angela mentioned that the beginning states of developing the FY2024 budget are underway, and the January 24, 2023 legislative visits will include talking about this proposed budget.

V. **Drought Status Update – Lauren Campbell (KWO):** Lauren Campbell (KWO) provided a drought status update to the RAC. Over the course of the summer the drought has worsened fairly quickly. The last official drought declarations map was released in late June, with drought emergency status contained with western Kansas. The new released drought declarations have 67 counties in drought emergency, 11 in drought warning, and 27 in drought watch. Lauren then introduced the [Climate and Drought](#) webpage on the KWO website to access maps, tools, and updates on drought in the state. The Condition Monitoring Observer Report tool is collecting local input and reports on drought impacts to create a national map of drought conditions. Anyone experiencing drought impacts can submit a report [here](#).

VI. **Watershed Districts 101- Herb Graves (SAKW):** Herb Graves gave an overview on the State Association Kansas Watersheds (SAWK), in which the Marais des Cygnes region has 8 watershed districts. Herb explained the history, purpose, and function of watershed districts in the state, and pointed out some of the more specific details within the Marais des Cygnes region. Don George (KDWP) asked about releases for down watershed streams and public accessibility. Herb explained that minimum flow stream downstream of a watershed dam may necessitate releases, but if there is no inflow, there is no requirement of an outflow. Some districts will voluntarily go beyond this to maintain aquatic life. Watershed dams on private land, are not open to the public unless a landowner allows it to open it to the public. Don George mentioned Cedar Creek in Bourbon County as an example of a publicly accessible watershed dam that is managed by KDWP. Herb Graves also mentioned Horse Thief Reservoir in western Kansas as an example of a publicly accessible watershed dam.

VII. **Small Lake Water Supply – Richard Rockel (KWO):** Richard Rockel (KWO) presented an update on small lake water supply in the Marais des Cygnes region. Marais des Cygnes RAC goal #1 and #2 relate to water supply and data collection on sedimentation in the region, which includes bathymetric surveys on waterbodies every 5 years. This year Hillsdale Reservoir has been surveyed, but the full data analysis is still underway. Fort Scott and Bone Creek have also been surveyed and are waiting data results.

Richard discussed how population change projections factor into water supply projections and interconnections with multiple sources is a benefit for drought vulnerability. The Marais des Cygnes basin has a fair amount of PWS that are connected to a source with federal reservoir storage. Richard then talked about the state and projections of federal reservoir sedimentation with Hillsdale, Pomona, and Melvern. The new Hillsdale survey data will give an updated figure on sedimentation rate. The other aspect of projection is climate. The new WaterSMART Climate scenario model grant is in progress and is hoping to give more accurate water supply projections with climate variability considerations. Richard then displayed some of the small water supply lakes in the region and explained their situation in relation to sedimentation, projected use, and the crossover date with dependable yield.

Then discussion focused on how reservoirs have been used over the last couple of months to maintain flow targets in the basin for interstate relations and water rights. Currently, 90-100% of flows in the streams within eastern Kansas are supported by reservoir releases.

**VIII. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** There was no RAC input.

**IX. Agency Input:** Don George (KDWP) expressed gratitude to the work the RAC has done in regards to aquatic nuisance species (ANS) funding for education and control. Vanessa Salazar (KDWP) announced that KDWP hired three more ANS biologists which is over double the current team. The next step KDWP would like to take is a watercraft inspection and decontamination program in partnership with the conservation districts. Don George expressed his concern over ANS in the region and belief that this needs to be heavily addressed.

**X. Public Input:** There was no public input.

**XI. Adjournment:** Lyle declared the meeting adjourned at 3:13pm.

**XII. Miami County RWD #2 plant tour**

### Future Meetings:

- a. **Kansas Water Authority- Location TBD-December 14**
- b. **Governor's Water Conference- Manhattan, KS- November 16-17**