



Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 p.m., Monday, July 25, 2016

Melvorn Lake,

The Outlet Park Pavilion

Melvorn, KS 66510

1:00pm

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Lori Kuykendall (Chair)	Lyndon, KS	WRAPs	2019	Yes
Ron Brown	Fort Scott, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2017	Yes
Wes Cole	Osawatomie, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Mike Gilliland	Osage City, KS	At-Large Public (cc)	2019	No
Frank Grosshart	Pleasanton, KS	Agriculture	2017	No
Keri Harris	Ottawa, KS	At-Large Public	2017	Yes
Paul Ling	Kansas City, KS	Water Assurance District	2019	Yes
Richard Nienstedt	Ottawa, KS	Public Water Supply	2019	No
George Pretz	Miami County, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2017	No
Mike Mabrey (rep. HAWC for Allan Soetaert)	Gardner, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Larry Walrod	La Cygne, KS	Planning and Zoning	2017	Yes
Lyle Wobker	Paola, KS	Agriculture	2019	Yes
Scott Yeargain	Ottawa, KS	Conservation/Environment	2017	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Katie Tietsort	KDA/DWR
Gayla Speer	JOCO Conservation District
Jim Franz	USACE
Scott Rice	USACE
Nathan Westrup	KWO
Bobbi Lutjohann	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00p.m. by Chairperson, Lori Kuykendall. All present provided self-introductions. Lori thanked Jim Franz and Scott Rice (USACE) for setting up the meeting location and hosting the RAC.
- Review of June Meeting Notes:** The minutes from the June meeting were discussed. There were no corrections or additions.
- Lori Kuykendall (Chair) stated the George Pretz (Agriculture) wished to step down from his position. Lori stated that George will serve until a replacement is found. She also mentioned that the RAC could fill the Agriculture position that is currently being represented or the RAC could choose to create a new category to be represented on the RAC.

Membership: Lori Kuykendall, Chair, Lyndon, KS; Ron Brown, Fort Scott, KS; Wes Cole, Osawatomie, KS; Mike Gilliland, Osage City, KS; Frank Grosshart, Pleasanton, KS; Keri Harris, Ottawa, KS; Paul Ling, Kansas City, KS; Richard Nienstedt, Ottawa, KS; George Pretz, Manhattan, KS; Allan Soetaert, Gardner, KS; Larry Walrod, La Cygne, KS; Lyle Wobker, Paola, KS; Scott Yeargain, Ottawa, KS
KWO Planner: Bobbi Lutjohann, 785-296-3185; bobbi.luttjohann@kwo.ks.gov

Lori asked the RAC to think about possible nominations and categories and discussion would continue after the Draft Plan was discussed.

4. Priority Goals:

a. Action Plan for Priority Goals: Nathan Westrup (KWO) presented information about supply and demand and reservoir operations. After reviewing the information that was presented at the June meeting, Nathan discussed what additional modeling, population, supply, storage use, etc. work that will or could be done. Nathan will provide maps, projections, and other related information once it is finalized. That information will be sent out to the RAC through email.

b. Review of Proposed Draft Action Plan: The RAC reviewed the current draft plan that was proposed during the previous RAC meetings and via email. The RAC discussed changes offered by Scott Yeargain, via email. The RAC then discussed the drafting of the Action Plan:

A RAC representative will work with each WRAPS group within the Marais des Cygnes Region to assess their 9 Element Plan and their willingness to work with the RAC to meet the Marais des Cygnes Regional goal of sedimentation reduction. A RAC representative will also work with each conservation district within the Marais des Cygnes Region to assess their goals and their willingness to work with the RAC to meet the Marais des Cygnes Regional goal of sedimentation. If the goals of the conservation district and the 9 Element Plan of the WRAPS groups align with the RAC sedimentation goal then funding will be sought to leverage funds to meet Regional Goals. These two groups have a system in place to distribute cost share funds and to identify projects that need to be implemented to decrease sedimentation. They also provide educational opportunities for landowners.

In order to fund these efforts, the first plan of action is to not create a new funding source, but instead to ensure current funding sources are funded; we cannot continue to see funds being diverted away from water quality, water quantity and water conservation efforts within the state budget if we truly want to work to reach the goals of the RAC and the Vision. This would also include working to see that the State Water Plan Fund is funded to maximum levels and funds from the State Water Plan are allocated as they were originally intended; this should include pesticide and fertilizer fees being rerouted back into the water plan fund and therefore assisting with funding goal implementation. If these funds are not adequate, then new sources will need to be sought. These sources could include, but are not limited to applying a 1 cent/1000 fee on water used by all beneficial uses not already paying a usage fee and or a 1 to 3 cent per bottle water tax applied to bottled water sold in Kansas.

RAC members will also encourage local support of goal implementation through conservation districts, WRAPS groups, producers, municipalities, etc. This will be done through education and awareness of the RAC.

The Kansas Water Office, along with the Marais des Cygnes RAC, will evaluate cost estimates of calling-in the unallocated storage in Melvern Reservoir, as well as the evaluation of a pool rises at Pomona and Hillsdale Reservoirs with the estimated cost of constructing a new reservoir for water supply. The entire Marais des Cygnes Region's population projections will be evaluated for their supply needs to ensure that the demand can be met and exceeded by 10% through the year 2050. Both mainstem and off-stream storage supply will be evaluated to ensure all counties within the Marais des Cygnes region have their water supply needs met. The reduction of sediment loads created by the work with the WRAPS groups and the Conservation Districts to implement BMPs such as, but not limited to, cover crops, No-Till, terraces, etc. will be evaluated for these practices' potential to meet projected water needs through 2050, and, as an alternative to constructing a new storage structure. The RAC is, in effect, going to consider whether Goal 2 can essentially be met by achieving Goal 1 in conjunction with purchasing the reserve supply in Melvern Reservoir and the already purchased, but largely underutilized, supply in Hillsdale Reservoir.

A motion was made by Wes Cole (Industry/Commerce) and seconded by Larry Walrod (Planning and Zoning) to approve the Draft Action Plan to be presented to the KWA for approval. The motion was passed. There was no discussion.

5. RAC Membership: The RAC discussed nominating a new member to fill the position being left vacant by George Pretz. Keri Harris (At-large Public) suggested that the RAC include the Drainage Districts as a new category. The RAC decided to have Keri contact the members of the Drainage Districts to see if there was interest from the Drainage Districts to nominate someone to be a representative on the RAC.

5. Questions and Future Issues from Members or Agencies:

There were no comments or reports from the RAC members.

6. Agency and Public Input:

There were no comments or reports from the agencies or public.

7. Future Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority: August 31st (Tour) and September 1st (KWA meeting): Anderson Building, Lyon County Fairgrounds, 2650 US-50, Emporia, KS.
- b. Marais des Cygnes RAC: The RAC will hold a meeting following the next KWA meeting if there are changes to the Proposed Draft Action Plan recommended by the KWA. At that time a Doodle Poll will be sent out to determine the best possible date. If there are no changes or comments to evaluate from the KWA, the RAC will not plan to meet until after the Governor's Conference.