



Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 p.m., October 1, 2018

Pomona Lake

Shelter House No. 4,

Vassar, KS

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Lori Kuykendall (Chair)	Lyndon, KS	WRAPS	2019	Yes
Keri Harris (Vice-Chair)	Ottawa, KS	At-Large Public	2021	Yes
Gary Armentrout	Centerville, KS	Public Water Supply	2021	No
Ron Brown	Fort Scott, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Wes Cole	Osawatomie, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	No
Joseph Falls	Princeton, KS	At-Large Public	2021	No
Paul Ling (Stewart Kasper)	Kansas City, KS	Water Assurance District	2019	Yes
Dan Riney	Ottawa, KS	Public Water Supply	2019	No
Allan Soetaert	Gardner, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	No
Gayla Speer	Wellsville, KS	Agriculture	2021	Yes
Larry Walrod	La Cygne, KS	Planning and Zoning	2021	No
Lyle Wobker	Paola, KS	Agriculture	2019	Yes
Scott Yeargain	Ottawa, KS	Conservation/Environment	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Scott Rice	USACE
Brad Cox	USACE
Jim Franz	USACE
Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Frank Guilfoyle	KCC
Travis Sieve	KDHE
Katie Basiotis	KDHE
Dave Jones	KDA-DOC
Richard Rockel	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 the USACE for hosting and providing refreshments.
- Review of June Meeting Notes:** The minutes from the June meeting were discussed. There were no additions or corrections.
- Small PWS Lakes Evaluation Update:** Richard Rockel (KWO) provided an update of the work that has been done on the Small PWS Lakes Evaluation. Richard discussed bathymetric surveys and water supply pools for the federal reservoirs in the MdC Region. He then reviewed the bathymetric survey information that was available for

Membership: Lori Kuykendall, Chair, Lyndon, KS; Keri Harris, Vice-Chair, Ottawa, KS; Gary Armentrout, Centerville, KS; Ron Brown, Fort Scott, KS; Wes Cole, Osawatomie, KS; Joseph Falls, Princeton, KS; Paul Ling, Kansas City, KS; Dan Riney, Ottawa, KS; Allan Soetaert, Gardner, KS; Gayla Speers, Wellsville, 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

the small PWS lakes. Richard then reviewed the available population data for the counties in the MdC Region and also the water supply customers that utilize water from the mainstem MdC River.

4. **KWA Meeting Report:** Keri Harris (Vice-Chair & At-Large) reported that she attended the August 22nd KWA in Manhattan. Keri reported that it was suggested at the KWA meeting to invite legislators to all RAC meetings and events. Keri then reported that the Great Bend Prairie RAC gave a lengthy report on the roles and responsibility of the RAC members. Keri noted it was mentioned several items that the RACs are an advisory group and are not a separate standalone committee from the KWA. It is important that the RACS work with the KWA, state agencies, and the public they represent through their designated member category. Keri also reported that the Neosho RAC reported on the two WQTF they are working on in Lyon County. She then mentioned that the Solomon Republican RAC had voiced concerns for the lack of funding for an education coordinator as proposed in the Vision Education Supplement. She also reported that the Cimarron RAC stated that education and communication with public is greatest thing the RACs can do.

Keri reported that the SOTR reports and RAC Infographic Sheets were presented at the KWA. Keri then reported that the KWA Budget Committee stated that their budget recommendations were credible and have a direct benefit to water. The KWA approved the Budget Committee recommendations.

Keri also noted that she presented at the KWA on behalf of the Conservation Districts.

5. **Chairs Meeting Conference Call:** Keri Harris (Vice-Chair & At-Large Public) reported that the Chairs met via conference call on August 14th. She noted that 13 of the 14 Regions were represented on the call. Keri reported that the Kansas RAC PowerPoint was presented and can be sent out to anyone wanting to use it as a tool for presentations to disseminate information about the RACs and water issues.

Keri reported that Martha Tasker (SHS RAC) mentioned they want to have a water conservation field day in October. Fred Jones (Upper Ark RAC) mentioned that they had a water conservation field day on April 13th. Sarah Hill-Nelson (Kansas RAC) asked about the BRTF. Matt Unruh (KWO) stated the KWA will promote the BRTF and its funding options. Keri then stated that it was mentioned that RAC members should coordinate with their RAC planner and be sure to understand their roles as advisors and volunteers. Keri mentioned that some of the RACs had, or plan to have, their SOTR meetings at their areas Annual Conservation District meetings because these meetings draw a large crowd and encompass the RACs target audience. Keri then noted that many of the chairs would like to have chairs meetings, but to make sure they are a priority and not an afterthought to other meetings and/or conferences.

6. **State of the Resource Document (SOTR):** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that the [SOTR documents](#) for each region were presented at the KWA meeting in August and can now be found online. The one page infographic fact sheet for each region that summarizes the SOTR highlights will also be found online in the near future and can be used as a handout to educate people, including legislators, on the issues facing each region.

Bobbi also reported that as part of the state of the water resources in Kansas, the drought is continuing, however some areas have improved. Bobbi presented the RAC members with maps of current drought conditions, as well as maps of the improvement of drought condition since June, 2018. She also noted that the most up-to-date [Climate and Drought](#) information can be found on the KWO website.

7. **WRAPS Conservation Districts, and RAC Field Day:** Lori Kuykendall (Chair & WRAPS) discussed the field days that have been conducted in the past few months in the Region and neighboring Regions. Lori noted that the field day the RAC helps host and organize should be something similar, with producers presenting, and provide a meal for attendees. Lori and the RAC discussed how the field day, including the meal, should be funded. Lori stated she will research funding opportunities and will work with Scott Yeargain (Conservation/Environment) to

fund the meal. Lori suggested that the field could be held in the winter, possibly January, and be held at the Celebration Hall in Ottawa. If another field day is to be held in the lower portion of the Region, Lori will work with Ron Brown (Conservation/Environment) to find a location in or around Bourbon County. The RAC thought it would be beneficial to promote the field day through the WRAPS and Conservation Districts.

8. Budget Updates and Budget Process Feedback: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that she sent out the latest budget recommendations via email and if there were any questions or concerns to let her know.

Bobbi then asked the RAC how they felt the RAC's involvement in the KWA Budget Recommendations process went for the RAC. The RAC members appreciated their involvement in the process, but questioned to what extent the RAC's feedback was utilized by the KWA Budget Committee. Members of the RAC felt the RAC put a lot of thought and time into the budget recommendations, but their suggestions and comments were not considered when the KWA Budget Committee was making their recommendations. The RAC also thought that some of the Budget Committees recommendations did not mesh with agencies' priorities. They thought the RAC's feedback was not clearly presented as to what its true intention was. It could not be understood if RACs were not supporting certain items or simply just did not comment on them. There needs to be a way to prioritize budget items and show which items are or are not supported by the RACs.

The RAC liked the idea of having the RAC's summer meeting dedicated to the budget process. With the summer meeting dedicated mostly to the budget, there would be more time to prepare for it and the meeting would be face-to-face as opposed to a conference call (which may have been less effective).

9. Future RAC Meetings Planning: Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) asked the RAC if they would tentatively like to schedule the next year of meetings. Bobbi stated that since the Governor's Conference was November 13th and 14th, 2018 and there was not a KWA meeting until December (2018), with one following in January (2019) with legislative visits, if the RAC would find it reasonable to hold off until late February or early March (2019) for the next RAC meeting. The RAC thought it would be acceptable to have the next meeting in late February or early March. The RAC also noted again that it would be beneficial to have a summer meeting (either June or July, 2019) to discuss the budget and anything else that required attention at that time. The RAC stated that having a meeting in late September or early October (2019) would work out well.

10. RAC Membership: Lori Kuykendall (Chair & WRAPS) and Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that Joseph Falls (At-Large Public) has stepped down from the RAC. The RAC now has 12 members and is seeking candidates to fill one of the At-Large category positions on the RAC.

11. Questions and Future Issues from Members:

Lori Kuykendall (Chair & WRAPS): reported that the Osage County Conservation District, along with Coffey County Extension, is looking at the issues related to old world bluestem. It was noted that it has become a problem in the Region and something needs to be done soon before it becomes unmanageable. Lori stated that on Monday October 8th at 10:30am there will be a field day addressing the old world bluestem. Lori stated she would send directions to anyone interested.

Ron Brown (Conservation/Environment): reported that the [KACD Annual Convention](#) will be held November 18-20th at the DoubleTree Hotel-Wichita Airport. He stated they will be giving out the Leopold Award. Ron also reported that Senator Moran will be holding a meeting along with the NRCS tour on Tuesday, November 20th.

12. Agency and Public Input:

Frank Guilfoyle (KCC): stated that the KCC is still plugging wells, however the program may be ending. He will have more information on this at a later date. Frank mentioned that he has been plugging wells in several counties, with one even in a pond dam. He noted that several have been in the floodplain and streambanks in Miami County.

Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR): reported, that as she had mentioned before, in the past year there was an increase in civil penalties for overpumping a water right. Due to this change, there have been 3-4 hearings per week. In combination with the new penalties and a recent rewriting of the water right database, many water rights have been found to be overpumping due to water right overlaps and limitations and are now facing steep penalties and fees. The DWR is working with these water right holders to correct overpumping and reduce severity of penalties and fees.

Katie mentioned that she attended the KUFS tour held on September 10th, in which Ted Harris (KBS) presented on HABS and the work they are conducting at the KUFS location.

Travis Sieve (KDHE): reported that the Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) created a technical committee to address cities with water quality issues. Travis stated that pilot communities have been identified and will begin implementing plans using Safe Drinking Water Plan funds.

Scott Rice: USACE: reported on the events at Melvern Lake being held though the fisheries department. Scott noted that these events, including the fish harvest, were pushed back due to HABS. Scott noted that Melvern Lake has battled HABS this year, even requiring the closure of the swim beach. He mentioned that Pomona Lake has had issues too. Scott also mentioned the reallocation study being considered for Melvern Lake.

Dave Jones (KDA-DOC): reported that the statewide [Drought Assistance Initiative](#) has funded \$223,000 worth of projects. Dave also reported that the [Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative](#) received 100 applications with 71 in the Tuttle Creek Watershed, 27 in the John Redmond Watershed, 1 in the Fall River Watershed, and 1 in the Kanopolis Watershed. It was also noted that 99% of the applications involved cover crops. Dave noted that all the allocated funds were spent in the first round of applications.

13. Future Meetings:

[Governor's Water Conference](#): November 13th and 14th, 2018, Manhattan, KS

Kansas Water Authority: December 18th and 19th, 2018, Wichita, KS

Kansas Water Authority and Legislative Visits: January 29 and 30th, 2019, Topeka, KS

MdC RAC: The next meeting will be held in late February or early March. A doodle poll will be sent out to pick date.