



Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday March 27, 2018, 9:00 am
USD 409 Community Meeting Room, 626 Commercial,
Atchison, Kansas

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Carl Johnson (Chair)	Leavenworth, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
John Bishop	Atchison, KS	Recreation	2019	Yes
Neil Coufal	Troy, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Stephen Glaser	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	No
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	No
Chris Griffin	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2021	Yes
Alan Kelley	White Cloud, KS	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and NB	2019	Yes
Joel Mahnken	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Brett Neibling (VC)	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	Yes
Darcy Nightingale	Hiawatha, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Yes
Bill Shroyer	Sabetha, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2019	No
Luke Terry	Robinson, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2021	Yes
Michelle Wirth	Kansas City, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Town	Representing
Bruce Wells	Salina	NRCS
Monty Breneman	Salina	NRCS
Travis Daneke	Topeka	KDHE-WRAPs
Julie Colman	Lawrence	KDHE-Northeast District Office
Ray Ladd	Atchison	AT Co. Extension
Jake Geiger	Robinson	
Cheli Helm	Oskaloosa	LV Co. Conservation District
Gary Satter	Valley Falls	Glacial Hills RCD
Rob Reschke	Topeka	KDA-DOC
Andy Klein	Manhattan	KFS
Hunter Baillie	Atchison	KDWPT
Will Boyer	Manhattan	KSU Extension
Kirk Tjelmeland	Topeka	KWO

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** Carl started the meeting at 9:00 am with self-introductions from everyone in the room.
- II) **Public Comments:** Jake Geiger mentioned the NOAA presentation from the MRRIC meeting.

Membership: Carl Johnson, Chair, Leavenworth, KS; John Bishop, Atchison, KS; Neil Coufal, Troy, KS; Stephen Glaser, Atchison, KS; Jeffery Grossenbacher, Bern, KS; Chris Griffin, Troy, KS; Alan Kelley, White Cloud, KS; Joel Mahnken, Leavenworth, KS; Brett Neibling, Highland, KS; Darcy Nightingale, Hiawatha, KS; Bill Shroyer, Sabetha, KS; Luke Terry, Robinson, KS; Michelle Wirth, Kansas City, KS
KWO Planner: Kirk Tjelmeland, 785-368-8149; Kirk.Tjelmeland@kwo.ks.gov

III) Business:

- a. The January 16th meeting notes were reviewed, Brett moved the notes be accepted with no changes and Neil seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- b. Carl mentioned a couple of highlights from the January 23, 24th KWA meeting in Topeka: He thought the legislative visits went well and there is a wider concern amongst legislators about water than has been present before, at the meeting on the 24th the Governor, speaker of the house and senate made appearances, there was a presentation on the Milford Lake Watershed RCPP and the Sustainable Rivers Project.
- c. The MO River Subcommittee had a couple of items. Alan reported on the recent MRRIC meeting and the water modeling that the USACE is using and that members of MRRIC have access to the tool to model changes in their reach of the river. He also mentioned the recent ruling on the lawsuit and that the USACE will continue to fight the ruling.
- d. The Ag subcommittee had a couple items as well. Brett mentioned the most recent trade show in CA there was a lot of talk about improving trade and also infrastructure improvements. Working to open up the rivers to increase movement of goods and materials.

IV) **Update from KDHE:** Travis Daneke gave a presentation on the Missouri WRAPS that can be found [here](#). The approach is simple: support education events and workshops, provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and collaborate with partners. A new map of Targeted Areas was developed and can be seen in the power point, Sabetha Pony Creek and Atchison State Fishing Lake are two lakes that will receive some attention. There has been a 6.08% increase in BMP funding in WRAPS priority areas from the average 2011-2015 to 2016. For 2016 Missouri WRAPS spent \$40,000 on BMPs and partners spent nearly \$90,000 on Missouri targeted areas. Combined load reductions were: Nitrogen-3,860 lbs., Phosphorus-2,025 lbs. and Sediment-1,900 tons. Cropland and Livestock management BMPs are the most efficient way to address loading in the watershed. Travis explained the importance of cover crops and soil biology. He had a slide from DP Co. Conservation District about the activity in soil related to decomposition of buried underwear to grab the attention of landowners.

V) **Update from KDHE Northeast District Office:** Julie Coleman gave a presentation on the Permitted Facilities in the Missouri Region which is available [here](#). She showed a slide of the state that had the Districts laid out and the offices. The NE District office is located in Lawrence and is responsible for activities in 17 counties. The staff of the office have a wide range of obligations ranging from inspections of Permitted and Certified CAFOs to Hazardous Waste Facilities to Public Water Suppliers. There are routine inspection schedules for all of these since they can't be completed on an annual basis. Additional activities of the office include: complaints, spills, fishkills and HAB sampling. The primary objective of the office is to work with entities to get them into compliance.

VI) **Update from KDWPT:** Hunter Baillie gave an update on the mitigation properties related to the Missouri River Recovery efforts in the region which is available [here](#). For reference he presented a slide with some information about the Missouri River: 2,341 miles long, drains 529,350 sq. miles,

31% of the river is channelized and there are 6 mainstem dams. The USACE must mitigate for the loss of habitat and is authorized to purchase and develop 166,750 acres of land from willing sellers. Land purchases and restoration is scheduled between Sioux City, Iowa and St. Louis, MO. As structures were added to the river to help control it, land accreted which was put into production agriculture. Kansas has five mitigation sites totaling approximately 6,095 acres. On these areas cropland has been converted to native grass and timber improving habitat diversity, areas are open for public hunting. Hunter also showed the chute development on Dalby and Benedictine Bottoms that is for fisheries habitat development. He also talked about the Missouri River Flood of 2011- USACE reported that every non-federal levee from Rulo, NE to Wolcott, KS on both sides of the river were either overtopped or breached and the flood lasted almost 3 months.

- VII) Update from NRCS:** Bruce Wells and Monty Breneman teamed up to give a non-power point presentation which is available [here](#). Bruce talked about the PL-566 funding that had went away for a while and now some funding is available and a limited number of structures are going to be built. Monty took over and talked about the EQIP and RCPP practices that had been applied in the Missouri Region 2015-2017, 73 contracts covering 7,318 acres totaling nearly \$3.33 million. He went on to explain the use and power of the Local Working Groups and how involvement in those groups can change priority and criteria for USDA programs. There are millions of dollars spent annually by the USDA on conservation practices across the state.
- VIII) Update from KFS:** Andy Klein gave a presentation on what the Kansas Forest Service in doing throughout the state and in the Missouri Region which is available [here](#). Andy mentioned that there has been several new staff positions added to address the needs of landowners, some related to their \$8.1 million RCPP. KFS just added the 580 practice (streambank stabilization) to their RCPP last year and expect to complete 20-25 sites in 2018. These sites have a tree component to them. The Forest Service acquired a new piece of firefighting equipment and they assisted with some of the large grassfires in 2017. He showed the About my Woods app that is available in Kansas with lots of good identification information as well as contact information for relevant professionals in your area.
- IX) Update from KDA-DOC:** Rob Reschke gave a presentation on what is happening in the Missouri Region that is available [here](#). In his slide show he had a pie slide that showed where the State Water Plan Fund is generated from and that estimated revenues for 2019 will be \$11,700,000. DOC's portion of this is approximately 60% or about \$7 million. With the map of basin priorities for BMP implementation Rob talked about the money that had been put into the region and what practices received the most funding. Funding of Soil Health Workshops and Field Days are seen as important and there are dollars to fund events up to \$2,500 and DOC has scholarships available for individuals to attend these. Rob gave several examples of workshops that had taken place and the quality of presenters. He mentioned that there is a big need to collect the amount of unfunded practices so that more money might be put into conservation. Also the use of the "super tool" to monitor real-time load reductions is something DOC is working on.

- X) Update from KSU Extension:** Will Boyer gave a presentation on Livestock Water Quality in the Missouri Region that is available [here](#). He tied water quality to economics using examples of past projects: adequate buffers, lagoons and cover crops. Showing several slides on how feedlot design had been altered to make the best use of buffers improving runoff quality. NM County is one of the areas he has done a great deal of work in with operations of varying sizes and drainage challenges. Several example slides of perk tests within feedlot lagoons were presented, ¼” /day in clay soils and 1/8”/day in sandy soils are figures they are looking for.
- Group Discussion:** There was a good deal of discussion as to why NM County was such a hot bed for livestock operations, consensus was the family or heritage. Talk about the smaller operations and having hardened surfaces away from the streams. Carl was questioned if there were more species on the mitigation property with the additional habit, Hunter and Thad thought yes but few surveys to back this up. Travis was asked by Chris to explain how vital Conservation Districts are to the delivery of WRAPS dollars. Squaw Creek has been renamed Nolan Creek. Michelle asked Rob about the State Water Plan Fund and using funding highest priority needs.
- XI) State of the Resource (SOTR) Document Discussion:** Tj, KWO, went through the latest version of the document and said Tracy and Earl are reviewing all 14 documents and will have comments back soon. Delivery of the message to the Conservation Districts seems to have been the best format for far, especially following Shane New at the Leavenworth Co. annual meeting.
- XII) Other Issues: Healthy Watershed Grant** – This is a 2 year Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) grant for \$100,000, the application was completed and submitted by a group (MO-KAN, DP Co. CD, DP KSU Extension and KWO). We should know by July if the grant is approved and following some back and forth between the BOR and the workgroup the grant should start in September. The grant will complete the watershed plan, outreach efforts and possibly some work on a Water Quality Technology Farm. **Phase II by KGS** is under contract for the first year at not more than \$18,100 to do more work related to goals #1 & #3 dealing with groundwater quality and quantity.
- XIII) Agency Comments:** None after the agency reports.
- XIV) Upcoming Meetings:**
- KWA meeting April 18th, Lenexa, KS**
 - Next Missouri RAC meeting June 21st 9-noon.**