

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2020, 2:00 pm
USD 409 Community Meeting Room, 626 Commercial,
Atchison, Kansas 66002

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Carl Johnson	Leavenworth, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	Yes
John Bishop	Atchison, KS	Recreation	2023	Yes
Neil Coufal	Troy, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Stephen Glaser	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Chris Griffin (Chair)	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2021	Yes
Lisa Montgomery	Reserve, KS	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and NE	2023	No
Joel Mahnken (VC)	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	No
Brett Neibling	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	No
Vacant		Agriculture Industry	2021	No
Mike Stec	Atchison, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	Yes
Luke Terry	Robinson, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2021	Yes
Michelle Wirth	Kansas City, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Kenneth Wade	USACE	Barb Oltjen	Wolf River WS
Aubrey Evans	KS Envirothon	Ray Ladd	KSU Res. & Ext
Doug Schemm	KDA-DWR	Darcie Gallagher	HCC Prec. Ag.
Cara Hendricks	KWO	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Jake Geiger	Self		

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** Chris started the meeting at 2:07 pm, with self-introductions starting with Cara from the KWO around the tables and then the seating at the back.

- II) **Review of the Legislative visits and KWA meeting on January 28-29th:** Chris visited with three legislators on January 28th and said they were very interested in Water Injection Dredging (WID) and were very supportive of fully funding the state water plan. She was not able to attend the January 29th KWA but did attend the December 19th KWA in Salina. The major items from this meeting were the: Performance-Based Budget Task Force which Cara will update the group on shortly, Missouri message to the KWA which we'll talk about later in the meeting, Equus Beds Chloride Plume presentation by Burns & McDonnell showing movement and possible solutions for the salt plume and an Arbuckle Study update given by Earl. For the January KWA meeting in Topeka there was another presentation on the Performance-Based Budget, a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) presentation from Liz Smith (KDHE) and Ted Harris (KGS) about the 2019 year and trends,

another Equus Beds Chloride plume update looking for direction from the KWA and a Water Technology Update with more information to follow at the April KWA meeting. Governor Kelly joined the meeting and spoke for a few minutes about the important work this group is doing and the value of our water.

III) RAC Business:

- a. Review of the November 21st meeting notes – notes were approved as written.
- b. The Missouri River Subcommittee: Michelle mentioned the study that came from the news release Jeff had sent out. The study is partially funded by four states and the USACE, looking at the Missouri river flooding, flow, pinch points and how to make it move water better. She mentioned that the river is still running high and Kenny added that Gavins Point is releasing 35,000 cfs. Repairs have started on the Wolcott levee which protects the WaterOne intake on the Missouri River. MRRIC will be meeting March 10-13th in Nebraska looking at releases from Fort Peck and how they are related to spawning conditions. Greg Totzke, WaterOne, sets on the Fish Technical Committee.
- c. The Ag Subcommittee: Jeff mentioned that he had the opportunity to tour the Wichita Aquifer Storage and Recover (ASR) Project. The project captures excess flow in the Little Arkansas River, treats it and either sends it down to the aquifer or directly to Wichita. About a million gallons per day is treated some of which goes into recharge basins, recharge is dependent on current aquifer level.

IV) **Review of Budget Information/Water Plan:** Cara Hendricks, Assistant Director, her presentation is available [here](#). This information was presented at the January 29th KWA meeting and is meant to inform the RACs on the budget process so that when asked in June to supply RAC budget recommendations they will be well informed decisions. Cara talked about where the funding comes from for the State Water Plan (SWP) Fund (fees/taxes), shortfalls from State General Funds (SGF) and Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) about \$78 million since 2009. For 2020 there was \$4.5 million from SGF and EDIF that were added to the SWP. She stepped back to talk a little about the Vision and funding recommended by the Blue-Ribbon Funding Task Force, restoration of the \$8 million from SFG and EDIF and 1/10 of 1% state sales tax to fund the \$55 million annual implementation needs. She showed a slide of water use, mostly municipal east and irrigation west. She stated the idea behind this is to look where SWP revenue is being generated and where that revenue is being spent. There was also a breakdown of the funding into 5 areas to better see where the funding is going for each county. This was compiled to put funding/region as well. The idea is to make sure SWP is tied to Action Plans. Carl brought up there was no irrigation fee and Jeff answered that producers are paying their share through taxes. Michelle liked having the information and guidance and she had heard there would be no raise in fees until the SWP was fully funded. Cara agreed and the Governor has stated the fund transfer from SGF and EDIF will be the same as last year, \$4.5 million.

- V) **Envirothon:** Aubrey Evens, Riley Co. Conservation District, had a presentation that is available [here](#). She is the Chair of the Envirothon committee and explained this involves high school students and they are tested on 5 subjects 4 of which remain the same and a fifth one that changes annually. She said the Envirothon started in 1979, is international and started in Kansas in 1991. The idea behind this competition is to develop knowledgeable citizens who can balance quality of life and quality of environment. Participants hone their public speaking skills while enjoying hand-on learning and the possibility of earning some money and travel to exotic places like Nebraska! Aubrey stated this was an excellent way to work with partners while educating the youth of Kansas. The local, regional and state events are held in March and April each year. She added the Riley County team won state last year. Tj added this might be a place to add an Action Plan to the Missouri education goal. They are always looking for more help so please contact her if you are interested. John thought this was important and took Aubrey back and introduced her to the Atchison School District Superintendent.
- VI) **Update from Highland Community College on Precision Ag Program:** Darcie Gallagher, instructor for the Precision Agriculture program delivered a message and a flyer that is available [here](#). Darci said this is only her second year at the school and the program hasn't really taken off yet. She has 4 students that are working on Geographic Information System (GIS) or Global Positioning System (GPS), drone technology and lots of hands on. They are out of the classroom as much as possible. Darcie said they offer a 34-hour Certificate and a 65-hour Precision Ag AAS Degree. There is also a transfer option to KSU. The College does have a good deal of equipment including: drones, Gators, mobile classrooms, spray rigs, soil conductivity sampler, mobile nitrate and pH analysis machine and precision planters. She has had her students participate in a variety of events including the Tech Day at the Loess Hills Farm in Doniphan County. There are lots of places to plug her students in once they receive their education. John asked if they are working with the Klinefelter farm. Darci said they don't have the large equipment to handle this yet.
- VII) **Review of Message from Kansas Water Authority:** Chris reviewed the response to the message the Missouri RAC had passed at the December 19th KWA meeting. The first portion of the message dealt with improving the Kansas Runs on Water website. The second portion was about naming a specific planting date which she thought was being discussed. The next piece had to do with allowing broad based terraces on higher slope ground, 12%. This had been discussed in the local workgroup however since the area affected is so small when it got the statewide meeting it wasn't considered. This will be brought up again at the local workgroup.
- VIII) **Other Issues:**
- a) Luke visited with the group about a streambank issue on the Wolfe River. He, with the support of the Doniphan County Conservation District, is using monitoring pins (bank pin) to see how much the streambank is moving and what effect the erosion has on the surface water of the region. Ray Ladd mentioned a streambank project on the Atchison/Doniphan County line that could impact a Lewis and Clark historic site.

- b) Ken, Outreach Specialist for the USACE, mentioned he works out of the Kansas City office and is the contact person for the Missouri and Kansas Rivers for any USACE related issues.
- IX) Narrated PPT for Conservation District Meetings:** Tj started this discussion stating that he had not been able to attend as many Conservation District meetings as he had wanted. He thanked everyone that helped with the recording and that we planned on showing it tonight at the Public Input meeting.
- X) Public Comments:** These were voiced earlier in the meeting.
- XI) Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** Jeff brought up the retirement of the Chief Engineer and the ability to look for a quality person to fill the job when the position is under paid compared to surrounding states. Jeff moved and John seconded that a message be developed to the KWA that the position of Chief Engineer remain Classified and the pay be adjusted to fair market price. There was considerable discussion about how the Chief Engineer's decisions affect water issues across the state. When called for a voted there were two abstentions and the rest were yeses. There was an adjustment to the position pay so no message was drafted.
- XII) Upcoming Meetings:**
- a) Public Input meeting, February 13th, 5-7 pm USD 409 meeting room. This will be an open house format with Cara giving some opening remarks, viewing of the narrated PowerPoint and plenty of time for questions.
 - b) Next Missouri RAC meeting April 9th 9:30 am start, USD 409 meeting room Atchison, KS
 - c) KWA meeting April 14th, Hutchison, KS
 - d) Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm