

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 7, 2022, 9:00 am
In Person/Virtual Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Joel Mahnken (Chair)	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2025	Yes
Michelle Wirth (VC)	Kansas City, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2025	Yes
John Bishop	Atchison, KS	Recreation	2023	Yes
Martin Simon	Atchison, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	No
Mike Stec	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Chris Griffin	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2025	Yes
Carl Johnson	Leavenworth, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	Yes
Lisa Montgomery	Reserve, KS	Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in KS & NE	2023	No
Brett Neibling	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	No
Doug Allen	Sabetha, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	Yes
Vacant		Fish and Wildlife	2025	No
Vacant		Agriculture Industry	2025	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Josh Cullum	KDHE	Katie Tietzort	KDA-DWR
Dave Jones	KDA-DOC	Vanessa Salazar	KDWP
Katie Goff	KWO	Richard Rockel	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO		

- I) **Welcome/Introduction:** Joel asked if there was a quorum, which there was and he started the meeting at 9:07 am. Tj introduced those in the meeting room.
- II) **RAC Business:**
 - a. **Review of February 2nd meeting notes:** Joel asked if everyone had read the notes and if there were any edits or corrections, there were none. John moved that the notes be accepted as written and Michelle seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the notes were approved unanimously.
 - b. **Missouri River Subcommittee:** Michelle asked if Joel could go to Ag and then come back, Joel agreed and asked Jeff about the Ag Subcommittee. Coming back to the Missouri River Committee Joel asked for an update from Michelle. She stated the drought in the Missouri

Basin continues to plague utilities along the River. The USACE conducted a survey of Industrial and Public Water Suppliers along the river with the results expected soon. She also mentioned the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) Fisheries Group is meeting virtually April 11-15th and more information on the Work Groups can be found [here](#). Tj mentioned the Missouri River meeting planned for Wednesday April 13th at Smithville Lake and he will send out information to the RAC.

- c. **Ag Subcommittee:** Jeff mentioned [HB 2686](#) and how it was handled, dumped on Friday and testimony on Monday. He thought it was similar to the national health care bill, pass it and then we'll read it. He also thought not all the stakeholders were invited to the table, especially Agriculture. Representative Newland offered changes so it was a "gut and go" with small portion of the original bill remaining intact. Michelle stated there are many agencies that deal with water in Kansas and this bill would have simplified the organizational structure allowing for increases in efficiency. Jeff said there needs to be separation in water quality and quantity issues. Water is a critical issue across the state so Farm Bureau is planning a water conference in July to discuss some of these issues. HB 2686 made it out of committee but has not been introduced on the floor.
- d. **Education Subcommittee:** John mentioned there had not been any education meetings. Chris added that there are 5 Doniphan County teams competing in the upcoming Regional Envirothon. The Envirothon is sponsored by the Conservation Districts and has 5 portions to it with testing to see who advances to the state Envirothon. There were questions about what the Envirothon is, more information is available [here](#).

- III) **Budget Data Dashboard:** Katie Goff and Richard Rockel from KWO gave this presentation with the link to the dashboard [here](#). The dashboard was put together to provide more detail to RAC & KWA Members as well as the public about the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) using up-to-date data but allowing searches of previous years information. This could benefit the RAC in providing annual budget input. Katie mentioned that this was a way to look at the SWPF using the five tabs at the bottom of the page: Appropriations, Revenues, County Expenditures, County Revenues and Funding Needs. Richard stated that this was presented to the KWA however this RAC was the first to see it and asked what type of information would they like to see? Carl asked where this was at so the members could poke around on in and then supply some feedback. Jeff asked since he is on the Nebraska border and does some business up there are those numbers accounted for in this? Richard said he would check with Department of Revenue to see how that is accounted for. Katie also brought up a drought page she has been working on that isn't available yet. The idea would be to have all the drought information or links in one location. Carl liked the idea of having pertinent links on the page so you didn't have to search all over. John thought it would be good to have a link to the Missouri River information on this page as well. Carl also wanted a printable version similar to what was on the budget information.

- IV) **Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs):** Josh Cullum led this discussion while working through a PowerPoint

located [here](#). He stated that the HABs program is a response program that the public can report on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) site [here](#). HABs are naturally occurring and can be harmful to: people, pets and livestock and often drought conditions make them worse. Last year in September 87 of the 105 counties in Kansas were under a drought advisory. There are three classifications of HABs: Watch, Warning and Hazard which all have cell counts or Microcystin levels associated with them. In 2021 53 lakes were sampled and 48 of those had an advisory placed on them, 32 of which were warnings. Jerry Ivy pond experienced the longest time at Warning Level and went through the winter and remains at Warning Level. There were five new lakes that were added to the list in 2021 that hadn't experienced a HAB before. As public awareness grows for HABs grows so do the number of reports. Josh stated that no lake in Kansas reached Hazard level in 2021 however, [Milford Zone B](#) had a cell count of 8,754,384 and a Microcystin level (ug/L) of 1131.0. Josh mentioned the past two years with COVID sampling had been conducted differently using lots of photos, the knowledge of Lake Managers and jar tests. Using the jar test you can collect a sample refrigerate for 24 hours and if you have a HAB there will be green scum on the surface of the water in the jar. Josh also mentioned the use of CyAn satellite imagery to view HABs. Carl asked if CyAN can be predictive? Josh said it is being used more like a tool to confirm HABs. The questions was raised about eliminating HABs? He stated there is no current fix but education is the best tool we have right now. Also, there continues to be a steady increase of HABs since the point when KDHE started monitoring the blooms.

- V) **Local Workgroup Meetings:** Dave Jones led this discussion mentioning that the local workgroup meetings are held annually for producers and other folks to provide information about resource issues in their county. This information is compiled and relayed to the State Technical Committee where programs can be adjusted to meet those resource concerns. The meetings this year are being held by management units and facilitated by KACD employees made possible by a grant. Dave encouraged RAC members to attend if they had time. Jeff asked is there has been a common issue at the meetings and Dave thought water quality and erosion had been highlighted at the meetings he had attended. A full list of the Local Workgroup meetings can be found [here](#).

- IV) **Other Issues or Agency Updates:** Vanessa Salazar, KDWP, mentioned that they are funding 3 new aquatic nuisance species positions in the state. Chris Griffin stated she has 53 cover crop applications at this point. Tj brought up the 2022 Agriculture Workforce Needs Assessment Survey that KDA had sent out and is asking for this to be filled out by April 8th, survey will be sent to RAC members. Carl liked the new piece of equipment (OWL) that was used for doing the in person/virtual meeting.

- V) **Public Comments:** There were none.

- VI) **Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** There were none.

VII) Upcoming Meetings:

- a. KWA Meetings, Emporia, April 20th 9 am start time
- b. Next Missouri RAC meeting July or August (TBD) in person/virtual for budget recommendations.
- c. Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.