

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 9:00 am
GoToMeeting Conference Call

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	No
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	Yes
Joel Mahnken (VC)	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Brett Neibling	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	No
Vacant		Agriculture Industry	2021	No
Mike Stec	Atchison, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	No
Luke Terry	Robinson, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2021	No
Michelle Wirth	Kansas City, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Alexandra Geisler	KWO	Kay Heley	Water One Board
Josh Olson	KWO	Lauren Koons	KWO
Bobbi Lutjohann	KWO	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO

I) Welcome/Roll Call: Chris started the meeting at 9:00 am and took roll.

II) RAC Business:

- a. Review of the February 2020 meeting notes – notes were approved as written.
- b. The Missouri River Subcommittee: Michelle Wirth reported on recent Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) activities, June plenary scheduled for this week, canceled due to pandemic, 3 2-hour webinars that have been provided. 2 fish workshops – August likely to be converted to webinar but it is still under discussion. Several committee members are up for reappointment Mike Armstrong and Greg Totzke (WaterOne employees) plan to stay on committee. Piping clover is doing well and is less a concern than the pallid sturgeon. Most proposed actions won't have any effect on water supply, construction of Interception-Rearing Complexes (IRC's) have been delayed. The USACE is working to gain more information from potentially impacted farmers up and down the River. Lead USACE scientists concluded that

there is no need to support flow changes below Gavins Point Dam. Working on telemetry system to track particular species of fish however this is just underway and there is not a lot of data yet.

- c. The Ag Subcommittee: Jeff mentioned that this could have been one of the easiest spring plantings he could remember. Chris said she had heard the same thing.

III) Updates:

- a. Water Quality Technology Farm: Chris Griffin explained that what was the Water Quality Technology Farm through KWO will be changing into a Partnership for Agricultural Conservation and Excellence (PACE) farm as part of a different program. With the focus being water quality instead of irrigation and water savings it makes more sense for it to be separate from the other farms that are a part of the KWO Water Technology Farm Program. We are excited and believe this is a much better route for what we are trying to do. KWO is helping to coordinate and KDHE is part of the partnership. There is hope that a PACE farm can be established in all of the RACs. There is discussion about having a field day but nothing is decided yet.
- b. Missouri River Flooding: Kirk Tjelmeland gave an update from the Missouri River monthly call held on June 4th by USACE which have been taking place since the flooding began in 2019. The link to the slides from the call can be seen by clicking https://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/reports/pdfs/Basin_Call_4June2020_All%20Slides.pdf. High points from the call included: temperatures near normal in upper basin with a relatively dry spring, Some limited flooding-nothing like 2019, Lower basin is expected to be impacted by upcoming tropical storm, Peak snow melt flow right now with mountain temperatures 10 degrees above normal, Expect minor to moderate flooding on the Missouri River over the next three months, Expected run-off is 32.3 MAF or 125% of normal-significantly less than last year's 60+ MAF, Soils in upper basin are drying out, All mainstem reservoirs are in flood pool-couple feet, USACE has approved 61 levee repair contracts, have awarded 30 levee repair contracts, 39 levees have been built back to "level of protection", 26 levees are still not to "level of protection" however the USACE is working with sponsors. Tj also went on to explain the Public Assistance to States (PAS) that Kansas is involved with. These agreements are 50/50 agreements with Kansas and Missouri picking up 50% however since Kansas has much less exposure to flooding from the Missouri River, Kansas' share is 25%. The study is looking at pinch points and modeling to address those constrictions. Public outreach and involvement make up a good portion of the study. Michelle commented that she was glad to see the involvement with the stakeholders.
- c. State Budget: Alexandra Geisler gave a brief update on how COVID has affected the State Budget and how that impacts the budgeting process for the RAC. The committee needs to set a meeting in July to put together budget recommendations to send forward to the KWA.

IV) Regional Activities:

- a. RAC Goals & Actions Plans: The committee worked through Goal #4 which is focused on education making edits and adding action steps. Carl Johnson motioned to approve Goal #4 as written, Jeffrey Grossenbacher seconded. The motion passed and Goal #4 was approved as written. The committee reviewed drafts of the other three goals that were worked on at previous

meetings. Carl Johnson motioned to approved Goals #1 & #3 as previously drafted, Jeffrey Grossenbacher seconded. The motion passed and Goals #1 & #3 were approved as presented. Jeffrey Grossenbacher motioned to approve Goal #2 as previously drafted, Joel Mahnken seconded. The motion passed and Goal #2 was approved as presented.

V) Other Business:

- a. Additional Topics or Concerns: None
- b. Agency Updates:
 - i. Chris Griffin gave a brief update on Conservation Districts. Hours have been adjusted due to the pandemic to only part time in the office. There is currently a shortage of soil technicians, although Doniphan County just hired a new one. The DOC has added cover crops as a practice for nonpoint source pollution.
- c. Public Comments: None
- d. Future Agenda Items from RAC Members: None
- e. RAC Messages to the KWA: None
- f. Upcoming Meetings
 - i. Kansas Water Authority: Wednesday, June 17th @2pm; GoTo Webinar
 - ii. Next RAC Meeting: July 8th @9am; in person (USD 409 meeting room, 626 Commercial, Atchison, KS 66002) with GoTo option
 - iii. Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas: November 9-10, 2020; Wichita