

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

**Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 9:00 am USD 409 Meeting Room &
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	Yes
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	Yes
Mike Stec	Atchison, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	Yes
Luke Terry	Robinson, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2021	No
Michelle Wirth	Kansas City, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	Yes
Vacant		Agriculture Industry	2021	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Julie MacLachlan	USACE	Jennifer Whetstine	Public
Josh Olson	KWO	Lauren Koons	KWO
Cara Hendricks	KWO	Earl Lewis	KWO
Ginger Niemann-Harper	USACE	David Jones	KDA-DOC
Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR	Jud Kneuvean	USACE
Geoff Bohling	KGS	Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO

- I) **Welcome:** Chris started the meeting a little after 9:00 am and thanked everyone for attending in person or on the phone. There was some technical difficulty at the beginning of the meeting being able to hear those on the conference line.

- II) **Review of the June 17th KWA Meeting:** Tj pulled up the KWA agenda and Chris commented on her presentation of the Missouri RAC Goals and Action Plans and the comments/suggestions from the KWA. Earl added to the discussion on the budget process, Missouri River Public Assistance to States (PAS) and pending drought conditions.

III) RAC Business:

- a. **Review of the June 10, 2020 meeting notes** – notes were approved as written.
- b. **Ag Subcommittee:** no report
- c. **Education Subcommittee:** A subcommittee for education has been discussed in previous meetings. In discussion concerning an education subcommittee Chris Griffin reviewed Goal #4 that deals with the education portion of the action plan. Jennifer Whetstine, a middle school teacher for USD 429 in Troy attended the meeting to support the goal and also her availability to assist the subcommittee. She is looking to broaden the water education experience using the Troy 4-H pond and is looking for management assistance for the pond. John Bishop offered a two-page document that relates to water education the schools are currently using, found [here](#). Chris asked if non RAC members can serve on a subcommittee, Earl said yes. An Education Subcommittee was formed with John Bishop being the Chair with Carl Johnson and Jennifer Whetstine serving as members. Mary Winder was also suggested as a subcommittee member, Tj will contact her to see if she is interested in serving on the subcommittee.
- d. **The Missouri River Subcommittee:** Michelle reported that the fish committee is continues to work on some recommendations. Joel mentioned that the snowmelt is nearly complete and has passed through the system, the River is behaving itself for the most part and they continue to look for updates on releases from Gavins Point.

- ### IV) Review of Budget Information/Water Plan and RAC Recommendations:
- Earl Lewis led this discussion with the PowerPoint he used, available [here](#). He mentioned that having the RACs input is vital to making the system work, tying RAC Goals and Action Plans to funding/spending of State Water Plan Funds (SWPF). This is also statutorily tied to the Kansas Water Plan which is currently under revision incorporating all the new RAC Goals and Actions Plans. Earl said it appears as if the Governor will pull back \$1.6 million from KWO and \$1.24 million from KDA that had been slated for SWPF. Richard Rockel, from KWO, has worked on putting the budget information in a more easily digestible format. Broken down in three categories: Groundwater Initiatives, Water Quality and Reservoir Water Supply & Sedimentation. Earl said there needs to be a balance of money spent with value and that is where the RACs comments are so important, providing priority areas of expenditures. He brought up the slide of the state map with the regions and the pie charts explaining the size of the chart suggests the expenditure to the region. Carl asked about the Reservoir section since we have no reservoirs. Earl explained it consists of other items linked to other agencies like KDA not just Reservoir work. He put up the slide that actually put dollar values to each Goal explaining that the two-year window might have missed some funding like the current KGS study. Michelle asked if we could have a little time to review and Earl suggested that we have the comments back to the KWA in a couple weeks. Tj will collect RAC member comments and put in a draft message that will be sent back out to the RAC for approval. Carl asked about the education dollars and where the Runs on Water campaign is? Earl said that we are in a holding pattern and maybe those dollars could be funneled out for the RACs to use. Chris asked David Jones to comment on their funding and he stated the Milford RCPP money is there and that CSMS is used to disperse the money. Also mentioned that the Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative (KRPI) is in a holding

pattern right now. He thought their DOC budget would remain fairly intact. Chris mentioned we have no reservoirs however we do have water quality issues.

- V) **KGS Groundwater Study Update:** Geoff Bohling led this discussion with his PowerPoint available [here](#). He mentioned that things have been on hold for several months and they are just now starting to get back out in the field. The goal of the study is to establish a groundwater level and water quality monitoring network in the Missouri Planning area. KGS has 20 wells they are looking at in the Region to provide some good monitoring wells. Ed Reboulet, is assisting with the study and has identified 50 additional wells. He had got in the field earlier in the month and needs to refine his search a bit more. Geoff showed data from 7 former USGS wells and that had been monitored in 2010, 2018-2020 showing on another graph the precipitation index for all those years. Work on the study has moved very little since the report he gave in September of last year. He is looking to extend the 2nd year of the study due to COVIC issues. He also reported that Don will be handing off the chemistry portion of the study to Ed. Carl asked how many wells Geoff was looking for and Geoff replied at least 1/county not including Marshall County because it is such a small portion of the Region. He thought 2 wells in those counties away from the Missouri alluvium would be a good idea.
- VI) **Update on Missouri Flooding Issues:** Jud Kneuvean led this discussion with his PowerPoint available [here](#) along with a levee status map [here](#) and a levee update table [here](#). He mentioned this has been the most challenging levee rebuild he has ever been involved with, fewer bidders, higher than expected bids and a surging River. Moving from north to south Jud ran down the levee status. R500 by White Cloud has not been awarded yet but he anticipates it will be by July 15th. R471-460 remained in good shape and wasn't topped in the flooding. He also mentioned that 440R by Benedictine Bottoms maintained integrity during the flooding. On the Missouri side the Rushville Sugar Lake levee is still unresolved due to work that would have to be completed on a Wetland Reserve Project that requires NRCS approval. This particular levee causes Hwy 59 to be flooded limiting access to Atchison and it will be months before this is resolved. John asked what was a "Sponsor?" Jud explained it is a taxing entity such as a county or a levee district or something similar. The Henry Pohl levee is 99% complete and is expected to be completed shortly. The Kansas Department of Corrections (DOC) Leavenworth County and the Wolcott levee are under the same contract. Work has been started on the DOC levee however they pulled off and are moving to the Wolcott levee. Michelle mentioned it is very wet down there. Jud stated that they sometimes have to work with borrow that is not the best and that most of the projects are 180 days in length. The two other areas of question were at Abilene and Salina however both of those posed no threat but have suffered a little damage from the 2019 flooding.
- VII) **Review of the Goals:** Tj led this discussion by pulling up the draft goals that had been submitted to the KWA on June 17th. The group discussed the changes and those will be made and sent back out to the RAC for approval. One item the KWA mentioned was flooding on the Missouri River was not in our Goals. After some discussion John moved and Joel seconded that we should draft a Missouri River Goal. In the discussion portion of this Chris asked for some help on wording and Earl offered

that KWO would develop some language for the RAC to start to work with. The Neosho has some extreme event wording that might help. Michelle wondered if the Kansas RAC might have something however Josh Olson, Region Planner, said that they have no flooding or drought Action Steps.

- VIII) Agency Updates:** Dave Jones (KDA-DoC) offered that they continue to telework and that it is working well for the programs they are involved with. Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR) offered they are teleworking as well with one person checking the mail daily at their new office on Winding Road behind Academy Sports. The move to the new location was not an easy one with COVID in full swing. She stated there are some drought concerns in the Verdigris and Neosho basins hoping the forecasted rains will help out. Carl asked if there were any new permits in the Region. Katie mentioned a few of those surface water pond permits. Chris mentioned that she is back in the NRCS office but no customers are allowed. She is processing cover crop applications in state cost share due to the Division of Conservation adding them to the Non-Point Source Program and to the WRAPS Partnership Program. Also, the soil technician they had hired has taken a job as a Wildlife Biologist so they are on the search again. The area is short several employees.
- IX) Public Comments:** There were none.
- X) Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** There were none.
- XI) Upcoming Meetings:**
- KWA July meeting: not scheduled yet but will be at the end of the month (Tj will send date)
 - Next Missouri RAC meeting: Thursday September 10th 9 am USD 409 Meeting Room virtual opportunity to participate as well
 - Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am