

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 26, 2019, 9:00 am
USD 409 Community Meeting Room, 626 Commercial,
Atchison, Kansas 66002

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Carl Johnson (Chair)	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	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2021	Yes
Lisa Montgomery	Reserve, KS	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and NB	2023	Yes
Joel Mahnken	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Brett Neibling (VC)	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	No
Vacant		Agriculture Industry	2021	No
Vacant		Public Water Supply 2	2019	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	Town	Representing
Rob Reschke	Manhattan	KDA-DOC
Geoff Bohling	Lawrence	KGS
Margaret Chamas	Troy	KSU Extension
Elizabeth Smith	Topeka	KDHE
Mick Stec	Atchison	City of Atchison
Henry Pohl	Atchison	Levee Owner
Brett Bunger	Topeka	KDA-DWR
Mary Meyers	Atchison	Atchison Globe
Kirk Tjelmeland	Topeka	KWO

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** Carl started the meeting at 9:03 am, with self-introductions starting with himself and then everyone else around the tables. Carl asked everyone to add a little to their name since we had a new RAC member.
- II) **Review of September 3-4th KWA meeting:** Carl mentioned three items that stood out to him. The first being the City of Lawrence contract for raw water, RAC memberships with some RACs not being fully staffed and a lengthy discussion on contamination from the Arbuckle into drinking water sources. Geoff mentioned that some old wells could be a point of concern.

III) RAC Business:

- a. The June 27th meeting notes were reviewed and accepted as written.
- b. The Missouri River Subcommittee: Michelle mentioned the problems they had with levee breaches and that their facilities are in good condition however there has been significant property damage from sand and debris. Henry Pohl added that his levee will be one of the first repaired with a site meeting on October 9th, his levee is located across from Iatan Power Plant. Joel mentioned that the City of Leavenworth had several projects planned including a collector well which are on hold until the groundwater level drops. Mike Stec, City of Atchison said they have problems when the Missouri River is at or above 19.5' and it has been there since March.
- c. The Ag Subcommittee: Jeff had the opportunity to participate in the Jerry Moran tour with lots of other folks. The tour highlighted some of the damage caused by the high water: county road destruction, levee and business impacts (Taylor Seed Farms), trees killed out at Benedictine Bottoms and finished at Kaw Point talking about how destructive Asian Carp can be. Jeff also wanted to mention all the flooding above the Federal Reservoirs by the inability to release water. Tj added that the USACE is expected to increase the release from Gavins Point Dam to 80,000 cfs. Chris wanted to add that she had nearly 4,000 acres of cover crops funded in Doniphan County through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

IV) **Update on the KGS Groundwater Study:** Geoff gave a presentation on the progress being made on the groundwater study that Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) is conducting. The presentation can be found [here](#). The two objectives for the 5-year project are to establish a groundwater quality network and improve estimates of safe yield in the Missouri Region. Since Geoff's last report they have taken a second look at historic water level data, identified potential continuous monitoring wells and conducted a second round of water chemistry samples from various wells. The historic groundwater level data is very scattered and Geoff developed a model that can explain a good portion of this. KGS has identified 20 existing wells that could fit as monitoring locations. It was suggested that they should consult with Alan Kelley and see if there is a well in the Reserve that could be monitored. On the chemical side there were several wells that continue to sample above the EPA 10 mg/L with the highest being almost 5 times the acceptable level. One well showed high levels of suspended chlorides during the drought last fall but these levels dropped with the wetter conditions this year. Geoff showed the project is on schedule. Michelle added there are multiple wells along the Missouri River that have lots of old monitoring data that could add to the study. Geoff said he would get in contact with her.

V) **Update from KDHE on monitoring & HABs:** Elizabeth gave a presentation that is available [here](#). She covered three items in her presentation: Surface water monitoring, Assessment & Action and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) response program. Surface water monitoring is located in the Bureau of Water (BOW) under the Watershed Planning, Monitoring, and Assessment Section (WPMAS) with the support of six District Offices. There is routine monitoring (ex: lakes/wetlands), rapid response monitoring (ex: fishkills) and special projects. The Missouri River has a diverse fishery with three notable streams in the Region: South Fork of the Nemaha River, Rock Creek and Wolf River which have "special aquatic life." There are nine stream chemistry sampling stations in

the Missouri Region that are used to help with listing or delisting of impaired waters. There are also nine stream biology stations in the Missouri Region with the majority of these in Brown County. Macroinvertebrates are sampled every 3-4 years, indicators of stream quality. HABs documented in the region for 2019 include: Atchison County Fishing Lake, Big Eleven Lake, Hiawatha City Lake and Lake Jeanette. The HABs program is a response to complaints, KDHE does not actively seek out HAB blooms. She moved on to the problems with HABs (Cyanobacteria) ability to move in the water column and produce toxins that affect animals as well as people. KDHE established standardized levels for both cell counts and toxin levels for public waterbodies, ex: Watch=4ug/L of toxin and cell count of 80,000/mL. The number of waterbodies seems to be trending up over the last couple of years with 44 waterbodies under some sort of advisory in 2019. KDHE is doing some in-lake investigation using vegetation, sonic blasters and chemical treatment to reduce these events. Using a clear jar and a lid a sample can be taken carefully, placed in the refrigerator for 24 hours. If there is a green scum on the surface after the 24 hours this is a good indication of a HAB. Michelle added the detection level is .3ug/L in potable water and the test is expensive that is why the number of communities are using the KDHE monitoring program. The fishkills documented from 2014-2018 combined for 3 events, approximately 2,800 fish and were caused by low DO and organic loading. She stated that the Missouri Region has 36 streams and 5 lakes on the 303(d) list – Impaired Waterbodies. Part of the process to address this is the distribution of funds through the WRAPS projects, \$162,000 of the statewide total of \$300,000 was awarded in the Missouri Region. Big thanks to Chris for her efforts. Elizabeth mentioned all the livestock facilities in Nemaha County coupled with the stream listings. Committee members thought it might be a good idea to get an Agriculture person from that area on the RAC. She also wanted to remind everyone of the annual HAB meeting on January 22-23rd, 2020 in Topeka. Elizabeth promised to send several links to the RAC that will provide even more information.

- VI) Water Quality Tech Field Day:** Chris led this discussion and was pleased with how the event turned out with about 50 people in attendance. She had hoped for more producers however having Jimmy Emmons present was great and she knew of one producer that was going to incorporate cover crops after attending. Several other RAC members attended and thought this was a good thing to have in our Region.
- VII) Review of RAC Goals #1 and #3:** Tj started the discussion. Goal #3 was rewritten to say, *Collect additional information to improve safe yield estimate of groundwater and tributary streams within 3 years. Safe yield should be continuously monitored.* The rewrite was moved by John and seconded by Joel with no discussion, passed unanimously. The Goal #1 and the Actions Plans were left as is.
- VIII) Update on RAC Membership:** Carl started this discussion stating that we had two vacant positions, Agriculture and Public Water Supply (PWS). There was some discussion and Mike Stec from the City of Atchison who was in attendance and deals with PWS is willing to serve on the RAC. An application was sent and received back from Mike. Jeff, Chris and Margaret were going to think of someone in that would be a good fit for the Agriculture position and that person will be contacted.

- IX) Narrated PPT for Conservation District Meetings:** Tj led this with a request from RAC members to help record a slide or two of the narrated power point that will be available for Conservation Districts to play at their Annual Conservation District banquets. Chris mentioned that the Conservation Districts are in the planning stage for those meetings right now and she would mention the narrated power point that the RAC is putting together. This could be played anytime during the meeting. Members were asked to stay after the meeting for a couple minutes to record their slide.
- X) Other Issues or Agency Updates:** Rob wanted the RAC to know how valuable their input is on the budget process. Division of Conservation (DOC) receives 65% of the State Water Plan Fund to implement conservation practices. The programs that are funded keep good conservation practices (soil health) on the ground. Chris added it was DOC money that helped finance the WRAPS cover crop money, providing acres of cover crops protecting the soil in Doniphan County.
- XI) Public Comments:** These were voiced earlier in the meeting.
- XII) Upcoming Meetings:**
- a. **Governor's Water Conference, November 7-8th, Wichita**
 - b. **Next Missouri RAC meeting, Thursday, November 21st, 9-noon, USD 409 meeting room**
 - c. **KWA meeting, December 19th, Salina, KS**
 - d. **Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am**