

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 1 pm
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	Yes
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	No
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	Yes
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
Kirk Thompson	KDWP	Tyler Warner	KDWP
Angela Anderson	KWO	Lauren Campbell	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO	Barb Oltjen	SAKW/Wolf River WS

- I) **Welcome/Introduction:** Joel asked if there was a quorum, which there was and he started the meeting at 1:03 pm. Joel had those in the room introduce themselves.
- II) **RAC Business:**
 - a. **Review of April 7th 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 Brett seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the notes were approved unanimously.
 - b. **Missouri River Subcommittee:** Michelle mentioned the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) had met in March to discuss adaptive management and the Interception-rearing complexes (IRCs). The Fort Peck flow test will not be happening and the Gavins Point flow test is not supported. MRRIC is scheduled to meet in person in November

at the Double Tree Hotel in Omaha with the following [agenda](#). As the drought continues the natural flow rate in the river will decrease and Joel added that navigation is currently being supported which is good but the River will decline when the release from Gavins Point drops to 12,00 cfs. Tj mentioned the Missouri River meeting planned for Wednesday October 26th at Smithville Lake, Jerry L. Litton Visitor Center and he will send out information to the RAC.

- c. **Ag Subcommittee:** Brett mentioned that harvest is proceeding with some areas being hit hard by the drought. Brown County looks pretty good however, others are not so fortunate. He also mentioned the trouble of getting commodities down the Mississippi River with so low levels, barges are getting stranded. Brett also stated with it being so dry a fire jumped the Missouri River which doesn't happen too often.
- d. **Education Subcommittee:** John mentioned there had not been any education meetings. Chris added about the RAC attending the Conservation District meetings. Doniphan County will be spitting theirs this year with an awards banquet and a board meeting.

III) **Kansas Water Plan:** Tj brought up the Kansas Water Plan noting that it had been approved by the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) at the August meeting with a few additions/corrections. The water plan can be found [here](#). The five guiding principles: (1) Conserve and Extend the High Plains Aquifer, (2) Secure, Protect and Restore Our Kansas Reservoirs, (3) Improve the State's Water Quality, (4) Reduce Our Vulnerability to Extreme Events and (5) Increase Awareness of Kansas Water Resources are packed full on information about our current conditions with recommended actions and funding needs. I would expect agencies and entities to review the document for possible areas of need or funding opportunities.

IV) **Drought Update:** Tj brought up some information from the UASCE website related to the Missouri basin, 90% of the basin is currently experiencing some form of drought which is a 20% increase from August. He then brought up the [U.S. Climate Outlook](#) for October and [US Drought Monitor](#) both of which indicated warmer and dryer conditions for Kansas. He then brought up the [Climate and Drought](#) page on the KWO site that is a wealth of information. This page also shows the current drought declaration which has all 105 counties in watch, warning or emergency status. There was concern about when the USACE reduces mainstem reservoir releases how that will impact water suppliers along the Missouri River. The USACE has a huge amount of data related to the Missouri River located [here](#).

V) **Budget Information:** Tj brought up the [2024 budget recommendations](#) that the KWA had approved. The budget process is lengthy with RAC input usually taking place in late July or early August. However, this year was different with the extra money in the state coffers. The unfunded liabilities on the three reservoirs (Big Hill, Clinton & Hillsdale) and the John Redmond bond was paid off with of group of other state issued bonds. Carl asked about the Water Injection Dredging (WID). Tj responded there has been testing of the material that will be moved and a bunch of research that is slated to take place before and during the dredging operation which could be in the

fall of 2023 or the spring of 2024. Chris asked what the **Surface Water Trash Removal** was and I said I didn't know but I would find out. (This program is being put in place to assist groups like Friends of the KAW do their River Cleanups). Carl asked about the **LEPP program** and I couldn't provide any details (The new KDHE LEPP program is designed to assist County Conservation Districts and County Sanitarians work to fund on site wastewater treatments systems that need some work). Chris also asked about the **KS Water Plan Education and Outreach** which I provided a few details about the Kansas Runs on Water website and KWO's sponsorship of water related events but would provide additional information (funds used to enhance the Kansas Runs on Water and also sponsor events and implementation activities associated with the Kansas Water Plan). Carl asked about the **Arbuckle Study** (There is a work group that was formed and KGS is collecting data on Class I & Class II wells. In addition, KGS is compiling annual disposal volumes, collecting salinity levels and mapping static fluid levels in central Kansas). Tyler asked about the **Water Quality Buffer Initiative** and I said I didn't know but would find out (The dollars allocated for the Buffer Initiative were rolled into other more utilized KDA programs). A couple of these budget items were brought about by RAC budget input.

- VI) **Review of RAC Goals:** Tj pulled the [Kansas Water Plan](#) back up and scrolled to the RAC Goals and we visited a bit about these. Chris would like to know where we are at on these and maybe run through them one at a time over several meetings. Others agreed so this will be added as an agenda item.
- VII) **Other Issues or Agency Updates:** Chris stated she has \$168,000 worth of cover crop contracts and with the drought there isn't much germination or growth. She also mentioned using the Soil Tunnel Trailer for an education event with the a 4-H group. Kirk Thompson, KDWP, provided a tour to the group in the morning of [Benedictine Bottoms](#) and filled in some gaps for those that couldn't attend. The mitigation properties came about by a ruling in the 1980's when the USACE had to mitigate the loss of 522,000 acres of habitat and 72 miles of River. The ruling stated that the USACE had to acquire 32% of the lost property or 166,000 acres. Kirk is contracted to manage 5 properties totaling nearly 6,000 acres. A great deal of habitat work has been completed on the properties in the form of tree or grass plantings, wetland development/management and chutes cut on the river side of the levee to promote a braided stream. All this property was acquired by willing sellers and there are more willing sellers if the money for land acquisition was still available.
- VIII) **Public Comments:** There were none.
- IX) **Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** There was a memo drafted on the 6,000-gallon water transfer from the Missouri River to western Kansas and Colorado funded by Groundwater Management District 3 (GMD3).
- X) **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - a. KWA Meetings, McGinn Farms, Sedgwick, October 19,2022 9 am start time

- b. USACE Missouri River meeting, Jerry L. Litton Visitor Center, October 26th, 11 am start
- c. [Governor's Water Conference](#), Manhattan, November 16-17, 2022
- d. Next Missouri RAC meeting January 5th 9 am start in person/virtual
- e. Meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.