



Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday November 16, 2017, 9:00 am
WaterOne Board Room
Lenexa, Kansas

Members Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Carl Johnson (Chair)	Leavenworth, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
John Bishop	Atchison, KS	Recreation	2019	No
Neil Coufal	Troy, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Stephen Glaser	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	No
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	No
Chris Griffin	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2021	No
Alan Kelley	White Cloud, KS	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and NB	2019	Yes
Joel Mahnken	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Brett Neibling (VC)	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	No
Darcy Nightingale	Hiawatha, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Yes
Bill Shroyer	Sabetha, KS	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
Chris Beightel	Lawrence	KDA-DWR
Brett Bunger	Topeka	KDA-DWR
Travis Daneke	Topeka	KDHE-WRAPS
Margaret Chamas	Troy	KSRE/WRAPS
Bruce Wells	Salina	NRCS
Scott Watson	KC	NWS
Alex Davis	Topeka	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	Topeka	KWO

Welcome and Introductions: Carl started the meeting at 9:15 am with self-introductions from everyone in the room. This was a new location so the start time was delayed 15 minutes to allow for late arrivals.

Public Comments: There were none.

RAC Business:

- The September 14th meeting notes were reviewed accepted with no changes.
- The Governor's Water Conference was discussed and overall everyone was pleased with the conference. Michelle liked having water quality as a big part of the conference. Travis mentioned that he had trouble figuring out which session to attend with multiple good sessions offered at the same time. Chris

Membership: Carl Johnson, Chair, Leavenworth, KS; John Bishop, Atchison, KS; Neil Coufal, Troy, KS; Stephen Glaser, Atchison, KS; Jeffery Grossenbacher, Bern, KS; Chris Griffin, Troy, KS; Alan Kelley, White Cloud, KS; Joel Mahnken, Leavenworth, KS; Brett Neibling, Highland, KS; Darcy Nightingale, Hiawatha, KS; Bill Shroyer, Sabetha, KS; Luke Terry, Robinson, KS; Michelle Wirth, Kansas City, KS

KWO Planner: Kirk Tjelmeland, 785-368-8149; Kirk.Tjelmeland@kwo.ks.gov

talked about the number of legislators that were there and the ability to network with individuals at the conference.

- c. Michelle and Alan reported that the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) that had just met in Kansas City, MO on Oct. 30-Nov. 2nd. A big portion of the meeting was the first in-person meetings for the new Fish, Bird and Human Consideration Teams. One big consideration is the possible delisting of the least tern. More information about the meeting can be found [here](#). The next meeting MRRIC meeting will be held March 27th-29th, 2018.
- d. The Ag subcommittee had no report.

Update on Drought and Flood trends affecting the Missouri Region: Scott Watson of the National Weather Service (NWS) presented a ppt that can be seen [here](#). Scott went through the U.S. Drought monitor, how it works and the drought levels for the Missouri River Basin over the last 18 years. The Missouri Region falls in Climate Division 3 which shows similar drought and flood periods to the rest of the basin. The Palmer Hydrological Drought Index (PHDI) has a much more robust data set and it appears that the frequency and size of extreme precipitation events is increasing. Scott stated that the “8-10 inch rainfall events are happening more often,” which results in increased flood events. When looking at major and moderate flooding there has to be considerable damage and not necessarily crop damage to make it a major flood. Some areas such as parts of KC have made considerable improvements in the levee system so the flooding isn’t as damaging as in years past. Scott compared a couple major flood events 1993 vs 2011 and how the circumstances surrounding the floods were vastly different. Climate change was brought into the discussion with predicted changes in seasonal patterns due to CO² emissions, warmer and wetter for the Missouri Region. Carl asked about ground water supply and quality of surface water. Alex brought up the “Letter to Humanity” a short read that talks about climate change.

CIG Grant for Technology Farm in DP County: Chris was sick and unable to provide information on this and Tj was unfamiliar with exactly what Chris was proposing. Michelle wanted to make sure the RAC gets information on the grant and provide support if necessary. Bruce, NRCS, said the CIG grants are designed to increase technology and not just mimic existing technology from other areas of the state. There was a good deal of discussion on technology farms and the difference between farms from west to east: topography, soil types and other issues. Darcy mentioned that his company monitors 55 moisture probes some of which monitor nutrients as well. He expressed some concern about literature that documented the movement of salts and that this didn’t necessarily correlate to the movement of nutrients.

State of the Resource (SOTR): Tj presented a brand new draft document that was smaller, more specific and easier to find information. This draft can be seen [here](#). The information from the previous draft will be used to update the water plan so the RAC’s effort on the document will not be lost. Several sections had been removed and new tables had been added. The new draft will be sent out shortly and comments are requested. Michelle wanted to have both the pie chart and bar graph for water use put in the document. I need to add to the 2017 activities, MO River Subcommittee formed and submitted comments on the Missouri River Draft EIS. On the education goal Carl didn’t think we needed a subcommittee however he would like set of 4 or 5 slides to talk about water issues in Kansas. Travis and Bruce wanted to make sure accurate information from other agencies

is included in the document. There was no meeting date or time set to hold the SOTR meeting. However Carl thought it best if we had more input from the other members on the RAC, possibly a conference call.

Agency or Public Comments: There were none.

Other Issues: Kansas Health Institute (KHI) Water Reuse Presentation – Tj went through a ppt provide by KHI on the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) they had completed on the reuse of water. Some of this information was presented at the Governor’s Water Conference and the ppt can be viewed [here](#). There are reuse projects taking place statewide, some with large amounts of water being reused. For example the Spirit Corporation in Wichita is treating 2-3 million gallons of water/day for reuse. Most of the reuse water across the state is applied to ball fields, golf courses or agriculture fields. The technology is there to treat water from toilet to tap however there is still a big “yuck” factor and the cost.

WaterOne Tour: Mike Armstrong, General Manager from WaterOne provided the group with a ppt of the operations which can be viewed [here](#). WaterOne is an independent, non-profit water utility founded in 1957 serving a 272 square mile area. They have 2,600 miles of pipe and annually they have about 700 water main breaks and his goal is to have them repaired in 4 hours or less. They continue to expand and will add about 1,200 customers for 2017 and their water is some of the cheapest around. WaterOne is working on an Ozone treatment at the Hansen facility that will provide better water disinfections. Michelle and her staff took the group a tour of the Wolcott Treatment Plant.

Next Meetings:

KWA Meeting: McPherson (November 12th, KMU training facility, 2090 East Avenue A)

KWA Meeting: Topeka (January 23-24th)

MO RAC Meeting: Location and date TBD