

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 4, 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	No
Chris Griffin (Chair)	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2021	Yes
Lisa Montgomery	Reserve, KS	Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in KS & NE	2023	No
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	No
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
Jud Kneuvean	USACE	Cara Hendricks	KWO
Josh Olson	KWO	Gary Koons	KWO
Sara Maguire	KWO	Taylor Harman	KCC
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO		

- I) **Welcome/Introduction:** Chris started the meeting at 9:06 am and went through a roll call of RAC members and asked if everyone else wanted to introduce themselves.
- II) **Review of the October 26th KWA Meeting:** Chris asked Tj to talk about the meeting. An agenda for the meeting was put up for everyone to see and discussion followed.
 - a. **KWO Director change, moving forward** – Connie took a moment during the meeting to recognize Earl and his contributions to KWO and water issues in Kansas as a whole. A couple people offered congratulatory comments and that Earl would be missed. Earl is now the Chief Engineer for the State at the Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources. Cara Hendricks is currently serving as the Acting Director of the KWO and will do so until Connie Owens is approved by the legislator. Connie has been serving as the KWA Chair since 2019 and has a background in water law. Cara thought it would be sometime in January when

Connie is confirmed and then Cara will resume her role as the Assistant Director at KWO. A new KWA Chair will be appointed to fill Connie's vacancy.

- b. **Missouri message to the KWA** – Tj put up a version of the message which can be seen [here](#). There was a discussion that lasted about 45 minutes related to the Missouri RAC message. Ultimately the KWA decided that KWO should reach out to involved entities, solicit information and inform the two involved RACs of what they had received. In the future the KWO should do a better job keeping the RACs informed as to what is taking place in their regions. An outcome of this was the presentation by Burke Griggs on December 1st that laid out the legal side of water transfers in Kansas which is available [here](#). Chris encouraged everyone to take a look at the slides and Tj offered that when the webinar recording is available it will be shared. Cara mentioned there is another Proof of Concept (POC) that is in the works for the Upper Ark but that there are no details yet. The idea of a joint meeting between the Upper Ark and the Missouri was proposed and it was generally thought to be a good idea. Michelle wanted to make sure we had ironed out some agenda prior to having the meeting and Chris agreed. We don't want to meet just for the sake of meeting.

III) RAC Business:

- a. Review of the September 10, 2020 meeting notes – it was moved by John and seconded by Carl that the notes be approved as written, they were approved unanimously.
- b. Missouri River Subcommittee: Michelle said there has been a great deal of work completed by the MRRIC subcommittee that will be passed on to the whole committee for approval. There is some legal work that is being done related to the proposed transfer of water out of the Missouri River in North Dakota. Joel had nothing to add to this.
- c. Ag Subcommittee: Brett had nothing to offer for the report.
- d. The Education Subcommittee: John stated that he had participated in a couple statewide meetings led by Angela Anderson from the KWO. He stated that while there are educational differences there needs to be one unifying message. Tj offered that the statewide group that John sets on is very diverse, from RAC members to full time educators. John mentioned the guiding principles education piece of the Kansas Water Plan that will be talked about later.

- ### IV) Missouri River Update – USACE:
- Jud Kneuvean led this discussion and his PowerPoint is available [here](#). He also had two other documents he presented the first was the NWK Levee Rehab Project Status map located [here](#) and the other was the status update table located [here](#). Jud stated that initially there had been 117 requests for assistance however some of those were doubles so this was paired back to 65 segments that needed repaired. These 65 were put into 56 contracts and to date 49 of those have been awarded. Jud stated this was a very expensive rebuild and a much different flood than the 1993 short duration flood. Of the levees that impact Kansas MRLS-500R is about 15% complete but should be to level of protection by spring. Levee MRLS-471-460R is 100% complete. The Rushville Sugar Lake levee on the Missouri side impacts Hwy 59 has been a problem since the realignment area was going to use about 3 acres of Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) that is managed by the NRCS. They hope to have the contractors start work on the up-river side of this and if it isn't closed by March the USACE will put in a temporary levee. The Kansas Department of

Corrections levee is approximately 80% complete and should be wrapped up soon. The Henry Pohl and Grape-Bollin-Schwartz levee is 100% complete however this was much more costly than expected and prolonged the repair process with multiple modifications. This particular levee brought to light the need to have good sponsors to insure funding. The Wolcott levee is over 90% complete and will be to level of protection by spring. Jud mentioned the Abilene and Salina projects that were late requests. The Salina levee work has been awarded and deals with work around a water intake structure. He also mentioned that there was a lot of structure damage with this flood event along with erosion and bank loss all of which complicate funding repairs. Jud stated that they, USACE, are currently releasing 17,000 cfs from Gavins Point, lowest is has been for a while and all the mainstem reservoir elevations are down to the point the need to be for the spring runoff. John asked about predictions for next year. Jud said the basin is relatively dry right now but that could change and the forecast of a La Nina could changed everything. Carl asked if we had a flood like 2019 how we would fair, Jud said we would be right back where we are now. Chris asked about bed degradation and he responded the problem area is between Kansas City and Leavenworth with head-cuts moving up the tributaries. Michelle brought up the dredging permit review and that over dredging causes problems and Joel mentioned that he was concerned about their water intake being left dry by riverbed degradation and lower discharges from Gavins Point.

- a. Missouri River Four State meeting in St. Joe- Tj mentioned attending this and its relevance to the Missouri RAC. The states of Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas entered into a Public Assistance to States (PAS) to try and minimize flooding along the Missouri River. The idea is to look at the system holistically and see how to better move the water through the system, evaluating pinch points and soliciting possible solutions from stakeholders along the river. More information about the PAS can be found [here](#).

- V) **Review of the State Water Plan Guiding Principles:** This discussion was led by Tj with the five draft principles located [here](#). Improving the State’s Water Quality and Increasing Awareness of Kansas Water Resources are the two that were displayed. If the MO RAC could review these and offer any comments back by January 15, 2021 that would be good. The guiding principles will be sent out to the RAC for review.

- VI) **Loess Hills Video:** The Loess Hills Farm was in the Water Technology Farm was in the Water Technology program but it wasn’t a good fit since Thad didn’t use irrigation. Matt, KWO, came up with the PACE acronym which is short for Partnership for Agricultural Conservation and Excellence. There is only one PACE farm in Kansas so far but other Regions are looking at adding farms to this program. The video is located [here](#), Chris encouraged everyone to watch it. We intend on using this at the Annual Conservation District meetings if those are held in-person. Tj will confirm which Districts are holding meetings. Chris stated the DP County will be a come and go meeting with no meal.

- VII) **Review of the Governor’s Water Conference:** Tj gave a quick recap of the conference and asked what those that attended thought of it. Chris, Carl and Michelle liked it with Carl mentioning he

liked the part of not having to travel. They all agreed they missed the networking an in-person meeting offers. If everything goes well, next year the conference will be held in Manhattan in early November.

- VIII) Other Issues or Agency Updates:** Chris mentioned that the DP County Annual Conservation District meeting date will be established next week.
- IX) Public Comments:** There were none.
- X) Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** There were none.
- XI) Upcoming Meetings: (NO IN-PERSON meetings through at least December 14, 2020)**
- KWA Meeting, December 11th, starting at 9 am
 - Next Missouri RAC meeting (March 4, 2020 9-11 am USD 409 meeting room and virtual)
 - Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.