

# Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

**Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, December 6, 2021, 1:00 pm**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Members in Attendance:**

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Joel Mahnken (Chair)	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2025	No
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
Mice Stec	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
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	Yes
Brett Neibling	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	No
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
Brad Scott	City of Hiawatha	Gary Satter	Glacial Hills RC&D
Don Whittemore	KGS	Geoff Bohling	KGS
Jud Kneuvean	USACE	Mike Dulin	USACE
Katie Tietzort	KDA-DWR	Lauren Campbell	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO		

**i) Welcome/Introduction:** Chris started the meeting at 1:02 pm by thanking everyone for the opportunity to serve as the Chair and handed it over to Tj. He had a gift for Chris that will be delivered at later date. The new Chair, Joel Mahnken and Vice-chair, Michelle Wirth were introduced. Joel was not able to attend so Michelle ran the meeting with self-introductions of those on the GoTo meeting and there was no one calling in.

**a) Review of the December 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting:** Tj provided this while displaying the [agenda](#) from the KWA meeting. High points from the meeting included the Water Marketing Contracts for three entities that Nate Westrup (KWO) covered, and the KWA approved entering into those contracts. Next on the agenda was the RAC Operations Committee with RAC membership. Some shuffling on the Missouri with Mike Stec taking the Industry/Commerce (cc)

and Doug Allen (new member) taking the Public Water Supply (2). The Kansas Water Plan update was next on the agenda with Matt Unruh covering this. There was only one public comment offered during the two Zoom meetings however there was a considerable number of comments for the written comment submission. He said it will take a bit to evaluate these and make needed modifications to the Kansas Water Plan. The Annual Report to the Governor and Legislatures was submitted in draft form to the KWA and will be modified to reflect additional comments from the KWA. Travis Sieve, KDHE, gave a report on delisting 39 miles on the Black Vermillion, great success story that has been in the works for years. Dawn mentioned the Legislative Visits on January 26 and the KWA meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> along with other KWA meeting dates: April 20, June 22, August 17, October 19 and December 14, 2022.

### II) RAC Business:

- a. **Review of August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting notes:** Michelle (Vice-Chair) was managing the meeting in Joel's absence. Michelle asked if everyone had read the notes and if there were any edits or corrections. Hearing none, John moved the notes be approved as written and Carl seconded it. There was no additional discussion and the notes were approved unanimously.
- b. **Missouri River Subcommittee:** Michelle mentioned that with the drought conditions forecasted the northern portion of the river basin, Gavins Point releases are expected to be reduced to 12,000 cfs. The water suppliers along the river could struggle to pull water especially this winter with ice or ice flows. She mentioned that the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) had their first in person meeting in some time working several issues, Fish Committee in particular.
- c. **Ag Subcommittee:** There was no one from the Ag Subcommittee present since the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) annual meeting was taking place. Michelle asked if Tj would contact one of the members and add a little about the conference to the notes.
- d. **Education Subcommittee:** John mentioned there hadn't been a statewide meeting for a bit. Chris added that Doniphan County is putting together six teams to compete for the first time in the Envirothon.

- ### III) Groundwater Project Update – Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) :
- Geoff Bohling led this discussion with assistance from Don Whittemore and their PowerPoint can be viewed [here](#). Geoff reminded everyone of the project objectives: establish a groundwater monitoring network and provide an improved estimate of safe yield while looking at regional groundwater quality. There are two wells with continuous water level monitoring with a third site identified. He displayed this on a regional map and then put those locations on a map showing depth to bedrock. With these relatively shallow wells, large rain events were indicated on the continuous monitoring graph. With the limited water level data since 2010 it is hard to draw conclusions; more information is necessary. Don took over the Nitrate portion of the presentation reminding everyone of the 10 mg/L Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). He showed data from several wells in Nemaha County with

the highest Nitrate being 4.6 mg/L, several wells from Doniphan County with Highland having a well with a Nitrate level of 9.8 mg/L and finished with a slide showing several wells around Hiawatha all exceeding the MCL. Don went on to say that natural nitrate concentrations in Kansas aquifers are usually less than 3 mg/L and that the main sources of Nitrate-nitrogen exceeding 3 mg/L is animal waste or fertilizers. Using chloride concentrations to explain his reasoning. Geoff finished off the program talking about the [website](#) for the project. Data for the individual wells is available by clicking on the x's on the map. In the next couple months, they hope to install new monitoring well northeast of Hiawatha, look for additional well locations, complete analysis of drillers' logs and update the website.

- IV) Update on Levee Rebuild – USACE:** Jud Kneuvean led this discussion with assistance from Mike Dulin and a PowerPoint that is located [here](#). He said the levees along the Missouri River on the Kansas side had all been closed and the Rushville-Sugar Lake levee on the Missouri side had been closed as well. With completion expected in early spring once the planting window opens. Jud moved on to the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) stating the weather is expected to be warmer in the norther part of the basin and precipitation models show no clear conclusion for wetter or dryer than normal with the La Nina weather pattern. Reservoir storage in the 6 mainstem reservoirs is already in the Carryover Multiple Use zone; navigation season was shortened and releases from Gavins Point will be reduced to 12,000 cfs probably tomorrow. The current reservoir elevations are similar to the 2012 levels at this time of year. The estimated runoff for 2021 is 14.8 million acre-feet (MAF) and the average annual runoff is 25.8 MAF. Mainstem reservoir storage checks will be used to evaluate the 2022 navigation season. Water available for navigation will likely fall below full service. Jud mentioned lots of structure damage that has occurred along the river which is not allowing the channel to function correctly. Michelle mentioned that water utilities along the River are concerned about the low winter flows and icing. Jud said they will be keeping a close eye on this. Chris asked about the levee project at Elwood and if the borrow area was the native grass and Mike said he would talk to the Project Manager and get back with her.
- V) Cover Crop Coach Program – Glacial Hills RC&D:** Gary Satter led this discussion while showing a PowerPoint presentation located [here](#). This program is made possible by a \$750,000 EPA grant that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) was awarded and will be administered by the Glacial Hills Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D). The goal of the program is to reduce the amount of nutrients leaving some targeted watersheds in northeast, northcentral, southeast and south-central Kansas. The program was launched in August of 2021 and will run through December 31, 2024. The program has 10 coaches who will provide one on one assistance to 5 producers per year for the next three years for a total of 150 producers being educated on soil health practices. Providing these producers with customized plans that will work for them will improving soil health and hopefully the producers bottom line. Gary said this will create a network of producers that can lean on each other while making fundamental changes. Chris added that the local coaches have been

a great help in securing contracts for nearly \$200,000 worth of cover crops. The local coaches are; Nick Johnson and Kole McCauley.

- IV) RAC Membership - KWO:** Tj led this discussion welcoming our new member Doug Allen from Sabetha filling the Public Water Supply (2) category. For those members that couldn't attend the RAC member orientation offered on November 29<sup>th</sup> the PowerPoint and recording can be found [here](#). There are still two open positions on the RAC: Agriculture Industry and Fish & Wildlife both of which are non-core categories. If we find a good person to be part of the RAC these categories can be changed. Please contact Tj if you have someone that might be interested in being part of the RAC.
- V) Other Issues or Agency Updates:** Katie Tietsort, KDA-DWR, mentioned that it is water use reporting time and they had added a new employee. Lisa Ratcliff is that new employee and will be working in the Missouri Regional Planning Area. Chris let the group know that the on-farm field trial funded by the Division of Conservation, is under way looking at the 12% rule on terraces in Doniphan County.
- VI) Public Comments:** There were none.
- VII) Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** There were none.
- VIII) Upcoming Meetings:**
- KWA Meeting/Legislative visits, Topeka, January 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> members are encouraged to participate if their schedule allows
  - Next Missouri RAC meeting first couple weeks of February (TBD) in person/virtual?
  - Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.