



# Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

**Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday December 13, 2018, 9:00 am**  
**USD 409 Community Meeting Room, 626 Commercial,**  
**Atchison, Kansas 66002**

**Members Attendance:**

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Carl Johnson (Chair)	Leavenworth, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2019	Yes
John Bishop	Atchison, KS	Recreation	2019	Yes
Neil Coufal	Troy, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Stephen Glaser	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	No
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Chris Griffin	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2021	Yes
Alan Kelley	White Cloud, KS	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and NB	2019	Yes
Joel Mahnken	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	No
Brett Neibling (VC)	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2019	Yes
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
Margaret Chamas	Troy	KS Extension
Travis Sieve	Topeka	KDHE-WRAPS
Gary Satter	Wetmore	Glacial Hills RC&D
Kenlon Johannes	Topeka	Kansas Soybean
Dave Jones	Manhattan	KDA-DOC
Brett Bungler	Topeka	KDA-DWR
Kirk Tjelmeland	Topeka	KWO

- I) **Welcome and Introductions:** Carl started the meeting at 9:05 am, with self-introductions around the tables and room.
- II) **Public Comments:** There were none.
- III) **Comments on the 2018 Governor’s Water Conference:**
  - a. Carl mentioned that there were several good speakers including: Tim Hardman, World Wildlife fund and Burke Griggs on Kansas water law. Michelle stated that the RAC visuals were good and generated questions and comments, she also presented at the conference. Overall consensus of the group that it was another informative conference. It was noted that the Governor’s Water Conference will be held in Wichita for 2019 on November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.

**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](mailto:Kirk.Tjelmeland@kwo.ks.gov)

#### IV) RAC Business:

- a. The September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting notes were reviewed and accepted as written. John would like them emailed out after Carl and Brett have reviewed them.
- b. The MO River Subcommittee: Michelle brought up the MRRIC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting that was held in Kansas City on Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup>, and the celebration of MRRIC. She also mentioned that the option #3 that the Missouri RAC backed was the one selected to go forward for river management and activities for the next 15 years. More information can be found at this site [here](#). Alan noted that they have developed some weather forecasting for the Missouri River Basin which can be found [here](#) and also river forecast point information at this [link](#). Alan also mentioned a webinar that will be conducted on Asian Carp that could be beneficial.
- c. The Ag subcommittee: Jeff stated that the Farm Bill had been passed and is waiting a signature from the President, a list of highlights from the 2018 Farm Bill can be seen [here](#) there is a Farm Bill website for more information located [here](#). It appeared to Jeff that the new bill protected nearly everything they were looking for and increased CRP acres. Jeff also attended the ASR hearing in Wichita last week where they were trying to get credits for aquifer recharge even though they were pumping the water directly to Wichita, lots of producers in attendance that disagreed. There will be a formal hearing in late February or March to work through this. Jeff also mentioned there are several other water issues of concern: western LEMAs, Hays water transfer and Quivira water right issues. Brett Neibling reported he had been contacted by producers and a state legislature regarding controversy between livestock producers and irrigators about low water flows in Independence Creek. Livestock producers are claiming that the low flows are the result of the over appropriation water by irrigators and the irrigators insist the low flows were the result of the drought. Darcy Nightingale has also been contacted about the controversy and the irrigators have operated within their permit. Brett Bunger from KDA-DWR confirmed that the irrigators were compliant. Alan Kelley reported that 5 wells had run dry on the reservation and the well owners blamed an irrigator for the problem. The irrigator was required to quit pumping. There is apparently uncertainty in the community of what are the safe yields for water appropriation. The committee agreed that the ongoing KGS study to establish safe yields was of critical importance and the Kansas Water Authority is encouraged to continue funding the study. However a message will be drafted relative to continued funding of Phase II of the KGS groundwater study. Brett Bunger also mentioned the closing of the Topeka KDA Field Office which generated a considerable amount of discussion but no action. It was decided that no message would be sent to the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) regarding the closing of the Topeka.
- d. The Modified Kansas PPT was moved to the end to allow for guest presentations. It was decided that Conservation District meetings are the best avenue to work through and a couple RAC members offered to assist with this.

- V) **Update from Soybean Association:** Kenlon Johannes gave a presentation on the Kansas Soybean Checkoff in Kansas, which can be found [here](#). The mission of the Kansas Soybean Association is to serve as the voice and advocate for the soybean-farmer-members. For 2017 Kansas producers harvested 5.11 million acres producing 189 million bushels of soybean with an average yield of 37

bushels/acre which placed Kansas at 10<sup>th</sup> for production across the United States. The check off amounts to ½ of 1% of the selling price of the soybeans which is around \$8 million generated in Kansas, half of which is sent to the National United Soybean board. Those dollars are used for research, marketing and education both locally and nationally. Research was the highest expenditure for Kansas funds at \$1,372,857 and Administration was the lowest at \$285,437. Kansas Soybean works with several partners on water related issues: No-Till on the Plains, Missouri River Coalition, Milford Lake RCPP, KSU Research and EPA WOTUS. Biodiesel is a relatively new product that has added value to soybeans over the years and lessened our dependence on fossil fuel with the majority of production coming from soybean oil. Research continues to provide ways to use soybeans products as replacement for plastics like the KSU football field. Education and outreach continues to be a large portion of their expenditures with multiple media outlets. Kenlon went on to explain the state is divided into 9 regions with James Zwomitzer of Horton being the commissioner for this region. Areas of focus for the Soybean Association include: Policy and advocacy, Domestic and international demand of soy, Industry and consumer relations, Leadership development and farmer outreach and building membership. State Priorities include: Right to farm, Sales and property tax structures for agriculture, Structural integrity of Kansas' bridges and Biodiesel production and usage. The Association is very partner orientated and has their annual meeting coming up on January 9, 2019.

- VI) Update on Doniphan County RCPP:** Chris Griffin said she has been working with the DP County on identifying problem areas. She has one application in hand and has 3 pending. This is a 5 year partnership with NRCS and others to help reduce sediment issues as they affect county roads. There is continual signup under this program with deadlines for batching/ranking purposes. The first deadline is December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and the second is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Chris expects there to be more interest after the first successful contract is written.
- VII) Update on the possible Doniphan County Water Quality Tech farm:** Chris Griffin started the discussion with a story related to water quality in Doniphan County. Last week there was a meeting at Thad Geiger's farm with NRCS, KSU Extension, Conservation District and Kansas Water Office to talk through possibilities for his farm. Given the water quality problems in NE Kansas this area seems prime for a Tech farm. Several ideas were bounced off of Thad, always with an eye of continuing to have the farm remain profitable. Possible practices include: use of legumes on field edges, continued use of cover crops, removal of crop ground for livestock forage, edge of field water sampling, precision Ag (soil mapping, grid sampling and soil organics) and more frequent cattle movement. The idea is to make this a demonstration farm with outreach events at the farm to collaborate with other area producers. Several local industries are on the contact list for the project.
- VIII) Update from KKQTV on Climate Change Report:** Vanessa Alonso gave this presentation which can be found [here](#). Vanessa reported the climate change is happening and that greenhouse gas emissions from cars, power plants and other man-made gases are the primary cause. These gases act like a blanket and trap the sun's warmth near the surface affecting the planet's climate system. The five warmest years on record have all been since 2010 and include 2015-2017 and she assumes 2018

will be on that list as well. Vanessa is from Florida and expects parts of the state to be flooded in the very near future as a result of melting ice caps. There have been chemical changes in the oceans as well with coral reefs shrinking in size. She suggested that our society needs to think cleaner or greener and become more efficient and less wasteful.

- IX) Update from KDHE on WRAPS Changes:** Travis Sieve went through the ppt that had been given to agency and contractors which can be found [here](#). A couple changes are in the making with more emphasis on delisting of water bodies (S21) EPA reporting and reallocating funds to high priority projects. The new funding approach reclassifies projects into Active or Partnership. The Partnership projects will compete annually for a pot of money around \$300,000 using the Watershed Plan as the guiding tool and BMP funding based on efficiency. Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) will be the grant coordinator for all of the Partnership projects. Active projects will develop a strategic plan with the help of KDHE to attack TMDL's and work on delisting water bodies. KDHE intends to get out and meet with all the SLTs as they are scheduled through the winter months. There was a good deal of discussion: some believed this was a good move to have Conservation District employees working as the contact person. While others thought this was a way to generally ignore the Missouri Region.
- X) Other Issues or Agency Comments:** There were no agency reports.
- XI) Upcoming Meetings:**
- a. **KWA meeting, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Wichita, KS**
  - b. **KWA meeting, January 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Topeka, KS**
  - c. **Next Missouri RAC meeting Tuesday February 12th 9-noon, USD 409 meeting room**
  - d. **Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am**