



Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00am, Friday, June 7, 2019

Sauder Alumni Center

Emporia State University Campus

1500 Highland Street

Emporia, KS 66801

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Angela Anderson (Chair)	Allen, KS	WRAPS	2019	Yes
Jay Byers (Vice-Chair)	Pittsburg, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Kent Bacon	Council Grove, KS	Ranching/Grazing	2019	Yes
Joe Buchanan	Council Grove, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Phillip Cooper	Emporia, KS	Water Assurance District	2019	Yes
Wes Fleming	Burlington, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Yes
Kate Grover	Iola, KS	Industry/Commerce	2021	Yes
Jeff Cantrell	Chanute, KS	Public Water Supply	2019	Yes
Brian Obermeyer	Cottonwood Falls, KS	Conservation/Environment	2019	No
Larry Paine	Hillsboro, KS	At Large Public	2019	No
Pat Sauble	Cedar Point, KS	Agriculture	2021	No
Lisa Suderman	Hillsboro, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	Yes
James Triplett	Pittsburg, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Dr. Brent Thomas	ESU
David Edds	ESU
Rich Sleezer	EUS
Dan Haines	John Redmond WRAPS
Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Rob Reschke	KDA-DOC
Cara Hendricks	KWO
Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson, Angela Anderson. All present provided self-introductions. Angela thanked Dr. Brent Thomas (Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at ESU) for hosting the RAC at the Sauder Alumni Center. Angela then mentioned that Pat Suable (Agriculture) has been moved into the Presbyterian Manor of Emporia. Angela suggested that we could hold the next RAC meeting at the Manor so Pat could join in the meeting. Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) will see if arrangements can be made at the Manor for the next RAC meeting.
- Review of the March Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the March meeting were discussed. There were no corrections or additions.



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3. **Emporia State University Aquatic Research and Outreach Center Facility:** Dr. R. Brent Thomas (Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) presented on the new [Aquatic Research and Outreach Center Facility](#) that ESU is constructing. Dr. Thomas discussed the history, fundraising efforts, construction, purpose, and design of the Center. Dr. Thomas noted that the Center and ESU look forward to working with the RAC and state agencies on water issues in the future. He then invited the RAC to come back when the Center is finished to have a meeting there.
4. **KWA April Meeting Report:** Angela Anderson (Chair & WRAPS) and Cara Hendricks (KWO): reported that at the April 18th KWA meeting in Abilene several items were discussed including the budget and Vision update process, along with RAC membership, HABs, Kansas River Basin study, and WTs. The KWA also set the water marketing rate at \$0.418/1000.
5. **RAC Membership, Chairmanship, Expiring Terms:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that the deadline to submit applications for RAC membership was May 31st. Bobbi also reported that the RAC members that had terms expiring had all submitted applications and there were no additional applications for membership. She then explained the process for application review and appointment to the RAC by the KWA and appointment of the RAC chair by the KWA chair.
6. **RAC Goals and Action Plan Discussion:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) presented a PowerPoint on the process of updating the RAC's Goals and Action Plans. The RAC then went through the Goals and Actions Plans and they, along with other attendees at the meeting, had the following suggestions, questions, and comments:

Priority Goal #1: Prolong the water supply storage in John Redmond Reservoir to the year 2065 by reducing the sedimentation rate by an average of 300 acre-feet per year through watershed practices such as no-till, filter strips and streambank stabilization. By 2025, all streambank hotspots will be stabilized. By 2030, 80% of the priority cropland in need of conservation will be treated with no-till practices.

1. Portions of the John Redmond Reservoir Dredging bond money is being used to address hotspots on federal property above the Reservoir
2. Landowner participation in the Neosho Region has been a struggle.
3. Are we testing to ensure that the streambank stabilization is working?
4. There is a 5 year study with KGS for adaptive management. We are currently in the 2nd year of that study. The study is looking at how well the stabilization projects are reducing sediment.
5. What is the average life expectancy of a streambank stabilization project?
6. The veins and weirs are utilized most in the beginning of the project and the vegetation is the long lasting/permanent stabilization fix.
7. Who has responsibility for maintenance?
8. The stream team (KDHE, DOC, KWO) is responsible for maintenance of the streambank stabilization projects.
9. Will there be an evaluation of streambank stabilization sites after flooding?
10. The stream team evaluates the effectiveness of projects and what damage and new hotspots were created by the flooding.
11. The current percentage of crop land in no-till can be determined programmatically or with aerial imagery.
12. Do the streambank stabilization projects have easements?
13. No, there aren't easements on the streambank stabilization projects (unless in CRP), but they cannot go in and destroy it for the life of the practice, because that is what is stated in the contract.



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14. Improving soil health and reducing sedimentation with cover crops and no-till should remain in the action plan.
15. Implementation of a WQTF should remain in the action plan, with promotion of it in the budget.

Priority Goal #2: Reduce vulnerability to drought by the increasing reservoir storage at Marion and Council Grove Reservoirs through a permanent raise in conservation pool elevation. By 2025, evaluate the feasibility of permanent conservation pool rise at Marion and Council Grove reservoirs. Based on the outcome and findings of the feasibility study, stage increases in permanent pool elevation based on supply needs. Ensure water supply available from storage exceeds projected demand by at least 10% through the year 2050.

1. Previous evaluations stated that a pool rise at John Redmond Reservoir would work to increase water supply, but not at the other 2 reservoirs (Marion and Council Grove).
2. 51% of water in the Region is used above John Redmond Reservoir. So increasing water supply at Marion and Council Grove Reservoirs would be beneficial.
3. The working group wording should be taken out of the action plan.

Priority Goal #3: Reduce frequency of algal blooms in Marion Reservoir to no more than every 3 years through 2035. Evaluate the role of water level fluctuations in remediating and reducing algal bloom frequency.

1. Lake level fluctuations should no longer be pursued for Marion Reservoir in order to control HABS.
2. The in-lake pilot projects with KBS would be beneficial to pursue. They have currently completed an RFP for the project.
3. The working group wording should be taken out of the action plan.

Priority Goal #4: Increase storage in basin below John Redmond through development of additional storage sites. By 2020, complete an assessment of potential reservoir sites in lower portion of the Neosho planning region; including potential off-stream storage sites.

1. The lower portion of the Region is not a good place to locate a reservoir.
2. Looking at operational changes to increase supply would be the best option.
3. Streamflow has changed from past years and some believe it is from the levee construction down in the lower portion of the Region and it is the same areas that continue to flood.
4. It could be beneficial to use forecasting to control storage to increase supply and reduce flooding. The CA pilot project with Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) was discussed. This option could look at climate variability and try long term forecasting to manage water supply and flooding.

Priority Goal #5: Every five years, assess the effectiveness of best management practices for effects on hydrology, reduction of sediment and nutrient, and provide that information and education to those implementing practices. Assessments may include off-stream storage for sediment and nutrient trapping, overland erosion and nutrient sequestration, in reservoir sediment and nutrient movement and re-suspension, and landscape scale watershed modeling project.

1. This goal should be removed as a separate goal, but the components of it should be incorporated into the other remaining goals.



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- 7. RAC Budget Information and Recommendations:** **Cara Hendricks (KWO)** presented on the KWA budget recommendation for FY20 and FY21. Cara explained the budget recommendation process and the budget terminology and timeline. She discussed the Governor's budget and how the SWPF is utilized, funded, as well as the \$3.25 million and \$8 million transfer. Cara then went through the budget recommendations, highlighting changes from the previous fiscal year. The RAC discussed which programs and projects they felt were a priority to fund in order to accomplish the goals and actions plans for the Neosho Region. The RAC then made a motion to send the following message to the KWA:

A motion was made by Jeff Cantrell (PWS) and seconded by Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce) to send the following Budget Recommendation Message to the KWA:

The Neosho RAC supports the proposed budget and would like to highlight the following priorities that are important to fund in order to accomplish and carryout the goals and action plans of the Neosho RAC. These items include BMP Implementation (KWO), Streambank Stabilization (KDA), Non-Point Source Pollution (KDA), WRAPS Program (KDHE), Water Vision Education (KWO), Water Technology Farms (KWO), Water Injection Dredging (KWO), Streamgaging (KWO), and Riparian and Wetland (KDA).

There was no discussion and unanimous approval was given.

- 8. Impact Investing for RAC Goals and Action Plans:** **Jay Byers (Vice-Chair & At-Large Public)** gave an overview of what impact investing is. Jay then gave an update on the working group that is coordinating with [Quantified Ventures](#) to see if impact investing is something that would work for the Neosho Region. Jay noted that entities from both Kansas and Oklahoma are interested and participating. He then mentioned that the working group will most likely meet again in July to discuss next steps.
- 9. Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative:** **Rob Reschke (KDA - DOC)**: reported that \$700,000 had been provided to fund Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation in the Kansas, Neosho, Verdigris, and Smoky-Hill Saline Regions. This amount is \$200,000 less than the previous fiscal year. Rob then described how the money will be dispersed via the CDs and the purpose of the program. Rob noted applications will be accepted starting July 1st. The deadline for application submittal will be July 31st.

10. Questions and Future Issues from Members:

Jim Triplett (Conservation & Environment): reported that GLWAF has signed a contract with GRDA and BOR to protect and restore Grand Lake. Funding will go towards hiring a new watershed coordinator. Jim also reported that [Missouri American is building a large reservoir](#) in Missouri to help supply the City of Joplin.

Phillip Cooper (Water Assurance District): reported that flooding has created damage for parts of the City of Emporia's water system. Most of the issues are with the older intakes. Phil then noted that Emporia has received the most rainfall for the month of May since recording of rainfall was kept from the 1970's.

Angela Anderson (Chair & WRAPS): reported that WRAPS is changing their focus from targeted areas to riparian areas. Angela also mentioned that she presented the RAC PowerPoint to a group in Morris County.

Kent Bacon (Ranching/Grazing): reported that he had 20 inches of rainfall at his place.

Joe Buchanan (PWS): reported that a new RWD (Morris County RWD No. 2) is forming in Morris County and will serve 30-40 meters. The RWD will supply those with no service or those that currently have service, but are



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dealing with poor water quality. Construction is to begin soon and Morris County RWD No. 1 will be overseeing much of the project.

Lisa Suderman (Agriculture): reported that deer in the area have been very active and everyone should be cautious on their drives, even during the day to [avoid collisions with deer](#).

11. Agency and Public Input:

Cara Hendricks (KWO): reported on the coordination and support the KWO has been involved with as they assist KDEM with [flood response](#). Support will continue as the system is full and rainfall is likely to continue.

Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR): stated that field inspections, etc. had been delayed due to the recent flooding. Therefore, much of the field staff is focusing on municipal and industrial water right inspections and certifications.

Dan Haines (John Redmond WRAPS): reported that changes with the KDHE WRAPS program has created new WRAPS groups and SLTs.

Dr. David Edds (ESU): wanted to thank the RAC for the work they are putting into water resources.

Dr. Brent Thomas (ESU): stated that he looks forward to the RAC and state agencies reaching out to him for partnering on water issues and projects. He then thanked the RAC for being on campus today.

12. Future Meetings:

Kansas Water Authority: July 30th & 31st in Goodland, KS

Neosho RAC: The next Neosho RAC meeting will be held in the Fall after the Goals and Action Plans

Public Comment Meetings have been completed and the comments have been compiled. A doodle poll will be sent out to pick the best date. It was suggested the next meeting be at the Presbyterian Manor in Emporia, where Pat Sauble is residing. Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) will check on this and see if this is a possibility for the next meeting.