



Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00pm, Monday, March 7, 2018

Scout House (City Park)

802 S Birch

Hillsboro, KS 67063

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	No
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	Yes
Larry Paine (Morgan Marler)	Hillsboro, KS	At Large Public	2019	Yes
Pat Sauble	Cedar Point, KS	Agriculture	2021	Yes
Lisa Suderman	Hillsboro, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2021	Yes
James Triplett	Pittsburg, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Lou Thurston	City of Hillsboro - Mayor
Steven Janzen	City of Hillsboro
Darrell Townsend	GRDA-OK
Rich Zamor	GRDA-OK
Steve Nickolai	GRDA-OK
Katie Tietsort	KDA/DWR
Caleb Fabrycky	KDA/DWR
Terry Medley	KDA/DWR
Tom Stiles	KDHE
Trevor Flynn	KDHE
Layne Knight	KDHE
Willis Sontheimer	KDHE
Julie Carey	USACE
Eugene Goff	USACE
RJ Harms	USACE
Ted Harris	KBS
Jennifer Graham	USGS
Guy Foster	USGS
Ariele Kramer	USGS
Lindsey King	USGS
David Colburn	Marion County Record

Membership: Angela Anderson, Chair, Allen, KS; Jay Byers, Vice-Chair, Pittsburg, KS; Kent Bacon, Council Grove, KS; Joe Buchanan, Council Grove, KS; Jeff Cantrell, Chanute, K; Philip Cooper, Emporia, KS; Wes Fleming, Burlington, KS; Kate Grover, Iola, KS; Brian Obermeyer, Cottonwood Falls, KS; Larry Paine, Hillsboro, KS; Pat Sauble, Cedar Point, KS; Lisa Suderman, Hillsboro, KS; James Triplett, Pittsburg, KS
KWO Planner: Bobbi Luttjohann, 785-296-3185; bobbi.luttjohann@kwo.ks.gov

Alexandra Davis	KWO
Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:05 p.m. by Chairperson, Angela Anderson. All present provided self-introductions. Angela thanked everyone for attending and also thanked the City of Hillsboro for hosting the RAC and providing the meeting location. Mayor Lou Thurston welcomed everyone to Hillsboro.
2. **Review of the October and January Meeting Notes:** The minutes from the October meeting and January Conference Call were discussed. Jay Byers (Vice-Chair & At-Large) corrected the October minutes to reflect that the City of Pittsburg has not yet implemented using algae as a bio-treatment but is considering it. There were no additional corrections or additions.
3. **Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Presentations:**
 - a. **Ted Harris – Kansas Biological Survey (KBS)**
 - b. **Layne Knight and Willis Sontheimer - Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)**
 - c. **Eugene Goff and Julie Carey - US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**
 - d. **Guy Foster and Jennifer Graham – United States Geological Survey (USGS)**

PowerPoints from today’s presentations will be posted on the KWO’s webpage.

Darrell Townsend (GRDA-OK), Rich Zamor (GRDA-OK), and Steve Nickolai (GRDA-OK) shared with the RAC the HABs they have experienced at Grand Lake in OK and what they have tried in the past and are working on into the future to mitigate and reduce blooms.

4. **Water Quality Technology Farm (WQTF) Planning and Progress – Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce),** Angela Anderson (Chair & WRAPS), & Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) discussed the creation of a WQTF in the Neosho Region. Wes explained that a WQTF in the Neosho Region would work to keep water on the land and improve soil health. Wes also discussed next steps and how KSU would be a partner. Angela and Wes reported what producers within the Region might be viable options. Parameters for the WQTF were also discussed.
5. **Conservation Innovation Grant – Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce):** reported on the CIG that was applied for through Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS). The RAC conference call meeting that was held on January 12, 2018 reviewed what the CIG was for and a vote of approval from the RAC was given to send a letter of support. Wes provided a timeline and next steps for the CIG.
6. **RAC SOTR Open Houses:** Angela Anderson (Chair) and Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) discussed the SOTR open house events that were held in Pittsburg on November 29th and in Emporia on December 13th. Both events had good attendance from agencies and distributed some very good information. It was noted that the cities of Pittsburg, Chanute, and Emporia sponsored these events. It was mentioned that if another SOTR event was planned it should be in the evening or on a weekend and in a different month other than December. Also, different methods of communicating information about the SOTR events needs to be used.
7. **Legislative, Funding, and Water Resource Updates:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that Ginger Harper (KWO) had put together an update and that it was sent out in an email on February 28th. If there are any questions, she will pass them on to Ginger.

This is the update that was given: The Kansas Legislature has wrapped up their first two months of the 2018 calendar. Earlier in the session, members of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) and Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) met with more than 100 legislators to discuss priorities for the \$8 million State General Fund/Economic Development Initiatives Fund (SGF/EDIF) transfer. KWA Chairman Gary Harshberger also testified before three committees, highlighting the 2018 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature.

There are several pieces of water-related legislation that were given hearings in various committees, but only two were considered by the full House and Senate. One bill which has passed the house favorably is HB 2691. This bill, as amended, would change the deadline to file an application for a multi-year flex account (MYFA) with the Chief Engineer from on or before October 1 to on or before December 31, of the first year of the MYFA term for which the application would be made. The Senate passed SB 194, which would permit groundwater management district boards to increase the maximum water withdrawal charge from \$1.50 for each acre-foot to \$2.00 for each acre-foot. In addition, the bill would eliminate a provision of current law that permits the boards of groundwater management districts to assess a greater annual water withdrawal charge if more than 50 percent of the authorized place of use of the water is outside the district.

The appropriations process will continue into March, as the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee has met to consider the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) budget, and will make a recommendation to the full House Appropriations Committee next month. The Senate Ways and Means Water Subcommittee will meet the week of March 5th to discuss the SWPF. We continue to hear from numerous legislators that water is an important issue they want to address this session.

8. Questions and Future Issues from Members:

Pat Sauble (Agriculture): reported on the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) program and funding to help remove red cedars from the Flint Hills area. Other entities, including Kansas State University (KSU), the Kansas Forest Service (KFS), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) are also partnering to help preserve the prairie. The following link will provide additional information:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ks/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1318421%20>

Jim Triplett (Conservation/Environment): reported that the Spring River WRAPS meeting will be held before the Neosho RAC meeting on June 7th at GRDA. Jim then reported that Spring River WRAPS has applied for the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSmart Grant, along with GRDA, to form a SLT to share data, information, and hire a coordinator.

Brian Obermeyer (Conservation/Environment): reported that the Symphony in the Flint Hills is hosting the Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit in downtown Cottonwood Falls. The Symphony's theme this year is water. It will be held at the Rosalia Ranch on June 9, 2018. More information can be found here: <http://www.symphonyintheflinthills.org/>

9. Agency and Public Input:

Ted Harris (KBS): reported that the KBS will be conducting bathymetric surveys at Council Grove and Marion Reservoirs in 2018. The KBS is also proposing to complete sediment cores for Marion Reservoir.

Tom Stiles and Trevor Flynn (KDHE): reported on the poultry houses within Kansas. They also reported on the impaired waters report and the microcystin draft guidance from EPA will be coming out soon.

Katie Tietzort (KDA-DWR): reported that DWR is holding a water right owner event in Neodesha on March 14th. A second one will be held next in the Neosho Region within the quarter. Katie asked if anyone has a free location that could host the Neosho Region water right owner event she would appreciate them contacting her ASAP.

Terry Medley (KDA-DWR): reported that the Kansas Dam Safety Conference will be held on March 6, 2018 at the Four Points Sheraton in Manhattan, KS and PDH's will be offered. Terry mentioned there are still a few available spots for registration.

Darrell Townsend (GRDA): welcomed everyone to Grand Lake for the June 7th Neosho RAC meeting. Dr. Townsend noted that lunch and a boat tour will be provided.

RJ Harms (USACE): offered any assistance on questions that the RAC members may have related to USACE operations and HABs. RJ also reported that HABs have been getting worse, with even Perry Lake being issued a warning over Labor Day weekend in 2017.

Julie Carey (USACE): reported that the USACE has put together the Environmental Stewardship Budget for the second quarter for the 2020 budget for the 8 lakes in the Tulsa Region. Julie also reported that the floating wetlands were not funding in 2018 and that she has not heard back on the 2019 budget. However, she has put the same request into the 2020 budget. She also noted that she has put in a request for streambank stabilization projects above John Redmond Reservoir on federal property.

10. Future Meetings:

- a. Kansas Water Authority: April 18, 2018, Lenexa, KS

Neosho RAC: **Date:** June 7, 2018

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Grand River Dam Authority
Ecosystems & Education Center
420 HWY 28
Langley, OK 74350