

## Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00pm, Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Clint Bowyer Building

2700 W. US HWY 50

Lyon County Fairground

Emporia, KS

### 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	No

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Mark Pringle	Public (landowner/producer)
J.R. Glenn	Westar Energy
Kent Askren	KFB
Julie Carey	USACE - Tulsa District
Rep. Mark Schreiber	State Representative
Rob Reschke	KDA-DOC
Katie Tietsort	KDA-DWR
Chris Janssen	KDHE
Bobbi Luttjohann	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Angela Anderson. All present provided self-introductions. Angela thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked those that had attended the Westar Energy Property WQTF field visit earlier in the day.
- Review of the June Meeting Notes:** The minutes from the June meeting were discussed. There were no corrections or additions.
- KWA Meeting Report:** Angela Anderson (Chair & WRAPS) reported that at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> KWA she and 2 other RAC chairs gave a report to the KWA on their RAC's goals and progress. Angela stated that she reported on

the RAC's WQTF progress. Angela also mentioned that the SOTR documents were presented at the KWA meeting. The KWA budget recommendations were also discussed.

4. **Chairs Meeting Conference Call:** Angela Anderson (Chair & WRAPS) reported that the Chairs met via conference call on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Angela reported that the Kansas RAC PowerPoint was presented and can be sent out to anyone wanting to use it as a tool for presentations to disseminate information about the RACs and water issues.
5. **State of the Resource Document (SOTR):** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that the [SOTR documents](#) for each region were presented at the KWA meeting in August and can now be found online. The one page infographic fact sheet for each region that summarizes the SOTR highlights will also be found online in the near future and can be used as a handout to educate people on the issues facing each region. Rep. Mark Schreiber noted that the SOTR document and the one page infographic fact sheet would be good tools to use to educate state legislators.  
Bobbi also reported that as part of the state of the water resources in Kansas, the drought is continuing, however some areas have improved. Bobbi presented the RAC members with maps of current drought conditions, as well as maps of the improvement of drought condition since June, 2018. She also noted that the most up-to-date [Climate and Drought](#) information can be found on the KWO website.
6. **Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Study Update:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that the KWO and KDHE have been working with the USACE to draft a Handshake Agreement to submit to the USACE by September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Agreement would allow sampling at Marion Lake to see what in-lake parameters may be causing HABs, and based on findings, what treatments would be effective. As the Agreement progresses, Bobbi will update the RAC on its status and whether or not it is approved. It was noted that the Neosho RAC is listed as a stakeholder in the Agreement based on their Regional Goals and Action Plans.
7. **Water Quality Technology Farm (WQTF) Planning and Progress** – Angela Anderson (Chair & WRAPS) reported that at 11 am earlier in the day, members of the RAC, Westar Energy, KSU, KFB, KWA, and Rep. Mark Schreiber met at the site owned by Westar Energy that will be a WQTF. Angela discussed some of the information that was presented at the field visit and how the WQTF meets the RAC's Regional Goals and Action Plans.  
J.R. Glenn (Westar Energy) gave the RAC the background information about the Westar Energy property and what current practices are being used on the property now and how Westar Energy would like to use the property as an educational tool. J.R. noted that the property has an advisory board consisting of Westar Energy, Wolf Creek, the producer farming the property, NRCS, and local County Extension, that manage and oversee the property.  
The cost associated with the WQTF that was presented by KSU earlier in the day was discussed. Funding for the WQTF will need to come from several different sources. Currently landowners and WRAPS are committed to help fund small portions of the project. The KWO is also working with KSU to submit a RFP to the Soybean Commission to request funding for the WQTF startup and continued yearly monitoring.
8. **Budget Updates and Budget Process Feedback:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) reported that she sent out the latest budget recommendations via email and if there were any questions or concerns to let her know.  
Bobbi then asked the RAC how they felt the RAC's involvement in the KWA Budget Recommendations process went for the RAC. The RAC members thought their involvement was a good first step, but felt that not enough RAC members were able to participate in the process and that the recommendations given did not reflect the RAC

as a whole. The RAC felt that it would be better to have the RAC's summer meeting dedicated to the budget process. With the summer meeting dedicated mostly to the budget, there would be more time to prepare for it and the meeting would be face-to-face as opposed to a conference call (which may have been less effective). The RAC also thought it would be beneficial to have a priority system to rank each item, as opposed to just simply offering support. A ranking system would allow the RAC to offer a degree of support in relation to other budget items.

9. **Future RAC Meetings Planning:** Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO) asked the RAC if they would tentatively like to schedule the next year of meetings. Bobbi stated that since the Governor's Conference was November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and there was not a KWA meeting until December (2018), with one following in January (2019) with legislative visits, if the RAC would find it reasonable to hold off until late February or early March (2019) for the next RAC meeting. The RAC thought it would be acceptable to have the next meeting in late February or early March, calling for a special meeting if any time sensitive issue did arise. The RAC also noted again that it would be beneficial to have a summer meeting (either June or July, 2019) to discuss the budget and anything else that required attention at that time. The RAC stated that having a meeting in late September or early October (2019) would work out well.

#### 10. Questions and Future Issues from Members:

**Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce):** reported that the [Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative](#) received 100 applications with 71 in the Tuttle Creek Watershed, 27 in the John Redmond Watershed, 1 in the Fall River Watershed, and 1 in the Kanopolis Watershed. It was also noted that 99% of the applications involved cover crops. If all projects were funded the allocated \$900,000 would be completely spent.

**Rob Reschke (KDA-DOC):** reported that the DOC, KWO, and KDHE are working to deliver the Initiative as it was presented to producers through the conservation districts. Rob noted that there were some issues that needed to be worked through to appropriately manage the program and allocate funds properly to the Tier 1 & 2 requested projects. He noted that, as with any new program, the agencies and conservation districts are learning lessons on how to improve the Initiative as they go. He believes this will lead to future program continuation and projects.

**Joe Buchanan (Public Water Supply):** reported that he appreciated that the RAC was able to participate in the application discussion for the Initiative project. He thought it was beneficial to have the RACs involved.

**Lisa Suderman (Agriculture):** reported that the annual WRAPS reports are due. Lisa then reported that applications were due this week for [Drought Assistance Initiative](#) and that technicians from all over the state were recruited to help with applications and field visits. She noted that even with the recent rains, there has been little runoff and ponds remain dry.

**Jeff Cantrell (Public Water Supply):** reported that the City of Chanute has issued a Watch. The Watch was passed at the City's last meeting. However, since that time the City has received some rain.

**Kent Bacon (Grazing/Ranching):** reported that his local area has received enough rainfall to collect water in some of the ponds.

**Phillip Cooper (Water Assurance District):** reported that [Council Grove Lake](#) was 3 feet below Conservation Pool and the City of Emporia has issued a Watch. With the recent rainfall the Lake is now in flood pool.

**Jay Byers (Vice Chair & At-Large Public):** reported that the City of Pittsburg is redoing their treatment plant. The project is estimated to cost close to \$40 million. The City is evaluating many options and the impacts to water quality for the entire region, as well as for the City. Jay noted that as the process moves forward he will be contacting RAC members and water related agencies for input and assistance.

**Jeff Cantrell (Public Water Supply):** stated that the City of Chanute will be interested in the City of Pittsburg's progress, as Chanute will be working on this in the future.

## 11. Agency and Public Input:

**Katie Tietsort (KDA-DWR):** reported that [Minimum Desirable Streamflow \(MDS\)](#) administration orders were issued throughout the Region. However, with the recent rainfall the orders were rescinded for the Region on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Katie also reported, that as she had mentioned before, in the past year there was an increase in civil penalties for overpumping a water right. Due to this change, there have been 3-4 hearings per week. In combination with the new penalties and a recent rewriting of the water right database, many water rights have been found to be overpumping due to water right overlaps and limitations and are now facing steep penalties and fees. The DWR is working with these water right holders to correct overpumping and reduce severity of penalties and fees.

**Rob Reschke (KDA-DOC):** reported that the statewide Drought Assistance Initiative has received over \$4.5 million in applications and believe there are more that will come in. He stated that it is likely that over \$6 million in applications will be received. He stated that the work and effort the conservation district managers and others have put in is impressive and will help producers manage the drought.

**Kent Askren (KFB):** stated that KFB appreciated being a part of the WQTF field visit and discussion and would offer what assistance they could to help the RAC with the success of the WQTF.

**J.R. Glenn (Westar Energy):** stated that he appreciated attending the RAC meeting and WQTF field visit. He noted that it may be beneficial to offer alternative water sources in addition to cover crop practices as an additional way to increase water quality benefits and entice producers.

**Rep. Mark Schreiber:** thanked the RAC for letting him participate in the day and for the work they do. Rep. Schreiber noted it was an election year and that the outcome of it will determine funding options. He stated that there is a lot of interest in water issues, both in western and eastern Kansas. He stated that water issues have not received adequate funding to fulfill all needs and finance all projects.

Rep. Schreiber also mentioned that Emporia State University (ESU) is constructing a new [Aquatic Research and Outreach Center Facility](#). He stated that the center will cost close to \$1 million and has received funding from private sources. He noted that collaborating with ESU's students and professors could help accomplish the work the RAC is doing and may offer a lower cost due to their close proximity to the Region.

**Julie Carey (USACE – Tulsa District):** reported that the USACE is working to assist producers with managing the impact of the drought. The USACE is allowing federal lake withdrawals once the withdrawals have been verified by the KWO.

Julie also reported that they are working with OSU students to work on an ecosystem restoration project at John Redmond Reservoir.

Julie reported that they are closing out FY18 and moving into FY19. She noted that they did not receive any funds for the streambank stabilization project submitted last fiscal year. However, Julie will submit another funding package request in February for this project. While the streambank stabilization project did not get funded, the

request to conduct T&E species bat surveys did receive funded. Also, the USACE will be wrapping up the emerald ash borer surveys and pulling traps and analyzing insect data.

Julie also reported on the federal reorganization that was received from the White House in the [Delivering Government Solutions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#) document.

Mark Pringle (Public: Landowner/Producer): Thanked the RAC for letting him participate in the RAC meeting. Mark stated that he had been fortunate to receive some of the recent rainfall. Mark also mentioned that he tried to participate in the water withdrawal from State Fishing Lakes program several years ago.

### 12. Future Meetings:

**Governor's Water Conference**: November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Manhattan, KS

**Kansas Water Authority**: December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Wichita, KS

**Kansas Water Authority and Legislative Visits**: January 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Topeka, KS

**Neosho RAC**: The next meeting will be held in late February or early March. A doodle poll will be sent out to pick date.