

# Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Friday, December 18, 2020

GoTo Meeting

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Jay Byers (Chair)	Pittsburg, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	YES
Wes Fleming (Vice-Chair)	Burlington, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	NO
Kent Bacon	Council Grove, KS	Ranching/Grazing	2023	NO
Joe Buchanan	Council Grove, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	YES
Phillip Cooper	Emporia, KS	Water Assurance District	2023	YES
Kate Grover	Iola, KS	Industry/Commerce	2021	YES
Brian Obermeyer	Cottonwood Falls, KS	Conservation/Environment	2023	NO
Lisa Suderman	Hillsboro, KS	WRAPS	2023	YES
James Triplett	Pittsburg, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	YES
VACANT		Agriculture (cc)	2021	
VACANT		At Large Public 2	2023	
VACANT		At Large Public 3	2023	
VACANT		Agriculture 2	2021	

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Richard Rockel	KWO
Lauren Koons	KWO
Angela Anderson	KWO
Sara Maguire	KWO
Gary Kepley	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Eugene Goff	USACE
Dylan Oney	USACE
Jeri Fleming	Guard the Grand/GRDA

- Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 10:03am by Chairperson, Jay Byers (At Large Public). Jay thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by Jay. There were six RAC members present, in addition to eight others in attendance.
- Approval of Agenda:** Kate Grover (Industry/Commerce) moved to accept the agenda. Lisa Suderman (WRAPS) seconded. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Review of July Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the July meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. The meeting notes were accepted as submitted.

5. **Governor's Conference Review:** The members discussed the 2020 Governor's Conference on the Future of Water Supply in Kansas. Angela Anderson (KWO) shared the link on the Kansas Water Office website where public may view the presentations should they have missed it. Members expressed interest in an in-person conference next year, if possible.
6. **Jeri Fleming, Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA), water education & conservation efforts for Grand Lake Watershed:**

Jeri presented the Guard the Grand presentation highlighting some of the educational opportunities they have been providing for watershed residents thanks to an EPA grant that was received.

Some of those opportunities included: Seven-day education lesson plan curriculum linked to Oklahoma Science Standards for fourth grade students; Provide test kits & rain barrels; grants for educators to attend "teach the teacher" workshops/professional development; Grants for teachers to purchase materials for their own classrooms such as table-top rain simulators

Jeri mentioned that they are willing to come to the Kansas portion of the Neosho Basin (especially the area near the Oklahoma border) to help facilitate workshops.

Jeri also demonstrated their new Guard the Grand/Guardian of the Grand phone app due to launch early 2021. As well she shared their YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLgPMEbCkAjxM2\\_2aThNiOw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLgPMEbCkAjxM2_2aThNiOw)
7. **Kansas Water Plan Update:**

Angela shared a couple of the draft Guiding Principles of the proposed updated Kansas Water Plan. The two sections she shared were focused on Water Quality and Education, based on the RAC's Goals and Action Plans focus. She will share the other draft Guiding Principles. The Kansas Water Office is welcoming feedback/input to those sections. Please email Angela or [kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov) Members were encouraged to review the draft plan update and to make comments/suggestions.
8. **Vacant membership for 2 Agriculture and 2 Public At-Large Positions:** Need to find some people who have a vested interest in the success of water resources in the region. Anyone interested may fill out an [application from](#) the Kansas Water Office website or may contact Angela for one to be sent. Jay would like members to bring suggestions to the next meeting.
9. **Questions and Future Issues from Members:** Jim advised that there is a large Bureau of Reclamation project taking place with the GRDA. It might be a good topic for future meetings, even though it is more than likely focused on the lake proper, one cannot ignore the Neosho & Spring River affects on Grand Lake. Jim is concerned about the dismantling of the lower Neosho WRAPS project, such as Spring River WRAPS, and what that means to watershed efforts.
10. **Agency Input:** Richard Rockel (KWO) reiterated the importance and value to receiving input on the Kansas Water Plan from the RAC perspective.

Eugene Goff (USACE) stated that once group in-person gatherings may take place, he would be willing to host a tour for the RAC of one of the reservoirs in the basin to discuss how all three work in unison and to show updates. Reservoir infrastructure repairs are currently happening.
11. **Public Input:** There was no public input.
12. **Future Meetings:** Angela will keep the group updated to future meetings.



## Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

- 13. Adjournment:** Lisa Suderman moved to adjourn the meeting. Joe Buchanan (Public Water Supply) seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:17am.

**Membership:** Jay Byers, Chair, Pittsburg, KS; Wes Fleming, Vice-Chair, Burlington, KS; Kent Bacon, Council Grove, KS; Joe Buchanan, Council Grove, KS; Philip Cooper, Emporia, KS; Kate Grover, Iola, KS; Brian Obermeyer, Cottonwood Falls, KS; Lisa Suderman, Hillsboro, KS; James Triplett, Pittsburg, KS  
**KWO Planner:** Angela Anderson, 785-296-3185; [angela.anderson@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:angela.anderson@kwo.ks.gov)