



# Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

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	Yes
Kent Bacon	Council Grove, KS	Ranching/Grazing	2023	Yes
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	Yes
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
Angela Anderson	KWO
Dan Haines	John Redmond Reservoir WRAPS
Chris Janssen	KDHE
Taylor Herman	KCC
Chris Steffen	KDWP
Dave Jones	KDA-DOC
Andrew Rutter	KDHE-WRAPS
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Tisha Richardson	Morris CCD

- Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm by Chairperson, Jay Byers (At Large Public). Jay thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by Jay Byers. There were nine RAC members present, in addition to nine others in attendance.
- Approval of Agenda:** Phil Cooper (Water Assurance District) moved to accept the agenda. Vice-Chair, Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce) seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**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)

4. **Review of December 2020 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the December meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. The meeting notes were accepted as submitted.
5. **KWA Meeting Review/Discussion:** Angela Anderson (KWO Planner), Kirk Tjelmeland (Chief of Planning, KWO) and Jay Byers highlighted the KWA meeting that took place on Monday, April 26, 2021. For those who were unable to attend, the meeting materials may be found on the Kansas Water Office website. Topics covered include House Water Committee water organizational chart, RAC membership drive, RAC Operations Committee decision on Neosho RAC application, and an update on the progress of the Kansas Water Plan timeline.
6. **KDHE-WRAPS Program Report:** Chris Janssen (KDHE) provided a PowerPoint presentation providing an update on WRAPS activities in the Basin, SFY 2020 Load Reductions achieved, and other projects KDHE-Watershed Management section have been working on.  
The WRAPS program went from 36 active WRAPS projects to 16 active and 19 partnership which are operated by KACD on a first come first serve & best load reduction basis. For use of partnership projects, they use the same, but simplified STEP L model used for determining load reductions. For more information on the WRAPS project, one may visit [kswraps.org](http://kswraps.org).  
Other projects KDHE is working on include:  
Farmer 2 Farmer Coaching Grant  
Hagie/Montag Interseeder project  
USACE Silverjackets Project  
USGS Partnership Watershed Scale  
Soil Health Alliance  
General Mills/Understanding Ag project  
Ecosystem Services Market Consortium  
Soil & Water Outcomes Fund – Trading MS4 and Carbon Crediting  
Mineralization/Private Water Well Study  
Drinking Water Protection Program  
Tisha Richardson (Morris County Conservation District) commented that Conservation Districts and District Managers feel they are not being compensated appropriately for helping implement the WRAPS projects in the Partnership program. She felt the compensation should be adjusted to reflect the value for each Conservation District involved in filing the Partnership contracts.
7. **Budget Webinar Follow-up:**  
The budget webinar was moved to Friday, April 30, 2021. The Neosho RAC will discuss their budget recommendations at the next meeting.
8. **Draft Updated Neosho Regional Section of the Kansas Water Plan Overview:** Angela Anderson provided a brief overview of the draft Neosho Regional Section to go into the updated Kansas Water Plan. The Plan will go out for public comment around the end of summer, early autumn time-frame.
9. **Questions and Future Issues from Members:**  
Kate Grover (Industry/Commerce) asked about the status of the Increasing Awareness of Kansas Water Resources section they were allowed to offer input on last year. TJ informed the group it will be placed in the Water Plan that will be able to be available for public comment.  
Chairman, Jay Byers asked the group their feelings on in-person meetings. The group felt okay with in person as long as distancing could be maintained and a virtual option was made available.

Jim Triplett mentioned the 4-State Farm Show will take place in Pittsburg May 21-22. Also, in planning phase is a 4-State producer workshop & family-friendly fair slated for September 17-18<sup>th</sup> in the Cherokee County area. GRDA, KWO, KSRE, and other groups are involved in the planning. Angela stated more information will be coming out soon.

### 10. Agency Input:

**Chris Steffen (KDWP)** stated they continue to see increases in Federal funding for Asian Carp studies & decontamination stations to be established. Luckily there are still no Quagga mussels found in Kansas, even though they are found in the Great Lakes and there are no inspection stations between Kansas and there.

**Dave Jones (KDA-DOC)** updated the RAC that the Conservation Districts now have the opportunity to receive \$3500 for each Conservation District across the state to conduct On Farm Field Trial to demonstrate environmental and economic benefits of Conservation Practices that are applicable to dominant Agricultural Production Systems in each county. Conservation Districts will be allowed to utilize \$500 per county for time that District Manager spends to develop and implement Field Trial. Results to be shared by cooperating Producer at Conservation District annual meetings. Examples of field trials include but are not limited to: • Zone soil sampling and variable rate nutrient application vs. uniform application • Intensive rotational grazing vs. set stocking rates • Irrigation scheduling and telemetry technology vs. conventional irrigation management • Soil health amendment vs no amendment • Cover Crop grazing vs. un-grazed cover crop for profitability, yield, weed suppression.

Dave also reported that there are now two additional components under their 590 Nutrient Management program: Grid Sampling & Grid Sampling with variable rate nutrient application.

**Andrew Rutter (KDHE)** stated that he joined KDHE in February and looks forward to getting to know everyone.

**Kirk Tjelmeland (KWO)** informed the group that new/incumbent RAC member applications are due June 15, 2021. The KWA will approve applications after that date. He expressed his sincere appreciation for all of the time and effort put forth by the members.

11. **Public Input: Brian Obermeyer (Conservation/Environment)** gave a shout-out to Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams and KDWP as they have been planting grass in critical areas and now have a coordinator that is doing the work.

12. **Future Meetings:** The RAC indicated they are good with future meetings taking place in-person as long as they are able to socially distance and offer the opportunity for people to attend virtually if they so choose. Angela Anderson will send out a Doodle Poll for a meeting to potentially occur around the end of June 2021.

13. **Adjournment:** Joe Buchanan (Public Water Supply) moved to adjourn the meeting. Phil Cooper (Water Assurance District) seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:21pm.