



Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 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	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	NO
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
Cara Hendricks	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Chris Janssen	KDHE
Andrew Lyon	KDA-DOC
Dave Jones	KDA-DOC
Debra Jones	KWO
Dan Haines	John Redmond WRAPS
Chris Steffen	KDWP
Travis Sieve	KDHE

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm by Chairperson, Jay Byers (At Large Public). Jay thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by Jay Byers. There were six RAC members present, in addition to 10 others in attendance.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Lisa Suderman (WRAPS) moved to accept the agenda. Joe Buchanan (Public Water Supply (cc)) 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

- IV. Review of April 2021 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the April meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. The meeting notes were accepted as submitted.
- V. June KWA Meetings Review/Discussion:** Assistant Director, Cara Hendricks highlighted the two KWA meeting that took place on June 9 and June 23, 2021. For those who were unable to attend, the meeting materials may be found on the Kansas Water Office website, kwo.ks.gov. Topics that were highlighted by Cara Hendricks included: Water marketing rate setting discussion, City of Independence water marketing application and renewal water marketing application for the City of Hillsboro overview, and Neosho River sediment monitoring cooperative agreements with USGS.
- VI. State Water Plan Fund Budget Discussion & RAC Recommendation:** Assistant Director, Cara Hendricks provided a presentation on the proposed fiscal year 2023 State Water Plan Fund budget. Neosho RAC members were offered the opportunity to ask agency representatives questions pertaining to specific programs.

In answer to questions received, Andy Lyon, Executive Director of Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Conservation (KDA-DOC) provided information on DOC’s new Soil Health Initiative. Andy Lyon reported metrics will be established as a means to measure success of the soil health initiative dollars spent.

Chris Steffen, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, stated that the invasive species, Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) was discovered this summer in McPherson State Fishing Lake. Chris Steffen verified there currently are still no watercraft inspection stations in Kansas.

The following action was taken by the RAC to formalize their budget input recommendations to deliver to the KWA Budget Committee:

“The Neosho RAC supports the proposed budget and would like to highlight the following priorities under the following ranked categories that are important to fund in order to accomplish and carryout the goals and action plans of the Neosho RAC.

1. Sediment/Nutrient Reduction

*Sediment Management & Reduction Technologies (KWO)

* Streambank Stabilization (KDA)

* Non-Point Source Pollution (KDA)

*BMP Implementation (KWO)

* WRAPS Program (KDHE)

* Riparian and Wetland (KDA)

2 Aquatic Nuisance Species Program (KDWP) – To be included for consideration as a State Water Plan Fund budget recipient rather than fee assessment through KDWP

3. Flood Mitigation (KWO)

* **FIRO**

* Basin storage evaluation

4. Education

* Water Vision Education (KWO)

* PACE Demonstration Farms (KWO)

A motion was made by Kate Grover (Industry/Commerce) and seconded by Lisa Suderman (WRAPS) to send the Budget Recommendation Message to the KWA. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- VII. Update on Kansas Water Plan Process:** Assistant Director Cara Hendricks informed the Neosho RAC that the Kansas Water Plan update was in the process of compiling the final full draft for the August 17, 2021 Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting. At that meeting, KWA members may vote to approve the draft for entering the public comment period.
- VIII. RAC Membership update:** Kirk (TJ) Tjelmeland, Kansas Water Office Chief of Planning, stated RAC applications were received for the new application period. The applications will be reviewed by the RAC Operations Committee, which will provide a formal recommendations list to the KWA. The KWA will have the opportunity to review and vote on prospective applicants at their August 17th meeting. TJ thanked the RAC members for all they do.
- IX. Questions and Future Issues from Members:** There were no questions or future issues brought forth from the members. Jay Byers (At-Large Public (cc)) state that the RAC has been good and consistent in their input and guidance.
- X. Agency Input:** Angela Anderson, Neosho RAC Planner, also thanked the RAC members for their time and willingness to share their expertise and knowledge.

Chris Janssen, Kansas Department Health and Environment, stated that grant monies had been received to establish Farmer to Farmer education program opportunities in the Middle and Upper Neosho watersheds.

- XI. Public Input:** There was no public input.
- XII. Adjournment:** Joe Buchanan (Public Water Supply (cc)) moved to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Suderman (WRAPS) seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:36pm.

Future Meetings: KWA – Tuesday, August 17th, 8:00am-4pm, Garden City
-October 6, 2021 – Location/Format TBD
-December 1, 2021 – Location/Format TBD
- January 26-27, 2022 – Topeka, KS

- a. **Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas – November 17-18th, Manhattan**