



Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Neosho Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00am, Thursday, March 7, 2019

402 N. Broadway STE. B

Community Room

Pittsburg, 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	No
Joe Buchanan	Council Grove, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	No
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	No
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	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Barb Bussenbarrick	USACE - Tulsa District
Pamela Walker	Wilson County CD
Caleb Fabrycky	KDA-DWR
Terry Medley	KDA-DWR
Chris Janssen	KDHE
Chris Shultz	KWO
Bobbi Lutjohann	KWO

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. by Chairperson, Angela Anderson. All present provided self-introductions. Angela thanked everyone for attending the rescheduled meeting and thanked Jay Byers (Vice-Chair & At-Large) and the City of Pittsburg for hosting the RAC.
- Review of the September Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the September meeting were discussed. There were no corrections or additions.
- KWA December Meeting Report: Angela Anderson (Chair & WRAPS):** reported that at the December KWA meeting in Wichita several items were discussed including RAC membership and training, Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative, Water Technology Farms, Water Injection Dredging (WID), HABs, non-public household water wells, the Annual Report, and the 2019 Surplus Water Report.

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 Lutjohann, 785-296-3185; bobbi.luttjohann@kwo.ks.gov

4. **KWA January Meeting and Legislative Visits Report: Angela Anderson (Chair & WRAPS) and Bobbi Luttjohann (KWO):** reported that on January 30th 27 KWA and RAC members conducted 69 legislative visits at the Capitol. The following day the KWA had their meeting in Topeka, at which Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers spoke at the meeting. Angela noted that there were new KWA members appointed to the KWA. Other topics covered were sorghum research, PWS Committee and Bathymetry Program updates, and an update from KDWP&T.

5. **Review of HAB Conference - Topeka - January 23rd & 24th Angela Anderson (Chair & WRAPS) and Chris Janssen (KDHE):** reported that the conference, despite having times being rearranged due to weather, went well and had speakers from KDHE and USACE. It was noted that Ted Harris (KBS) was going to speak, but was not able to make it. However, he, Brownie Wilson (KGS), and John Shelley (USACE) will be presenting at the legislative committees on March 21st for Kansas Water Day at the Capitol. All are welcomed to attend the event being held that day on the 1st floor rotunda from 8:30am to 3:00pm.

6. **Impact Investing for RAC Goals and Action Plans: Jay Byers (Vice-Chair & At-Large Public)** gave an overview of who Quantified Ventures is and what they do. Working with Quantified Ventures within the Neosho Region could benefit water users in the Region, both in Kansas and Oklahoma, and possibly help fund the WQTF. Jay reported that through impact investing, BMPs would be funded and repayment would be based on the results achieved. This would require a high degree of testing and documentation, along with the implementation of BMPs. Impact investing is a way to share and minimize the risk and create a private-public partnership. Jay noted as an example, the City of Pittsburg is using this process as they upgrade their WWTP. This creates a long term goal with negotiated timeframes and uses a specific protocol and formula for repayments. Jay reported that John Bailey (KWA) will be presenting this concept to the KWA. It was suggested to meet with KSU concerning this process and also include Grand Lake as this process continues.

7. **WRAPS Program Changes: Chris Janssen (KDHE):** reported that the WRAPS Program has undergone changes. Chris gave a history of the WRAPS Program and how EPA is involved, and how changes within the EPA have affected the WRAPS Program. Due to funding, all WRAPS projects could not be funded through the current program to promote adequate delistings. Therefore, the 34 total WRAPS projects were divided into two programs. Fifteen of these will be under the Active Implementation Program and will be funded through grants from KDHE and EPA. The remaining 19 will be placed in the Partnership Program. The Partnership Program will be managed by a sponsoring organization. KACD will be the sponsor of the grants for the partnership program. KACD will receive funds and the CDs will implement funds on the ground for projects. Applications will go through the CSIMS program that the CDs are currently using. KDHE continues to build strategic plans to compliment the already completed 9 Element plans for the Active Implementation Program to implement practices to promote delistings. Marion, Upper Cottonwood, and Twin Lakes WRAPS will remain in the Active Implementation Program, along with Lower Cottonwood, Eagle Creek, and Headwater Neosho WRAPS which will be joined as one. Upper Neosho, Middle Neosho, and Spring River WRAPS will be sponsored through KACD.
 The Active Implementation Program will be based on the efficiency of practices to remove phosphorus. The program will still focus on target areas and the grants will be awarded on an annual basis.
 More information on the WRAPS Program and contact information can be found here:
<http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/wraps/>

8. **Lake Levels Animation: Chris Shultz (KWO)** gave a presentation on the Lake Level Animation Program that he has built. The program shows how a reservoir's storage is reduced during the historical drought of record, as well as other years that can be programmed in. Chris presented 2018 data to show how the storage changed and then

compared those animations to 2012, which was a drier year, and to the historical drought of record. The animations will be on the KWO website in the future. Chris asked for the feedback from the RAC.

9. **Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Study Update: Bobbi Luttmann (KWO):** reported that the USACE did not approve the Handshake Agreement to allow sampling at Marion Lake to see what in-lake parameters may be causing HABs. Tony Clyde (USACE) mentioned in his email he will request an informal after-action briefing on the proposal to learn what additional information could be added if we try for a resubmittal on the next round.
10. **Water Quality Technology Farm (WQTF) Planning and Progress – Bobbi Luttmann (KWO):** reported that the Soybean Commission did not approve the Neosho WQTF for funding this year. The KWO also did not approve the WQTF for funding as the actual funds received were not sufficient to fund this and other WQTFs. Nathan Nelson (KSU) did pass along possible funding grant sources through NFWF. Bobbi will look further into this.
Angela Anderson (Chair & WRAPS) noted that she spoke with Rep. Schreiber at the legislative visit day about possible funding sources, mostly local sources. These will be followed up on.
11. **Legislative Update: Bobbi Luttmann (KWO):** reported that not much has gone on in this legislative session so far. Bobbi did handout a schedule of the legislative calendar and important dates. Bobbi reported that HB 2185 and HB 2188 are under consideration. The KWO does not have much input on these bills at this time. She then reported that SAKW had proposed draft legislation to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee concerning tax exemptions for donated easements. The proposal has now been moved to bill status and can be found under SB 201. The bill will go to hearing today. Bobbi noted information about bills and the Kansas legislators can be found at <http://www.kslegislature.org>
12. **RAC Membership, Chairmanship, and Expiring Terms: Bobbi Luttmann (KWO):** reported that in 2019 seven members of the RAC will have terms expiring. Bobbi provided a list of the members and when their term expires, along with the timeline for the RAC membership drive. Bobbi also discussed the application process and that applications must be turned in by May 31st. The online application can now be found on the [KWO website RAC page](#).
13. **RAC Member Trainings: Bobbi Luttmann (KWO):** reported that session board leadership training series was offered through the K-State Research and Extension, but all dates have now passed. However, the KWO is planning on doing RAC member training in the fall once new members are appointed. Format for this has not been completely laid out at this time. There will be more to come on the training once time gets closer.
14. **Goal Revisions: Bobbi Luttmann (KWO):** Bobbi Luttmann (KWO) reported that in 2019 the RACs and the KWO will look at the goals and action plans set forth for each Region and determine if these need to be changed. Bobbi asked for the RACs thoughts on this.
15. **Future RAC Meetings Planning: Bobbi Luttmann (KWO):** reported that as 2019 continues the RAC meetings will be planned to coincide with certain issues. The next meeting is planned to be in June to address budget. If the budget is not completed at that time, a July RAC meeting will be held to give recommendations to the KWA about the budget. The fall RAC meeting will be once the KWA has appointed new members and approved a budget. This meeting will focus on new member training.
16. **Questions and Future Issues from Members:**

Jim Triplett (Conservation & Environment): reported that the Sustainability Webinar will be today at 1pm in the City of Pittsburg's conference room. Jim gave an overview of the Re-Thinking the Value of Water webinar. Jim then offered a tour of the recycling center after the webinar for anyone that is interested.

Jim then gave an overview of aquaculture in Kansas. Jim stated that there is an increasing interest in aquaponics food production systems. Jim discussed the areas in Kansas that are working within aquaponics and noted it is a sustainable way to feed the community.

Jay Byers (Vice-Chair & At-Large Public) noted that aquaponics and indoor farming are the future of agriculture and will impact water quality.

Lisa Suderman (Agriculture) mentioned that this is a method used in Iceland.

Wes Fleming (Industry/Commerce): reported on the yield from the Westar farm, that is the potential site of the WQTF. He noted that the producer has saved \$6,700 on hay due to cover crops and this success should be promoted.

Lisa Suderman (Agriculture): reported that they are continuing to work on the Marion County Drought Initiative. Lisa then mentioned that the Marion and Cottonwood WRAPS are up and running. She also noted they are working with KDWP&T to do demonstration farms. Lisa then reported that the Middle Creek Watershed District is working on building a watershed dam near Middle Creek. Terry Medley (KDA-DWR) noted that the Watershed District is working on the mitigation and have received funding through the PL-566 program with NRCS.

Phillip Cooper (Water Assurance District): mentioned that he did use the online reporting with DWR to report Emporia's water use. Phil then mentioned that later this summer the City of Emporia's WWTP will be completed at a cost of just over \$25 million.

Jay Byers (Vice Chair & At-Large Public): gave an overview and history of the [Block 22 Project](#) and the building and meeting room the RAC meeting was being held in. Jay talked about transportation and student housing that were incorporated into the project.

17. Agency and Public Input:

Terry Medley (KDA-DWR): reported that the water use reporting deadline of March 1st has passed. They had 91% of users participate. Terry then reported that the permit to reclaim CDFs was filed this week. He then mentioned that FEMA has appropriated money to non-federal dam rehabilitation.

Caleb Fabrycky (KDA-DWR): noted the March 1st deadline had passed and thanked all those that reported online. Caleb noted that the process went smoother than expected, with only a few minor hiccups.

Pam Walker (Wilson Co. CD): Introduced herself and explained how the Neosho Region fits in with the Wilson County CD. She thanked the RAC for hosting the meeting and appreciated the ability to attend. .

Chris Janssen (KDHE) – reported that the WRAPS program changes are dependent on the WRAPS Working Group.

18. Future Meetings:

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Kansas Water Authority: April 18, 2019, Abilene, KS

Tentative July 30th & 31st in Goodland, KS

Kansas Water Day at the Capitol: March 21, 2019

Neosho RAC: The next meeting will be held on June 7th at the Sauder Alumni Center on the ESU campus. Bobbi is waiting to hear back from Brent Thomas (Dean, Liberal Arts & Sciences at ESU) for confirmation on the 7th and the time of the meeting to coincide when the Center is available. Bobbi will send out when the time is set and the date is confirmed.

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