

MEMO



DATE: January 29, 2020
TO: Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Diane Knowles
CC: Red Hills Agency Advisors
RE: February 10, 2020 RAC Meeting

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The meeting of the Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee will be held on **Monday February 10, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. in the Peoples Bank meeting room, 117 S Main, Medicine Lodge, Kansas.**

The main items for discussion will be the Fiscal Year 2020 budget allocations, recommendations to KWA for the Fiscal Year 2021 and the update of the 50-year Vision for Water.

Enclosed please find:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes-June 2019
- Press release

Also note the Kansas Water Authority 2019 Annual Report has been completed and is available on the website at www.kwo.ks.gov.

Please let me know if you cannot attend, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting please contact, me at diane.knowles@kwo.ks.gov; or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATE(R).



MEETING AGENDA

DATE: February 10,2020

TIME: 1:30 PM

LOCATION: Medicine Lodge, Kansas

DRAFT AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda

III. Kansas Water Authority Update

- a. Legislative visits
- b. Budget Process 2020

IV. RAC Business

- a. Review of Past Meeting Notes
- b. Membership
- c. Conservation District Annual Meetings

V. Vision and Regional Activities

- a. Produced Water Pilot Status
- b. Vision Discussion including Goals and Action Plans

VI. Other Business

- a. Questions and Issues from Members
- b. Agency Reports not already covered
- c. Public Comments
- d. Meeting Reminders
 - i. Kansas Water Authority - April
 - ii. Next RAC -TBD

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:30 am June 28, 2019

Medicine Lodge Kansas

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Present
Suzanne Drouhard (Chair)	Danville, KS	Agriculture 2	No
Clark Bibb	Coldwater, KS	At Large Public West	No
Ken Brunson	Pratt, KS	Fish and Wildlife	Yes
Jim Harden	Clark County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	No
Jeff Porter	Medicine Lodge, KS	Local Government	No
Hi Lewis	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	No
Larry Mangan	Wellington, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	Yes
Vacant		Agriculture (cc)	-
Mark Watts (vice-chair)	Medicine Lodge, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	Yes
Phil White	Wellington, KS	At large Public East	No
Jay Zimmerman	South Haven, KS	At Large Public (cc)	No

Others Attending: Steve Frost (KDA,DOC), Matt Unruh (KWO), Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome/Introductions: Everyone was welcomed by Mark Watts, committee vice-chair. Self-introductions were made. There is no quorum of RAC members.

Kansas Water Authority

April KWA: Mark Watts, Matt Unruh and Diane Knowles provided a summary of the April Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting in Abilene. Highlights: marketing rate was approved at 0.418 for CY2020 (the previously annual 3.2% increase for ten years); and permission was granted for the Director to enter into the USGS and U.S. Army Corp agreements for various activities; the process to merge of the Vision and Water Plan over the next year or so; the Budget process for the SFY2021; and the possible need to look at state policy in regard to the water transfer process to allow conversations with other states.

In addition there were updates on marketing negotiations with the City of Lawrence; potential Lower Smoky Hill River Access District Expansion modeling; Lower Republican Access District potential discussion; contracts with USGS, the central Kansas water bank evaluation, water technology farms, harmful algal blooms, and perfluorinated chemical (PFC).

In response to a series of inquiries the R9 transfer and Rattlesnake Creek Impairment status were discussed including conservation programs that might aid in reducing water use in the Rattlesnake issue. Diane noted that the RAC had asked to be kept informed on the R9 Transfer request by cities of Hays and Russell. At this time the water right changes have been conditionally approved (March 27, 2019), although WaterPACK filed for judicial review on May 29, 2019. Next step is the initiation of the transfer process to consider moving water from Edwards County north for use by the cities. This will involve a panel of the Chief Engineer, Director of KWO and KDHE secretary or their representatives.

Status of the Quivira/Wildlife Refuge Impairment/Rattlesnake Creek issue has also been requested. Diane noted GMD5 and DWR continue to work on remedies that include augmentation and a Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA).

Water withdrawal reductions being discussed include conservation programs such as CREP and WTAP, along with end gun removal at part of the LEMA proposal.

It was also noted that the Harper County Water Technology Farm (WTF) has had flooding so will not be actively participating in the WTF this crop year. Flooding has also delayed the KSU evaluation of Cedar tree and hydrology.

RAC membership for all 14 regions is beginning in order to fill the positions that expire June 30, 2018. Diane noted there are not enough applications to fill all positions, applications may still be submitted. Recommendations will be developed by the KWA committee in early July for the full authority consideration July 30-31.

Budget

Matt Unruh, Kansas Water Office provided an overview of the SFY 2020 budget and the draft SFY2021 Water Plan budget, pointing out the major differences. Discussing the budget from the regional goal/action plan perspective resulted in a discussion of stream monitoring and additional instrumentation and data desired. Identified as important was determining frequency and appropriate locations for more stream monitoring in order to understand the local trends.

Information on what funds are spent in the region on various DOC practices was identified as a need to assist in understanding the complete funding picture. Leading to a discussion on who and how to pass along information as well as increasing awareness of the link to the regional advisory committee. Ideas included presentations at conservation district meetings (annual) DOC generating information on funds spent in the regions, letters to conservation districts and a RAC sponsored meeting on conservation programs and their funding.

In a more focused budget needs discussion comments were made to consider alternatives to permanent stream gages with the intention to characterize baseflow but still provide relevant data and also help determine impacts of various watershed treatments such as cedar tree removal.

Regional Activities/Vision

Pilot Produced Water Project: Neptune FS Global has come forward to treat produced water to usable standards. We have an extension from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) until September 2019 to complete the work. The MOU with BOR has been adjusted. Contracts are being processed with KU and Neptune.

Lake Project: Mark reported the Sunflower H2O group is considering hiring WSU to do an economic analysis of the lake project with funds they have. Then would need funds to move the engineering along.

Other Business

Agency Reports-no formal reports

Questions & Issues from Members:

Larry Mangan provided a streamflow graph for Slate Creek and explained the flooding that occurred recently and the value of the watershed structure that did reduce impacts. Maintaining these structures is very important.

After considering alternatives, the members present determined that input to KWA on the budget would be a summary of their discussion.

DRAFT