

MEMO



DATE: January 26, 2022
TO: Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Sara Maguire, Kansas Water Office
CC: Red Hills Agency Advisors
RE: February 4, 2022 RAC Meeting

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Topeka, KS 66612
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The meeting of the Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be held virtually on **February 4, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/698755701>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(408\) 650-3123](tel:+14086503123)

Access Code: 698-755-701

The main items of discussion at the RAC meeting will be regional and statewide updates from the Kansas Water Office.

Enclosed please find:

- Agenda
- Updated Goals and Action Plans
- Previous Meeting Notes
- News Release

Please let me know if you cannot attend, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting. Please contact me by e-mail at sara.maguire@kwo.ks.gov or by phone at (888) KAN-WATE(R).



**RED HILLS
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: February 4, 2022

TIME: 9:30 am

LOCATION: **Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**
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AGENDA DETAILS

- I. Welcome and Roll Call**

- II. Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda**

- III. Kansas Water Office Updates**
 - a. Statewide issues and updates**
 - i. Legislature
 - ii. Kansas Water Plan
 - iii. Kansas Water Authority meeting (January 26-27 meeting)
 - b. Regional issues and updates**
 - i. Open discussion from members

- IV. Regional Activities**
 - a. Produced Water Pilot Update**
 - b. Review Goals and Action Plans**

- V. Other Business**
 - a. Public comments**
 - b. Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members**
 - c. Future Meetings**
 - i. Red Hills RAC: TBD

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm July 27, 2021

Remote

Members in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Brad Johnson	KDHE
Angela Puls	KDHE
Allison Herring	KDHE
Steve Frost	DOC
Cameron Conant	DWR
Sara Maguire	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO
Kirk "Tj" Tjemeland	KWO

Welcome and Roll Call: Sara Maguire of the Kansas Water Office (KWO) called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda: RAC members approved the agenda as written.

Kansas Water Office Updates

a. Budget Update

- i. **Budget presentation from KWO:** Matt Unruh of KWO gave a virtual presentation on budget information, summarizing fiscal year (FY) 2021, discussing FY 2022, and looking ahead to FY 2023. Matt answered questions from the group and encouraged representatives from KDHE, DOC, and DWR to highlight the budget items they felt were important. Items highlighted included the soil health initiative, drinking water protection program, watershed restoration and protection strategy (WRAPS), nonpoint source pollution, contamination remediation, water technology farms, stream gaging, and the Arbuckle study.
- ii. **Budget input from RAC members:** The RAC members present discussed possible expenditures and ultimately decided to prioritize the same budget items as the Red Hills RAC had highlighted last

year. These items are conservation practices, stream gaging, produced water pilot study, lake project, and Red Cedar control.

b. Statewide Updates

- i. **Legislature:** Tj of KWO provided information on the House Water Committee. The House Water Committee will be holding a meeting in Garden City, KS on August 18, 2021.
- ii. **Kansas Water Plan:** Sara discussed plans to complete the Water Plan by the August KWA meeting. Following the August KWA meeting, there will be a 30-day window for public comments, after which time a final version of the Water Plan can be produced and distributed. Water Plan updates can be found on [this page](#).
- iii. **Kansas Water Authority Meeting:** Matt and Tj summarized the previous three Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meetings, held on May 18, June 9, and June 23, 2021.

c. Regional Updates

- i. **RAC Membership:** Sara encouraged members to help KWO fill the four vacancies of the Red Hills RAC. Anyone interested in becoming a member can find the application [here](#) and can continue applying until all positions are filled.
- ii. **Open discussion from members:** Sara opened the floor for discussion from members, but no comments were made.

Regional Activities

- a. **Produced Water Pilot Update:** Tj provided an update on the Produced Water Pilot project. Due to a problem with the dryer, there is continuing work on the machinery and the timeline to get the system to Kansas has been pushed back. Further work is dependent on continued funding.
- b. **Moving Forward with Action Plans:** No comments were made regarding action plans.

Other Business

- c. **Public comments:** None.
- d. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** None.
- e. **Future Meetings**
 - i. **Red Hills RAC:** The next RAC meeting will be scheduled around October 2021.
 - ii. **Kansas Water Congress:** The next Water Congress meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2021 in Garden City, Kansas.
 - iii. **Kansas Water Authority:** The next KWA meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2021 in Garden City, Kansas.
 - iv. **House Water Committee:** The next Water Committee meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2021 in Garden City, Kansas.

Adjourn: Mark Watts adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm.

Red Hills RAC Goals and Action Plans

Priority Goal #1: Reduce water usage throughout the region. Conservation should be voluntary and encouraged to use incentive-based policies and programs.

Action Plans:

- I. Identify data needed to determine if and where water (streamflow or groundwater levels) downtrends are occurring for focusing water conservation efforts.
- II. Identify reuse potential in the region.
- III. Identify barriers to reuse, such as limiting factors and water quality parameters.
- IV. Develop appropriate policy, programs, data or education to address barriers to reuse.
- V. Add streamflow measurements to assess changes in streamflow and baseflow contributions on Elm Creek and other priority locations, preferably continuous monitoring gages.
- VI. Identify and promote state program to address Red Cedar invasion.
- VII. Utilize education/information dissemination as developed for the Vision and region. Should include information on water resources, stresses, conservation tools and water use.
- VIII. Identify barriers to conservation in this region.
- IX. Work with local, state and federal programs to offer water conservation programs, including cost-share opportunities.
- X. Address water conservation by water use category.

Priority Goal #2: Increase sources of supply through the use of a multipurpose small lake to meet increased demand in specific growth or need areas by 2035.

Action Plans:

- I. Determine level of support for a reservoir providing future water supply, flood control, and recreation.
- II. Gather public input on possible reservoir for recreation and future water supply.

- III. Define project and scope of work for detailed economic impact study to move ahead, if local support is sufficient.
- IV. Initiate Economic Impact Study.
- V. Review Economic Impact Study and formulate future steps.

Priority Goal #3: Work with oil and gas industry to have 10,000 barrels of fresh water per day recycled from oil production for regional use in the Red Hills.

Action Plans:

- I. Develop background/baseline data on the quantity of produced water, water usage and reuse in the region for use in education and development of appropriate actions.
- II. Work with industry to recycle/reuse flow back and production waters.
- III. Promote the produced water treatment project and other treatment technologies.
- IV. Share results of Kansas pilot treatment project and other treatment projects.
- V. Identify sites for treated (freshwater) water storage for oil and gas industry access for fracking.
- VI. Work with industry to use the lowest quality waters possible.
- VII. Work with industry to reduce produced water underground injection quantities.