

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00 am January 21, 2016

Medicine Lodge Kansas

Members in Attendance:

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

Others in attendance:

Carl Jarboe (NRCS), Wyatt Sperry (NRCS), Cameron Conant (KDA-DWR), Scott Alberg (KCC), Robert Torres (Pratt County), Jeff Porter (City of Medicine Lodge), Katie Goff (KWO), and Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome and Introductions: Suzanne Drouhard welcomed everyone to the RAC meeting. Self introductions were made by everyone.

Approval of Agenda: **Agenda:** There were no additions or corrections to the agenda as presented.

Review of October Meeting Notes: Meeting notes were accepted with spelling corrections.

Review and development of Water Use Reduction Regional Goal: Discussion on the draft action plan in regard to water use, the history and trends of water uses, streamflow/baseflow and possible methods to fill the information gaps. Information was also provided on various tools and programs that aid in reducing water use.

Specific discussion included:

- suggested changes to the brief background information to correct reported use regarding industry and how to estimate the water used in the oil and gas production that is not required to report actual use;
- inconsistencies in reporting water sold to industry by irrigators; how to determine pumping (irrigation) effects on streamflow in the region, including irrigation upstream out of the Red Hills;
- the need for defining the groundwater/ surface water interaction historically on the region's streams; and
- the need to define the Red Cedar infestation, water use and effect on the region's water resources.

Water Right Tools: Cameron Conant provided an overview and web page references of some tools for water savings within the water appropriation rules and regulations.

- Multi-Year Flex Accounts are a 5 year term permit based on water use of the water right that allows the water right holder to use a specified quantity over a 5 year period, potentially allowing greater water use in some years

offset by lesser use in others within the period. The MYFA provides a water right some flexibilities that may also have a water conservation component. <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/water-appropriation/multi-year-flex-accounts>

- Water Right Conservation Program (WRCP) protects the water appropriation when not using the appropriation with enrollment, which is for 5-10 years in areas closed to new appropriations, or areas where the Chief Engineer deems it is in the public interest.
- Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) can be developed by one or more water user in eligible areas using a consent agreement with the Chief Engineer. The agreement can allow flexibility of use, acres points of diversion or other factors. Presently this could apply in the designated use areas that are fully appropriated in the Region. <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/managing-kansas-water-resources/wca>
- Designated Use Areas (DUAs) are used to determine water availability for a new appropriation along with a 2-mile circle safe yield calculation. There are 79 DUA areas in south central Kansas, each with recharge calculation components in rules and regulations that determine if that area still has water available. About 17 (or portions of these) in the Red Hills region are fully appropriated.

Water Saving Tools and Programs: Wyatt Sperry and Carl Jarboe provided a brief overview of available programs through NRCS and local conservation districts that could address Red Cedars in the area. Both EQIP and state cost share programs could be used for cutting brush and prescribed burning to then keep them out. Discussion occurred on how this would fit toward the reduction of water use Regional Goal Action Plan and what information is needed to quantify the problem. Getting county conservation districts to offer these programs and then getting landowners to participate were determined to be the key in areas where infestation is a problem.

Industry related Goals (3 & 4)

Produced water Overview was provided in mailing materials. There were no questions or comments. Industry Activities to reduce freshwater use and utilize produced water were only briefly discussed by Diane reading Hi Lewis email and document provided. A summary of his email about a pilot project to recycle produced oilfield water somewhere in the Red Hills area follows. Skid-mounted plants would be used so a test could be conducted just about anywhere. The perfect place to treat would be a place where produced water is available (transportation of produced oilfield water is a MAJOR component of the cost and risk of treatment) AND near a place where the treated water can be released onto the surface and used by local farmers/ranchers. Technology can treat to just about any water quality standards that users need, but the plant under consideration does not get the water to drinking water standards. Help from the State is needed to know where the treated water can be released and who can use it for what purpose, and of course, from someone in the Red Hills area to recommend/approve the same things.

Regulatory Perspectives were provided by Scott Alberg. He pointed out that oil and gas production is profit driven and there are currently no majors operating in Kansas, only Kansas companies (small). Goal discussion and feasibility were discussed with the 4% reduction goal deemed doable mostly due to reduced activity. The recycling goal will require willing operators. There was agreement that having something ready when production ramps up again would be in the area's interest. Mark Watts offered to reach out to producers that might be interested.

Multipurpose Small Lake Goal was touched on briefly to determine the RAC is interested in a meeting with Sunflower H2O coalition and a consulting firm with experience in developing a small local lake in another state.



Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Future meeting dates suggested were April 14 or sometime March 7-21, Diane will contact the RAC to determine a date.

Membership: Suzanne Drouhard, Chair, Danville, KS; Clark Bibb, Coldwater, KS; Ken Brunson, Pratt, KS; Jim Harden; Amber Horbelt, Anthony, KS; Hi Lewis, Wichita, KS; Larry Mangan, Wellington, KS; Gregory Shelor, Minneola, KS; Mark Watts; Phil White, Wellington, KS; Jay Zimmerman, South Haven, KS
KWO Planner: Diane Knowles, 785-296-3185; diane.knowles@kwo.ks.gov