



Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am March 21, 2017

Medicine Lodge Kansas

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Present
Suzanne Drouhard (Chair)	Danville, KS	Agriculture (cc)	N
Clark Bibb	Coldwater, KS	At Large Public West	Y
Ken Brunson	Pratt, KS	Fish and Wildlife	Y
Jim Harden	Clark County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	Y
Jeff Porter	Medicine Lodge, KS	Local Government	Y
Hi Lewis	Wichita, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	N
Larry Mangan	Wellington, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	Y
Gene Albers	Cunningham, KS	Agriculture (cc)	N
Mark Watts	Medicine Lodge, KS	Industry/Commerce	Y
Phil White	Wellington, KS	At large Public East	Y
Jay Zimmerman	South Haven, KS	At Large Public	Y

Others Attending: Steve Garten (BA Co), Scott Alberg (KCC), Wyatt Sperry (NRCS), Cameron Conant (KDA-DWR), Allison Herring (KDHE), Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome/Introductions: Everyone was welcomed by Mark Watts, committee vice chair and acting chair for this meeting.

Agenda: The draft agenda was approved as presented.

Review of Meeting Notes: Draft meeting notes from the August 24, 2017 were accepted as presented.

The October meeting notes were distributed for informational purposes. (There was not a quorum.)

Legislative and Budget Updates

Diane Knowles provided a summary of water related legislative activities, including budget related activities.

Earlier in the session, members of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) and Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) met with more than 100 legislators to discuss priorities for the \$8 million State General Fund/Economic Development Initiatives Fund (SGF/EDIF) transfer. KWA Chairman Gary Harshberger also testified before three committees, highlighting the 2018 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature.

The appropriations process will continue into March, as the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee has met to consider the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) budget, recommendation to the full House Appropriations Committee was \$4 million transfer in FY 2019, \$600,000 in FY18 for RCPP and HAB. The Senate Ways and Means Water Subcommittee approved a #3 million SGF & EDIF transfer, goes to full senate now. We continue to hear from numerous legislators that water is an important



Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

There are several pieces of water-related legislation that were given hearings in various committees, but only two were considered by the full House and Senate. The Senate passed SB 194, which would permit groundwater management district boards to increase the maximum water withdrawal charge from \$1.50 for each acre-foot to \$2.00 for each acre-foot. In addition, the bill would eliminate a provision of current law that permits the boards of groundwater management districts to assess a greater annual water withdrawal charge if more than 50 percent of the authorized place of use of the water is outside the district.

Another bill which has passed the house, HB 2691 will change the deadline to file an application for a multi-year flex account (MYFA) with the Chief Engineer from on or before October 1 to on or before December 31.

Regional Activities

KWA/RAC Business

KWA met in January, and included the legislative visits already mentioned. KWA took action to approve negotiations for water marketing contract with city of Lawrence/Clinton Lake, draft principles on proposed legislation, discussed research and heard reports on projects such as RCPP at Milford, HAB, Vision education, WTF chloride plume –Equus Walnut/Wichita.

Discussion occurred on drought, wildfires and emergency water from lakes. It was also noted that the R9 Transfer request by cities of Hays and Russell may be in the news. After the water right changes are approved, and public information meetings held the actual transfer process will begin. The transfer is to move water from Edwards county north for use by the cities.

Projects/Implementation Update

Diane presented the recent Great Bend Prairie RAC motion pertaining to salt water disposal lines, and the Regional Goal associated regional goal #3. A lengthy discussion with the assistance of Scott Alberg (KCC) occurred to clarify existing regulations, changing regulations, some of the authorities of KCC, penalties, the extent of problems related to salt water disposal lines.

Ken Brunson made the motion **that the Red Hills RAC support attendance of the Great Bend Prairie RAC at the KCC Oil and Gas Advisory Committee Meeting to recommend assessment of salt water disposal pipeline issues.** Motion seconded by Jim Harden. Motion carried.

Produced Water Pilot Project: Diane updated the committee on the pilot treatment project holdup. The firm, H2O Tech is merging with another company and will become H2O Processing. According to the CEO, the merger should allow the company to be better able to finance their share of the project. Anticipate setting up a meeting date at the site for the 3rd or 4th week of April. It is anticipated by the firm that this project could be completed this year.

At issue now is the \$300,000 is needed to make this project happen. The original budget that generated by the firm estimate the project at \$175,950 however after receiving the BOR award the price tag to complete the project went up. The award from the BOR was for \$199,175 which included \$23,225 for indirect cost that we decided could be used for water quality monitoring plan by KU, \$20,800. We need to come up with about \$125,000 to get the produced water project completed.

Lake Goal update: Mark Watts reviewed the status of the Lake project, reminding the committee that the Sunflower H2O work group continues to work on the project. A meeting with Chain ranch representatives is schedule to determine the landowner's interest. If they are interested, investors will be looked for.



Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Funding remains an issue as numerous programs have been ruled out due to type and size of project not fitting eligibility requirements. Discussion suggested further thought on public areas and associated expertise might be useful.

Conservation: Ken Brunson reported the hydrology portion Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project for the eastern red cedar tree/water evaluation is in the process of identifying landowners willing to participate. Anecdotal information has indicated an increase in streamflow after fires or other removal of the trees. He also noted the wildfires the past couple of years has brought more awareness of the need to control the cedars.

Wyatt Sperry (NRCS) reported the RCPP project has had good sign up, more than last year, to cut cedars down and to clean up burned cedars. There are 2 or 3 more years of the program sign up.

State of the Resource:

The Draft Red Hills document was sent in an email at the end of September. Diane reported receiving no comments. Diane handed out near final draft and discussed ideas for engaging the public. Suggestions for using the information after the document is complete included booths at events and inviting all county commissioners through county clerks.

Other Business

Agency reports

KDA-DWR- Cameron Conant noted that in regard to the Rattlesnake Creek impairment issue, GMD5 has proposed a LEMA. New documents related to this can be found at <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr> under Quivira.

KDHE- Allison Henning reported that new officials are filling key positions including Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Environment Director and a Bureau of Environmental Field Services Director.

Public Comment: none

Messages to KWA - none

Future Meetings

KWA meeting next April 18, Lenexa

The timing for the next RAC meeting was discussed but not set.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM