

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00 am October 31, 2018

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	N
Ken Brunson	Pratt, KS	Fish and Wildlife	Y
Jim Harden	Clark County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	N
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	N
Jay Zimmerman	South Haven, KS	At Large Public	N

Others Attending: Cameron Conant (KDA-DWR), Mike Roe (Barber County), Trisha Moore (KSU), Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome/Introductions: Everyone was welcomed by Mark Watts, committee vice-chair. Self-introductions were made.

Agenda: The draft agenda was accepted as presented.

Review of Past Meeting Notes: Draft meeting notes from the July 2018 were approved. (Motion by Larry Mangan, seconded by Ken Brunson, carried).

Kansas Water Authority

Diane Knowles provided a summary of the August Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting. Discussion included the Kansas RAC development of a presentation to allow a consistent message from the 14 RACs on a water funding, description of Neosho WTF, and Sol-Rep economic study on Sebelius reservoir along with presentation and extensive discussion of the Great Bend Prairie RAC standard operating procedure (SOP) and the budget.

The budget to be moved forward by KWA for fiscal years 2020 & 2021 was including in mailing materials. This is a two-year planning cycle. It is based on the statutory \$8 million state general fund (SGF) transfer and lottery fund in addition to fees.

Discussion occurred on the Water Technology Farm line item and how these funds are used.

Regional Activities

Cedar and Hydrology- Ken Brunson introduced Dr. Trisha Moore, KSU. Dr. Moore is heading the research related to eastern red cedar encroachment on grazing lands and the impact on water resources. Dr. More presented an overview of the study that will compare similar small watersheds when eastern red cedars are controlled in one and not the other to

look at the effect on water resources in a 2-year study. She provided basic information on grass land and forested area water cycles. The goal is to define the relationship to water availability. Monitoring will include streamflow, streambed temperature, groundwater levels and soil moisture. Observations from local landowners and producers will also be collected.

Discussion occurred to clarify and answer questions as well as noting that is activity is related to the conservation goal.

Other Updates

Oil and gas industry water use reduction and reuse of water: Diane reminded the RAC that the Great Bend Prairie issue related to salt water disposal lines was discussed at the March meeting and the Red Hills RAC recommendation to support the evaluation of salt water disposal pipeline issues in the region. KCC has agreed to evaluate their data to quantify the nature and degree of saltwater disposal problems in the region. So far they have identified the number of spill incidents in the region since 1992 (26 years) at 444 which is about 17 per year (GPD 1, 088, EW 897)

Produced Water Pilot Project: Diane explained that the firm, H2O Tech has declined to continue with the project without additional funds of about \$125,000. An extension of an additional year is possible on the Bureau of Reclamation grant. KU is still a part of the project. It is hoped we can replace the contractor and complete the project. KWO is looking for interested company.

Lake Goal update: Mark Watts noted that a meeting with Chain ranch representatives occurred before the July RAC meeting. Nothing has occurred since. It is a long term project and if there are other projects they could be pursued in the meantime.

Diane was also noted that the R9 Transfer request by cities of Hays and Russell is progressing. The decision on the conditional water right changes is getting close. The transfer process will begin if the changes are conditionally approved to consider moving water from Edwards County north for use by the cities.

State of the Resource-Diane provided the State of the Resource report for the region. Each region's report can be found on the KWO webpage for that region. Infographics have also been developed for each region and will be available soon on the KWO website. Diane then explained the associated presentation developed by the Kansas RAC. The intent is to provide all RACs a start in presenting a consistent message to encourage funding and project support. Diane has begun modifying the presentation for the Red Hills. There was interest from RAC members in using this with local groups. Diane will modify as discussed and send to members.

Other Business

Agency reports not already covered-

Division of Water Resources- Cameron Conant noted the status of the impairment at Quivira Wildlife Refuge, also referred to as the Rattlesnake issue has not changed much, although there is a lot going on and being discussed. A LEMA is being developed by GMD5, but there are some differences in GMD5 Board and the Chief Engineer positions on stream flow depletions. Information, documents and comments are on DWR and GMD5 websites.

Public Comments: none

Questions & Issues from Members -none

Messages to KWA- none

Future Meetings

Governor's Water Conference is November 13-14, Manhattan. Larry plans to attend.

The Next KWA meeting is next December 19, in Wichita. Mark plans to attend. There will also be a KWA meeting at the end of January in Topeka. Legislative visits are part of this. RAC members are welcome to participate.

The meeting adjourned

DRAFT