



Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 am July 31, 2017
Medicine Lodge Kansas

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Present
Suzanne Drouhard (Chair)	Danville, KS	Agriculture (cc)	Y
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), Dan Meyerhoff (KACD), Earl Lewis (KWO), Diane Knowles (KWO)

Welcome/Introductions: Everyone was welcomed by Suzanne Drouhard, committee chair and self-introductions were made.

Agenda: Suzanne reviewed the draft agenda. It was approved as presented.

Review of Meeting Notes: Draft meeting notes from the March 2017 were approved (motion by Mark Watts, seconded by Larry Mangan, carried).

Kansas Water Authority

Diane Knowles provided a summary of the April Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting. Discussion included the Kansas RAC looking to develop collaboration among the 14 RACs on a water funding message and the Great Bend Prairie RAC produced water issue this committee discussed at their last meeting. A major part of the KWA meeting was spent on the Education Campaign which is summarized the July 10, 2018 memo to the RAC “Development of a Statewide Education and Public Outreach Marketing Campaign” in the mailing. The theme will be Kansas Runs on Water. Many avenues for marketing water to public included in the plans. A website is underdevelopment to get started.

Earl Lewis introduced the budget information (memo and tables) and request of KWA for input on the fiscal years 2020 & 2021 state water plan budgets. This is a two-year planning cycle. The first table (Blue headings) compares the FY2017 actuals, FY2018 budget at the time the table was generated and FY2019 appropriated and projections for FY2019, FY2020 and FY2021. The future budgets are based on the statutory \$8 million state general fund (SGF) transfer and lottery fund in addition to fees.

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

Earl reviewed the second table, with the more specific budgets in the planning stage noting that items are grouped by the four major Vision categories. It was noted that under Conservation the Legislature has approved nearly 2 million for FY2019; under Water Management the majority will go to the HAB project; Water Management includes a Planner position put in by the legislature rather than from SGF as requested; research under the Technology and Crops category is also legislative driven; and the Equus Beds project will have funds from GMD2 and the City of Wichita also. The KWA would like to consider priorities suggested by the RAC in their efforts to develop a \$8 million budget.

Discussion included the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts request for conservation district support at previous years level not the reduced amount; how the KDA-DOC funds fit into the aid to conservation districts and which projects and programs are important to the Red Hills region. Discussion continued with the identification of five priorities.

Red Hills RAC consensus priorities (not in order) are:

- *Produced Water Treatment Pilot Project and additional funds to get it completed;*
- *Future funds for the new lake engineering study;*
- *Full match Aid to conservation districts (the addition of \$300,000+ to bring to former level);*
- *Water education; and*
- *Additional stream gage station at highway 160 and Elm Creek.*

Regional Activities

Projects 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.

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 has occurred. there is some work to be done on the investment side of the project.

Conservation: Last meeting Ken Brunson reported the hydrology portion Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project for the eastern red cedar tree/water evaluation has had good landowner sign up for cost share programs. Anecdotal information has indicated an increase in streamflow after fires or other removal of the trees, but science is needed to verify. A study is in the planning stages to look at the hydrologic impacts from tree removal as part of the Beal's Healthy Stream Initiative lead by the Nature Conservancy (TNC). He suggested that Dr. Tricia Moore (KSU) and Heidi Mehl (TNC) be invited to inform the RAC on the work.

Discussion also occurred on the benefits of controlled burning and needed frequency.

Drought Update – Diane reported on the drought declaration in early July placing 50 counties into emergency drought status. KWO and other agency staff continue to monitor conditions and water supply.



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It was also noted that the R9 Transfer request by cities of Hays and Russell is progressing. After the water right changes are approved, which should occur in August the actual transfer process will begin. The transfer is to move water from Edwards County north for use by the cities.

Other Business

Agency reports not already covered

KDA-DWR- Cameron Conant reported that the overpumping regulations are being enforced. Approximately 180 penalties are being issued in the 26 counties in the Stafford Filed Office area. Penalties are fines and quantities deductions and possibly a three year suspension of a water right. There are approximately 50 first time warnings going out as well.

Discussion then occurred on conserving water, incentives and tools to do so. It was noted that GMD5 has the only water bank in the state. Multiyear flex accounts can be used to save water as well as avoid overpumping. Water Conservation Areas (WCA) can be done in the region, but so far there are none.

Documents related the Hay-R9 water transfer and the Rattlesnake Creek impairment can be found at <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr> under Quivira.

Public Comments: none

Messages to KWA: none

Future Meetings

KWA meeting next August 22, Manhattan

The next RAC meeting – three months puts it in October. Diane will send out a Doodle poll and consider the availability of speakers previously discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM