

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm March 18, 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)	Yes
Suzanne Drouhard	Danville, KS	Agriculture 2	No
Clark Bibb	Coldwater, KS	At Large Public West	Yes
Jim Harden	Clark County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	Yes
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
Gary Koons	KWO
Sara Maguire	KWO
Kirk "Tj" Tjemeland	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO
Lauren Koons	KWO
Allison Herring	KDHE

Welcome and Roll Call: Mark Watts called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda: There were no additions to the agenda.

Kansas Water Office Updates

a. Statewide Update

- i. **Personnel changes:** Dawn Buehler has been appointed the Chair of the Kansas Water Authority. Gary Koons will be leaving KWO and Sara Maguire will take his place as the Red Hills RAC planner.
- ii. **Legislature:** Matt Unruh of KWO provided information on the new House Water Committee and encouraged RAC members to follow the committee online via the [legislative YouTube channel](#). Matt also highlighted budget items from the SFY2022 Kansas Water Plan.
- iii. **Kansas Water Plan:** Sara Maguire of KWO reviewed the current draft of the Red Hills regional section of the 2021 Kansas Water Plan. A copy of this section will be sent to RAC members when KWO reaches a farther point in the editing process. Water Plan updates can be found on [this page](#).

Regional Activities

- a. **RAC Membership:** Gary reminded members with a 2021 expiration that they will be receiving new membership applications this spring. Members were encouraged to help KWO fill vacancies.
- b. RAC members discussed whether or whether not there were updates to regional goals. Mark Watts provided information on the lake project. Jeff Porter updated the committee on efforts to map the floodplain around Medicine Lodge. Gary informed the committee of work being done by USGS regarding cedar tree control and suggested they present research to the committee.
- c. **Produced Water Pilot:** Tj informed RAC members that the delayed equipment delivery has been moved to spring 2021. The unit will serve as a place for potential investors to visit and will be monitored and studied by a KU research team and others.
- d. Gary provided an update on the Arbuckle Study Group and mentioned that the current contract with KGS will wrap up in June 2021.

Other Business

- a. **Agency updates:** Allison Herring of KDHE shared information on a collective project with the University of Kansas and multiple public water suppliers to trace COVID-19 in wastewater.
- b. **Public comments:** None
- c. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** None.
- d. **Future Meetings**
 - i. **Red Hills RAC:** The next RAC meeting is estimated to be scheduled for the beginning of May.

Adjourn: Mark Watts adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.