

Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm July 27, 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)	No
Suzanne Drouhard	Danville, KS	Agriculture 2	No
Clark Bibb	Coldwater, KS	At Large Public West	No
Jim Harden	Clark County, KS	At Large Public (cc)	No
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
Brad Johnson	KDHE
Angela Puls	KDHE
Allison Herring	KDHE
Steve Frost	DOC
Cameron Conant	DWR
Sara Maguire	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO
Kirk "Tj" Tjemeland	KWO

Welcome and Roll Call: Sara Maguire of the Kansas Water Office (KWO) called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda: RAC members approved the agenda as written.

Kansas Water Office Updates

a. Budget Update

- i. **Budget presentation from KWO:** Matt Unruh of KWO gave a virtual presentation on budget information, summarizing fiscal year (FY) 2021, discussing FY 2022, and looking ahead to FY 2023. Matt answered questions from the group and encouraged representatives from KDHE, DOC, and DWR to highlight the budget items they felt were important. Items highlighted included the soil health initiative, drinking water protection program, watershed restoration and protection strategy (WRAPS), nonpoint source pollution, contamination remediation, water technology farms, stream gaging, and the Arbuckle study.
- ii. **Budget input from RAC members:** The RAC members present discussed possible expenditures and ultimately decided to prioritize the same budget items as the Red Hills RAC had highlighted last

year. These items are conservation practices, stream gaging, produced water pilot study, lake project, and Red Cedar control.

b. Statewide Updates

- i. **Legislature:** Tj of KWO provided information on the House Water Committee. The House Water Committee will be holding a meeting in Garden City, KS on August 18, 2021.
- ii. **Kansas Water Plan:** Sara discussed plans to complete the Water Plan by the August KWA meeting. Following the August KWA meeting, there will be a 30-day window for public comments, after which time a final version of the Water Plan can be produced and distributed. Water Plan updates can be found on [this page](#).
- iii. **Kansas Water Authority Meeting:** Matt and Tj summarized the previous three Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meetings, held on May 18, June 9, and June 23, 2021.

c. Regional Updates

- i. **RAC Membership:** Sara encouraged members to help KWO fill the four vacancies of the Red Hills RAC. Anyone interested in becoming a member can find the application [here](#) and can continue applying until all positions are filled.
- ii. **Open discussion from members:** Sara opened the floor for discussion from members, but no comments were made.

Regional Activities

- a. **Produced Water Pilot Update:** Tj provided an update on the Produced Water Pilot project. Due to a problem with the dryer, there is continuing work on the machinery and the timeline to get the system to Kansas has been pushed back. Further work is dependent on continued funding.
- b. **Moving Forward with Action Plans:** No comments were made regarding action plans.

Other Business

- c. **Public comments:** None.
- d. **Questions and Future Issues from RAC Members:** None.
- e. **Future Meetings**
 - i. **Red Hills RAC:** The next RAC meeting will be scheduled around October 2021.
 - ii. **Kansas Water Congress:** The next Water Congress meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2021 in Garden City, Kansas.
 - iii. **Kansas Water Authority:** The next KWA meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2021 in Garden City, Kansas.
 - iv. **House Water Committee:** The next Water Committee meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2021 in Garden City, Kansas.

Adjourn: Mark Watts adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm.