

## Red Hills Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 pm May 12, 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	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	Yes
Jay Zimmerman	South Haven, KS	Conservation /Environment (cc)	No
Vacant		Fish and Wildlife	-
Vacant		Industry/Commerce 2	-

### Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Dean Krehbiel	USDA
Dennis Carlson	Kansas Forest Service
Allison Herring	KDHE
John Klempa	Kansas Forest Service
Sara Maguire	KWO
Amelia Nill	KWO
Kirk "Tj" Tjemeland	KWO

**Welcome and Roll Call:** Mark Watts called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

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

**Presentations:** Dennis Carlson of the Kansas Forest Service gave a virtual presentation on the importance and practices of cedar tree management. Dennis discussed how cedar trees became widespread in Kansas due to their popularity for uses as various types of windbreaks. Although alternative trees have been experimented with, the Eastern Red Cedar remains the most effective and so it has populated at alarming rates. Prescribed fires and well-managed grasslands help to control the spread of this weed. Discussion was sparked with the mention of the potential to clone male cedar trees in the hopes of eliminating the natural spread of seeds. Dennis's presentation can be found under Presentations and Handouts, [here](#).

Additionally, Dean Krehbiel of the USDA gave a presentation on the importance and practices of woodland management. Dean explained methods to halt threats before they begin, reinstate fire back into the system, and work at scales that matter. Ultimately, anticipated outcomes include creating a network of large-scale demonstration sites, preventing loss of rancher income, maintaining population of grassland wildlife, reducing wildfire danger, and preventing core area transitions. Dean's presentation can be found [here](#).

## Kansas Water Office Updates

### a. Statewide Updates

- i. **Legislature:** Kirk “Tj” Tjelmeland of KWO provided information on the House Water Committee and encouraged RAC members to follow the committee online via the [legislative YouTube channel](#). This committee discusses topics such as research and data, water quality, water policy, water quantity, and emergency management. A breakdown of these topics can be found in an organizational chart, located [here](#).
- ii. **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 further point in the editing process. Water Plan updates can be found on [this page](#).
- iii. **Budget Webinar:** Tj summarized the budget webinar held on April 30, 2021. The budget webinar was recorded and sent to RAC members in an email prior to the May RAC meeting.
- iv. **Kansas Water Authority Meeting:** Tj summarized the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) meeting held on April 26, 2021.

### b. Regional Updates

- i. **RAC Membership:** Sara reminded members with a 2021 expiration that they will need to have their applications sent in by June 15, 2021 for renewal. Members were encouraged to help KWO fill vacancies. Anyone interested in becoming a member can find the application [here](#).
- ii. Mark opened the floor for open discussion from members, but no comments were made.

### c. Budget Updates

- i. Sara reminded members of the upcoming budget recommendation deadline. The budget recommendation will be finalized during the July Red Hills RAC meeting.

## Regional Activities

- a. **Produced Water Pilot Update:** Tj provided an update on the Produced Water Pilot project. Although the system was expected to be in Kansas by May, there is continuing work on the machinery and the timeline has been pushed back.
- b. **Moving Forward with Action Plans:** Mark and Sara discussed the proposed Elm Creek gauge. Although there exists data from the 1990’s, there may not be enough to fully understand the flow of water in this area. Mark believes the water is flowing sufficiently in this area and a new gauge would be successful in collecting data.

## 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 for the middle of July. This meeting will likely be a hybrid of both in-person and virtual communications.
  - ii. **Kansas Water Authority:** The next KWA meeting is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>.

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