

Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
 June 20, 2019, 10:00 AM
 Salina Water Treatment Plant
 Salina KS

Member Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Martha Tasker (Chair)	Salina, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2019	Yes
Tim Sanders	Chapman, KS	Agriculture 2	2021	Yes
VACANT		Industry/Commerce (cc)	2019	Na
Toby Dougherty	Hays, KS	Large Public Water Supply	2019	No
Daniel Baffa	Salina, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Chris Meyer	Sylvan Grove, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	Yes
Baron Shively	McPherson, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2019	Yes
Allen Roth	Hays, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	No
Bevin Law	Longford, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Timothy Scheck	Russell, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2021	No
Alan Scheurman	Ellis, KS	Small Public Water Supply	2019	No
Brad Shogren	Lindsborg, KS	Irrigation	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
John Quinday	City of Russell
Jeff Crispin	City of Hays
Holly Dickman	City of Hays
Karen Borcharding	Saline Co. Conservation District
John Leiker	City of Ellis
Dustin Durr	Saline Co. Conservation District
Kelly Stewart	KDA/DWC
Dave Jones	KDA/DOC
Matt Unruh	KWO
Diane Knowles	KWO

Welcome and Introductions: Chair Martha Tasker welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Self introductions were made.

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda: The meeting agenda was approved as presented. The motion was made by Tim Sanders, seconded by Baron Shively.

Meeting notes Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of past meeting notes: The March 2019 meeting notes were approved as presented. The motion made by Daniel Baffa, seconded by Tim Sanders. The motion carried.

Kansas Water Authority

April Meeting KWA: Diane Knowles highlighted the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) in April meeting in Abilene with some additions by Matt Unruh and Martha Tasker. She noted that the marketing rate was approved at 0.418 for CY2020 (the previously annual 3.2% increase for ten years); and permission was granted for the Director to enter into the USGS and U.S. Army Corp agreements for various activities.

In addition there were updates on marketing negotiations with the City of Lawrence; potential Access District Expansion modeling; Lower Republican Access District potential discussion; contracts with USGS, the central Kansas water bank evaluation, water technology farms, harmful algal blooms, and perfluorinated chemical (PFC).

KWA heard discussion on an upper Ark RAC letter concerning quality and quantity in Arkansas River and the potential need for water transfers and tools to allow them in the future.

KWA discussion of budget process and vision/water plan process also occurred including the role of the RACs in each.

RAC Membership: Diane Knowles noted that enough applications for the RAC vacancies and expiring terms have been received.

- KWA RAC Operations Committee will review applications in early July 2019
- Full KWA takes action on RAC Operations Committee membership recommendations at July 2019 meeting

Budget for FY2020 and FY2021 Budget Recommendations: Matt Unruh provided an overview of the budget process the KWA is following which included opportunity for RACs to provide input. Specifically helpful would be identification of programs that aid in regional goal implementation, appropriateness of funding levels and noting any items not being addressed.

Matt provided an overview of the SFY2020 appropriations, clarifying some programs. Discussion proceeded to the Preliminary SFY2021 budget tables organized in 4 categories related to the 50-Year Vision for Water. Much discussion centered on the programs under the water conservation section that provide for different conservation practices and various targets to address numerous issues. For example the reduction of sediment in 4 priority watersheds is the purpose of the Watershed Conservation Practice line. One of the targeted watersheds is in the Smoky Hill basin above Kanopolis in Ellsworth County. Dave Jones noted that the Riparian and Wetland program will roll out in the Milford area, and the non-point source pollution line increase will focus on education and information related to soil health above reservoirs. Further discussion noted that this is only state water plan funding, not all funds going to these types of projects through other mechanisms as well as clarifying focus and priorities of some of the programs.

The Budget discussion proceeded into water management discussing technical assistance to public water suppliers, the harmful algal bloom evaluation aid to conservation districts including the need to see the entire funding picture to recognize local contributions and the leveraging of funds. The remaining sections on technology and crop varieties and additional sources of supply were presented. Discussion noted that unforeseen disasters (flooding, fire and others) are not addressed in any way. In general, program information provided with the budget to allow for development of good recommendations from the RAC

The approved motion below was made by Brad Shogren and seconded by Dan Baffa.

The Smoky Hill-Saline RAC concurs with the proposed state water plan budget and encourages KWA to seek full restoration of the State Water Plan Fund as well as develop resources to respond to unforeseen disasters.

Discussion moved to flood control, how streambank projects and other practices are holding up under recent flooding, the planning of an evaluation of this, and the improved U.S. Army Corp communication on releases from Kanopolis.

Vision and Regional Issues Updates

Update on Activities in Region

Water Conservation Plans: Diane reported the successful delivery of letters to the regions public water suppliers without water conservation plans or above the average GPCD of comparable systems. A third batch was sent out with some systems initiating plans and at least two recently having theirs approved.

Addressing sediment in streams and Kanopolis, the Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative (KPRI) is funded for a second year, although at slightly less total funding. Dave Jones noted the target areas will remain the same with the first cutoff date of July 31, 2019. Applications will be ranked based on tier and proximity to stream, with step down payments year 2 and 3 of participation for cover crops. (Year 1- \$45 per acre, year 2- \$30, Year 3-\$15). Maximum for other practices based on \$50/ton sediment

Brad Shogren added that the Lower Smoky Hill River WRAPs has been successful in developing funding to maintain assistance of a KSU Watershed Specialist for a three year pilot program. This became necessary as they are part of the partnership group under the reorganized WRAPs program and are not eligible for a state funded specialist.

Diane reported that the R9 Ranch Water transfer request status is waiting for the judicial review petitioned for by Water PAC in regard to the water right change order. Materials are on the DWR website. The transfer process will include public hearings and involve three officials, the Chief Engineer, Director of the Water Office and an official from KDHE.

Discussion of Vision including Goals and Action Plans

Diane handed out materials summarizing action plans and implementation status being developed by KWO for tracking purposes. For the Smoky Hill-Saline region there are four Goals and Action plans to review and consider if revisions are needed, if any are no longer relevant or if a new goal is needed. This is part of the review of the entire vision with a goal of incorporation into the State Water Plan eventually. The major work will begin at the next RAC meeting.

The RAC discussed the appropriateness of indicating progress in additional lines such as use of additional aquifer, and the interconnection of systems.

Other Business

Agency Reports not previously covered

Division of Water Resources-Kelly Stewart reported water use reports were due March 1. Penalties are assessed for late reports which increase after June 1. There are some who have not reported so will be ordered to not pump until they file and pay their fine. In the few cases where a 2017 report has not been filed or fine paid the well will be sealed. Kelly also reported that due to precipitation last year there were very few over pumpers. Kelly also responded to a question to report that those against the GMD4 LEMA represents a small number of landowners.



Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Division of Conservation-Dave Jones reported that Cost-Share for Water Resources practices is available and sediment reduction in the Milford area is available to those under CRP contracts.

Public Comments – none

Messages to KWA (if any)-none

Meeting Adjourned- Motion by Tim Sanders, seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion Carried.

Membership: Martha Tasker, Chair, Salina, KS; Timothy Scheck, Vice-Chair, Russell, KS; Tim Sanders, Chapman, KS; Toby Dougherty, Hays, KS; Bevin Law, Longford, KS; Chris Meyer, Sylvan Grove, KS; Allen Roth, Hays, KS; Alan Scheuerman, Ellis, KS; Baron Shively, McPherson, KS; Brad Shogren, Lindsborg, KS; Daniel Baffa, Salina, KS.

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