



Water Office

900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3185
Fax: (785) 296-0878
www.kwo.ks.gov

MEMO

DATE: January 5, 2024
TO: Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Amelia Nill
RE: February 14th, 2024 Meeting

The Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be having meeting on **Wednesday, February 14th, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CDT) at the Abilene Community Center at 1020 NW 8th Street Abilene, KS 67410.**

The agenda will consist of a RAC member orientation, a presentation on Bromide & River Water Quality, A discussion on RAC goal implementation, a review of 2023 RAC meeting topics and updates from RAC members on regional issues & ideas.

Enclosed are the materials for the February 14th, 2024 Meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting notes from the October 2nd Meeting
- Press Release

If you cannot participate, or have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please contact me by telephone at (620) 765-7489 or by e-mail at amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov.



**SMOKY HILL - SALINE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM (CDT)

LOCATION: Abilene Community Center
1020 NW 8th Street
Abilene, KS 67410

AGENDA DETAILS

I. Welcome and Roll Call

II. Review of October 2023 Meeting Notes

III. RAC Business

- a. RAC Member Orientation – Amelia Nill (KWO)
- b. Bromide & River Water Quality – Don Whittemore
- c. RAC Goal Implementation Discussion – Amelia Nill (KWO)
- d. KWO/KWA Updates
- e. RAC Member Updates & Regional Event Sharing
- f. Review of RAC topics from 2023

IV. Agency Comments

V. Public Comments

VI. Upcoming Meetings

- a. Next Smoky Hill-Saline RAC meeting: April/May– Doodle Poll
- b. Kansas Water Authority: April 17th, 2024 – Southwest Kansas

Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
 9:00am, Monday, October 2nd, 2023
 210 North Kansas Ave., Ellsworth, KS 67439

Member Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Holly Dickman (Chair)	Hays, KS	Large Public Water Supply	2023	Yes
Baron Shively (Vice-Chair)	McPherson, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2023	Yes
Daniel Baffa	Salina, KS	Conservation/Environment	2025	Yes
Herbert Graves Jr.	Chapman, KS	Conservation/Environment 3	2023	Yes
Chris Meyer	Sylvan Grove, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Tom Breit	Utica, KS	Agriculture 2	2025	No
Brad Shogren	Lindsborg, KS	Irrigation	2025	Yes
Martha Tasker	Salina, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2023	Yes
Rich Krause	Russell, KS	Small Public Water Supply	2023	Yes
Bevin Law	Longford, KS	Conservation	2025	No
Lon Schrader	Abilene, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2025	Yes
Jay Leusman	Abilene, KS	Agriculture 3	2023	Yes
VACANT	VACANT	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2025	N/A

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Amelia Nill	KWO	Pat Janssen	Water PACK/Great Bend Prairie RAC
Matt Unruh	KWO	Jeff Crispin	City of Hays
Keadron Pearson	KWO	Toby Dougherty	City of Hays
Jennifer Nichols	KDHE	Jon Quindey	City of Russell
Orrin Feril	GMD 5/Great Bend Prairie RAC	Brian Meier	Burns & McDonnell

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by RAC Chair, Holly Dickman (Large Public Water Supply) at 9:03am. She then allowed each meeting attendee to provide a brief introduction.
- 2. Review of July 2023 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Brad Shogren (Irrigation) made a motion to approve the notes with the aforementioned change. Baron Shively (Conservation/Environment 2) seconded the motion. The meeting notes were approved with no further additions or changes.
- 3. RAC Business:**

- a. **RAC member introductions:** Time was taken to allow the new members to provide introductions of themselves to the RAC. The newly appointed members include Lon Schrader (At Large Public), Jay Leusman (Agriculture 3) and Herb Graves (Conservation/Environment 3). After the new members, all other RAC members were given a chance to provide introductions.
- a. **Discussion of Hays R9 Transfer:** This discussion began by Matt Unruh (KWO) giving a brief background to the group about the context for this topic and the discussion today. He noted that at the previous KWA meeting, the KWA requested feedback from the Smoky Hill-Saline and Great Bend Prairie RACs regarding the proposed transfer. Then, a presentation from Toby Dougherty with the City of Hays and Jon Quinday with the City of Russell was given followed by a brief comment by Orrin Feril with GMD 5 and a presentation by Pat Janssen with WaterPACK. The RAC members then discussed and asked questions to the representing parties present. The RAC then determined they would provide feedback to the KWA. A general consensus was reached that this feedback accurately captures the feelings of the RAC members regarding the transfer. No official motion or vote was taken.

“The Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) would like to pass the following feedback to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee for consideration.

- *The RAC recognizes the commitments, both financially and over time, that the cities of Hays and Russell have put forth towards this process*
- *The RAC desires to ensure that the allocation numbers and data are accurate to ensure sustainability into the future*
- *The RAC encourages all parties to continue open discussions*
- *The RAC would like to acknowledge that all parties involved are willing participants and eminent domain was not used for the purchase of the land and associated water rights of the R9 Ranch”*

- b. **KWO/KWA Updates:** Amelia informed the RAC that at the previous KWA meeting, the KWA approved the proposed FY25 budget. She stated that she would send the budget table out to the RAC. Additionally, Amelia reminded the RAC of the Governor’s Conference that is coming up on November 15 & 16 and said that registration is currently open for the event.
- c. **Discussion of regional events:** No regional events were shared at this time.

4. Agency or Public Comments:

- a. On behalf of Stacie Minson (K-State Research & Extension) Amelia Nill shared that the next Smoky Hill SLT meeting is to take place on Tuesday, October 3rd and that RAC members are welcome to attend. Also, she shared that K-State Research and Extension puts out a newsletter to the public and that if any RAC member is interested in receiving the newsletter by email, they could.
- b. Jennifer Nichols (KDHE) told the RAC that they received budget enhancements to address local septic improvements. Additionally, she stated that there is currently a need for mineralization studies throughout the state. And finally, she mentioned that money has been allocated specifically for small municipalities use.

5. Upcoming Meetings:

Membership: Holly Dickman (Chair), Hays, KS; Baron Shively (Vice-Chair), McPherson, KS; Daniel Baffa, Salina, KS; Chris Meyer, Sylvan Grove, KS; Brad Shogren, Lindsborg, KS; Martha Tasker, Salina, KS; Rich Krause, Russell, KS; Bevin Law, Longford, KS; Tom Breit, Utica, KS; Herbert Graves Jr., Chapman, KS; Jay Leusman, Abilene, KS; Lon Schrader, Abilene, KS
KWO Planner: Amelia Nill amelia.nill@kwo.ks.gov (816)589-6044

- a. The next Smoky Hill-Saline RAC meeting will be scheduled via Doodle Poll. This will likely take place in January 2024.
- b. The next KWA meeting is scheduled to take place on October 18th, 2023 in Lawrence, KS.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business at 11:20 am.