

Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

March 21, 2019, 1:00 PM

Hays City Hall

Hays 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	Yes
Daniel Baffa	Salina, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Chris Meyer	Sylvan Grove, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	No
Baron Shively	McPherson, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2019	Yes
Allen Roth	Hays, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Bevin Law	Longford, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Timothy Scheck	Russell, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2021	Yes
Alan Scheurman	Ellis, KS	Small Public Water Supply	2019	Yes
Brad Shogren	Lindsborg, KS	Irrigation	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
John Quinday	City of Russell
Rich Krause	City of Russell
Jeff Crispin	City of Hays
Holly Dickman	City of Hays
Jennifer Nichols	KDHE
Sharon Condit	Post Rock RWD
Randall Hlad	Post Rock RWD
Mark Billinger	KDA/DWR
Josh Olson	KWO
Chris Schultz	KWO
Nathan Westrup	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: Moving the agenda item up on the agenda, the meeting agenda was approved as presented. The motion was made by Allen Roth, seconded by Daniel Baffa.

Kansas Water Authority

December KWA: Martha Tasker noted the highlights of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) in Wichita December 19. She noted the development of training for RAC members in the future, a report on nonpublic household water

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 Scheurman, Ellis, KS; Baron Shively, McPherson, KS; Brad Shogren, Lindsborg, KS; Daniel Baffa, Salina, KS.

KWO Planner: Diane Knowles, 785-296-3185; diane.knowles@kwo.ks.gov

well water quality and safety, and the Kansas River study cost share agreement that will study sediment in the river. She provided a handout on Kanopolis Lake that breaks out storage and contracts for water in the lake as information useful to the RAC members.

January KWA: Martha Tasker also reported on the January 2019 meeting in Topeka held in conjunction with organized legislative visits. Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers spoke on the administrations understanding of the importance of water and support on the Vision's content. The Lt. Governor stressed the need to work together on all the state issues that need funding, acknowledging there is a lot of competition for available resources.

January Legislative visits: Martha added that about 70 legislators scheduled appointments with KWA and RAC teams (about 27 people) to hear about water issues. Part of the effort being funding driven. Martha provided the FY19 & FY20 budget handout shared with legislators. Discussions lead to the lack of a nomination for director of KWO possibly being an indication of lack of interest in water by the new administration.

RAC Business

Meeting notes Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of past meeting notes: The October 2018 meeting notes were approved as presented. The motion made by Daniel Baffa, seconded by Tim Sanders. The motion carried.

Membership: Diane Knowles explained the upcoming term expirations and process to fill positions over the next few months. Terms expire June 30, 2019 for 6, the vacant industry/commerce and 5 others (PWS, Large PWS, small PWS, Agriculture and Conservation/Environment. Diane provided each member with a summary of the process and membership expirations. This has already been sent out via email to all RAC members. Applicants were encouraged to check all categories that apply to them, not just one if more are applicable. Applications are on Regional Advisory Committee page of the KWO website. In summary:

- Applications submitted now through May 2019. All current members who want reappointment and new members must submit an application by May 31st to be considered.
- KWA RAC Operations Committee review of all candidates for members during June 2019
- Full KWA takes action on RAC Operations Committee membership recommendations at July 2019 meeting

In addition, the chairmanship of the RACs is due to rotate. The chair of KWA will appoint RAC chairpersons after committees are filled. Vice chair was thought to be next chair so may be Tim Scheck (Russell /industry 2 will be asked to become chairman).

Legislative updates: none

Updates on Regional Issues and Activities

Water Injection Dredging (WID): Josh Olson, KWO provided a brief description of WID and comparison to "regular" dredging. Water Injection Dredging (WID) demonstration project at Tuttle Creek Lake is hoped to evaluate a means to sustainable long-term reservoir sediment management. WID is a process in which large volumes of water are injected at low pressure into the sediment bed near the bottom of the reservoir through the use of pumps and a series of nozzles located on a horizontal pipe positioned above the sediment bed. The injected water effectively fluidizes the sediment creating a 'density current' that allows the sediment to flow by gravity to deeper areas. In the case of Tuttle Creek Lake, the proposed WID demonstration project would be aimed at moving the sediment toward the existing low level outlet in the dam and monitoring the flow of the density current through the

outlet during controlled discharges. The proposed demonstration project is intended to evaluate the potential and costs related to this technology to maintain storage in lakes.

Discussion involved questions on the downstream effect on habitat, and fish and wildlife as well as costs.

Kansas River Basin Study: Josh Olson, KWO provided a summary of the project under development to evaluate the Kansas River basin. As part of its FY 2019 Work Plan, the U.S. Corps of Engineers (USACE) has federal funds for the “Kansas River Reservoirs Flood and Sediment Study”. The overall purpose of the study is to cooperatively investigate water resource problems and opportunities in the Kansas River Basin, and to recommend comprehensive long term solutions. It is anticipated that the study will be completed over 5 years, with total funding of \$3 million and a required 25% non-federal/sponsor cost share. The Kansas Water Office recently met with USACE representatives to discuss the general approach for the study, including a summary of the overall process and major milestones. Next steps include the execution of a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) and the development of a Project Management Plan.

Access District/Kanopolis: Chris Schultz, KWO provided a summary of modeling work that looks at storage and water availability into the future in Kanopolis Lake. The work included a review of the sedimentation rate, and extreme drought conditions to look at the potential for additional water storage for the Lower Smoky Hill Access District. The modeling looked at additional irrigation and recreation water for the Access District. Current conditions would allow expanded use now but in the future storage would be insufficient. The storage needed is dependent on lake level management.

Discussion focused on questioning who would pay for increase or to restore storage and how that cost would be determined.

Water Conservation Plans: The letter to public water suppliers who have above regional water use was discussed by the committee in October. The letter to encourage water conservation plan development or updating went out to the priority systems in 2 batches to 18 systems. Six systems responded, all six updating or developing plans under the latest guidelines. There are a couple more small groups of PWS letters that will go out to in the future.

Diane requested input into the next annual RAC conservation effort since the RAC has held the first two, a tour and an educational event to fulfill the action plan item. Discussion of diverse pieces occurred some of which fit the action item and others not. Members and audience were asked to bring ideas to the next meeting or contact Diane.

Update on KDHE WRAPS: Brad Shogren reported to the RAC that the new funding approach for WRAPs classifies projects into two groups, Active or Partnership. The Partnership projects will compete annually for a pot of money around \$300,000 using the Watershed Plan as the guiding tool and BMP funding based on efficiency. Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) will be the grant coordinator for all of the Partnership projects. The Big Creek/Kanopolis WRAPs is in the Active group while all others in the region are in the partnership group (Cedar Bluff, Lower Lower and Upper Lower Smoky Hill River). The Lower Smoky group is concerned with the loss of their Watershed specialist to obtain funds and work with participants. There is also concern since the Lower Smoky is primarily doing streambank stabilization projects which do not qualify for WRAPs.

Other Business

Agency Reports not previously covered

Division of Water Resources-Mark Billinger reported the online water use reporting for 2018 water use rose to 86% of those reporting (91% of all water rights). He also noted the GMD4 LEMA (entire district) has completed its first year.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment- Jennifer Nichols noted she will be hiring an intern based in Salina to sample harmful algal blooms (HABs) this year. She also announced the addition to the KDHE web site of a private water well page that provides basic testing and construction information as well as links to more information.

Public Comments – none

Messages to KWA (if any)-none

Upcoming meetings

It was noted that KWA will meet April 18th in Abilene and July 30-31 in Goodland.

The Governors water Conference will be November 7&8 in Wichita.

The next RAC meeting needs to be in June to review and recommend the state water plan budget. Due to weather and farming conditions it may be necessary to hold the meeting via conference call. The suggestion is to wait until May and send a doodle poll.

Meeting Adjourned- Motion by Alan Scheuerman, seconded by Baron Shively. Motion Carried.