



Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

February 28, 2018, 9 AM

Hays City Hall

1507 Main, 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
Dan Mount	Ellsworth, KS	At Large Public 2	2021	Yes
Chris Meyer	Sylvan Grove, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2019	No
Baron Shively	McPherson, KS	Conservation/Environment 2	2019	No
Allen Roth	Hays, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Bevin Law	Longford, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Timothy Scheck	Russell, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2021	Yes
Alan Scheuerman	Ellis, KS	Small Public Water Supply	2019	Yes
Brad Shogren	Lindsborg, KS	Irrigation	2021	Yes

Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Kelly Stewart	KDA,DWR
Ron Graber	KSU Research & Extension, Upper Lower Smoky WRAPS
Stacie Minson	KSU Research & Extension, Big Creek/Kanopolis WRAPS
Tim Huch	City of Hays
Jeff Crispin	City of Hays
Rachel Marlett	KDHE WRAPs
Brian Meier	BMcD
Jennifer Nichols	KDHE
Ginger Harper	KWO
Nathan Westrup	KWO
Chris Shultz	KWO
Diane Knowles	KWO

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Martha Tasker welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Everyone present provided self-introductions.
- II. **Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda:** The meeting agenda as approved by the committee with the addition of item “5d-Hays Transfer Update”. (Motion made by Tim Sanders, seconded by Alan Scheuerman.)
- III. **Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of October 2017 Meeting Notes:** Brad Shogren made the motion to approve the October 2017 meeting notes. The motion was seconded by Allen Roth. 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; Dan Mount, Ellsworth, KS; Allen Roth, Hays, KS; Alan Scheuerman, Ellis, KS; Baron Shively, McPherson, KS; Brad Shogren, Lindsborg, KS

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

- IV. Kansas Water Authority, Legislative and Budget Update:** Ginger Harper provided an overview of water related legislative and budget activities. Still to be worked this session are the bill to allow higher groundwater management district assessments, which has passed the Senate. The bill to change the MYFA (multiple year flex accounts) deadline is also still alive. The end gun ban is dead for this session but could be worked next year.

Ginger also reported that the House appropriations committee has recommended a \$4 million SGF transfer. The Senate Ways and Means is scheduled to work on budget March 5.

KWA Meeting: Chair Martha Tasker provided an update on the January legislative visits. Martha noted increased awareness and interest in water issues from similar meetings last year. However, most noted the school funding issue continues to overshadow other needs.

V. Regional Activities

- a. Kanopolis Operations- Nathan Westrup and Chris Shultz reviewed operations of Kanopolis Lake. They reviewed the results of the river system modeling, supply and demand estimates into the future, operations, and water storage status/sedimentation effects. Work has shown the important effect of lake depth and surface area on storage capacity. Evaporation quantities are directly related to surface area so there is a level where storage from increased water levels is lost to evaporation. Nathan also outlined the operations (operating to a target flow) which keep more water in the water quality pool (storage) more of the time. The water quality storage benefits all the users.

Discussion included pool rise verses sediment removal, the dam safety issue of a pool rise and flood protection, a brief listing of cost factors related to a pool rise, and support to decrease sedimentation in Kanopolis. It was emphasized that a pool rise will result in loss of some flood protection and does have significant costs associated with it (dam construction, reallocation, purchase of storage, mitigation). The increased surface area of a pool rise will increase total evaporation so the benefit of a pool rise is reduced.

Discussion also occurred on local water users restoring storage having first option to any new storage.

Nathan explained lake level management and operations and the benefits provided with lake level management plans. With the current plan projections indicate a sufficient water supply to meet demands in 2060. This includes increased demands from Post Rock Rural Water and the City of Salina, sedimentation but keeps the irrigation demand static.

Nathan noted that Cedar Bluff Reservoir could hold its pool higher but seldom fills. Cedar Bluff does provide valuable recharge to the alluvial system that has been effectively used in times of drought. Maintaining this storage is important to the river/alluvial system overall.

Nathan noted the third largest federal lake in the region; Wilson Lake is one of the largest lakes in Kansas and could provide water to meet demands. Challenges include the water salinity and public opinion.

- b. State of the Resource Document– Discussion was held on the draft regional state of the resource document. Comments and ideas will be incorporated into a revised document as work continues to summarize the water resource, issues, activities and needs for the region. Members may continue to provide comment.

- c. Action Plans Updates –Discussed within State of the Resource discussion.
- d. State of the Resource Event-Discussion of Smoky Hill-Saline events resulted in a consensus to wait until the document is complete then try for two public meeting (Hays and Salina/Abilene). It would be helpful to have bullet points and maybe a presentation to be used at local meetings or events.
- e. Hays transfer update- Toby Dougherty provided overview of the cities of Hays and Russell request to transfer water from an Edwards County ranch to the Hays-Russell area for municipal use. The process began about three years ago. The water right changes needed are in process by DWR, nearly complete. Based on an engineering study completed by Burns & McDonnell reportedly confirms a long-term sustainable yield of water from the R9 Ranch. The study concluded that a 10-year rolling average of 4,800 acre-feet per year would be sustainable as a long-term maximum yield. Toby also provided handouts prepared for public meetings which provide background and other information.

VI. Other Business

- a. Agency reports not already covered
Division of Water Resources-Kelly Stewart noted water use reports are due March 1, online reporting is encouraged. Kelly also described briefly the GMD4 district wide LEMA which affect adjoining regions.

Kanopolis/Big Creek WRAPS- Stacie Minson provided water quality monitoring evaluation of key parameters for the WRAPs area. Using 2006-2011 as baseline, compared to 2012-2016 results saw E.Coli bacteria reductions at 11 sites, TSS reductions at 8, nitrogen reduction at 13 and phosphorous reductions at 10. Stacie also noted the national water quality initiative has put practices on 35,000 acres over the past six years in the Munjor watershed.

Upper Lower Smoky WRAPs – Ron Graber reported seven woody revetment projects were completed in the past year. Monitoring of these sites is occurring to evaluate the effectiveness of the practices used.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Salina District Office – Jennifer Nichols noted that the watershed and livestock waste units will be placed under the district offices. It was noted that the KRWA annual meeting will be held the last week of March in Wichita.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, WRAPs – Rachael Marlet provided a reminder that the KDHE annual WRAPs meeting is March 8 & 9 in Manhattan.

- b. Public Comments - none
- c. Questions and Issues from RAC member - none
- d. Messages to KWA (if any) - none
- e. Upcoming Meetings of interest
KWA April 18 in Lenexa
SHS RAC next meeting to be determined via Doodle poll

Meeting Adjourned- motion by Bevin Law, seconded by Tim Sanders. Motion carried.