

# Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

9:00am, Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

401 South 5<sup>th</sup> Salina, Kansas 67401

### 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
Tom Lutgen	Salina, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Chris Meyer	Sylvan Grove, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	No
Tom Breit	Utica, KS	Agriculture 2	2025	Yes
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
VACANT	VACANT	At Large Public (cc)	2025	N/A
VACANT	VACANT	At Large Public 2	2023	N/A
VACANT	VACANT	Industry/Commerce 2	2025	N/A

### Others in attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Amelia Nill	KWO	Vanessa Salazar	KDWP
Angela Anderson	KWO	Stacie Minson	K-State Research & Extension
Victoria Potts	KWO	Ron Graber	K-State Research & Extension
Jennifer Nichols	KDHE	Steve Johnson	Public
Katie Basiotis	KDHE		

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by RAC Chair, Holly Dickman (Large Public Water Supply) at 9:04am. She then allowed each meeting attendee to provide a brief introduction.
- Review of January 2023 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Amelia Nill mentioned that a change needed to be made to the attendees list. Brad Shogren (Irrigation) made a motion to approve the notes with the aforementioned change. Martha Tasker (Public Water Supply) seconded the motion. The meeting notes were approved with the stated change.
- RAC Business:**
  - Budget discussion & recommendations:** Victoria Potts (KWO) provided the RAC with the background and context in regard to the current budget situation from the State's perspective. He informed the RAC that their input today is essential in determining water priorities and resources

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looking into the upcoming fiscal year. It was noted by the RAC that it seems to be important to demonstrate success in terms of the funding, in order to prove that the increased funding is warranted. The RAC members discussed the questions provided from the KWO and gave their feedback. A motion was made by Dan Baffa (Conservation/Environment) and seconded by Baron Shively (Conservation/Environment 2) to submit the RAC budget feedback to the KWA Budget Committee. The RAC's budget input was approved to send onto the KWA Budget Committee.

*"The Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) would like to pass the following feedback to the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee for consideration for the FY 2025 State Water Plan Fund."*

1. *The RAC would like to highlight the following progress of note for the regional and statewide water resource issues:*
  - Lower Smoky Hill Access District – conserving water
  - Streambank projects
  - Hays water resources efforts
  - WRAPS load reductions
  - Sediment and nutrient reductions
2. *The RAC would like to highlight the following activities that could potentially be most impactful under the Guiding Principles.*
  - i. *Education of the public – television ad campaign/billboards/social media*
    1. *Focus groups on average person to understand how to best communicate water information*
    2. *Partnering with local media to survey the public*
    3. *Statewide curriculum into schools – basics of water, working with Department of Education*
    4. *Developing Education & Outreach Coordinator position, potentially within the KWO, specifically dedicated to outreach*
  - ii. *More money for BMPs – through WRAPS*
    1. *Focusing on trials/small acreages (not whole farm approaches)*
3. *The RAC would like to suggest the following activities that should be given the proportional level of funding within the 5 Kansas Water Plan Guiding Principles:*
  - *Increase State's budget for education/outreach*
  - *Reinstating funding for structural practices: terraces/waterways/other structural practices, targeting through WRAPS priority areas*
    - i. *Prioritizing areas surrounding Kanopolis*
  - *Increasing funding for drinking water protection program – costs to rehab wells, helping farmers implement BMPs*
  - *Opportunity for remote locations for KWO across the state for education*
4. *The RAC would like to highlight the following as "low hanging" issues or priorities that should be addressed:*
  - *Statewide water conservation rebate programs, for example:*
    - i. *Household rebate program*
    - ii. *Replacement of irrigation nozzles, sprinkler heads*
  - *Funding for tours/programming (educational opportunities) – municipal tours, irrigation/ag tours, RAC tours*
5. *The RAC would like to address the following urgent emerging issues, priorities, and unique opportunities:*
  - *Technical assistance for federal funding opportunities*
    - i. *Especially for small communities*

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- ii. *On a regular basis*
  - iii. *Putting the actual manpower on the ground*
    - *Consideration for efficiencies on golf courses*
    - *Funding for water transfers/connectivity*
- 6. *The RAC would like to bring attention to the following issues that are currently missing from SWPF expenditures:*
  - *Need for input from public about current issues*
- 7. *The RAC would like to recognize the following input/feedback for consideration by the KWA Budget Committee:*
  - *Add Ellis County to KRPI program*
  - *Need a one-stop-shop place to have all of the financial programs available to a resident/producer*
  - *Would like to see WRAPS continue HUC 12 prioritizations so you can really see a delisting of waterbodies after implementation of practices with additional funding*
  - *Would like to see a fact sheet from the KWO as to where the John Redmond Reservoir is now as compared to before and immediately after the dredging was completed. Also provide fact sheet updates on the progress of experimental dredging projects, such as in Tuttle*
- b. KWO/KWA Updates:** Victoria Potts (KWO) shared with the RAC that the House Water Committee has been approved to meet in the interim in early August.
- c. Discussion of regional events:** Holly Dickman (Large Public Water Supply) shared that the Hays R9 transfer hearings will be taking place throughout the month of July.

#### 4. Agency or Public Comments:

- a. Stacie Minson (K-State Research and Extension) shared that an alternative livestock watering field day will take place August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, Stacie mentioned that the Ellis County conservation tour is on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Jennifer Nichols (KDHE) stated that the Conservation District tour on soil health is coming up this month.

#### 5. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. The next Smoky Hill-Saline RAC meeting will be scheduled via Doodle Poll. This will likely take place in October/November 2023.
- b. The next KWA meeting is scheduled to take place on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 in McPherson, KS.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business at 11:19 am.