

Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 AM (CST), Friday, October 21, 2022

Thirsty's Brew Pub & Grill, 2704 Vine Street, Hays, KS 67601 & GoTo Webinar

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	No
Tom Lutgen	Salina, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Chris Meyer	Sylvan Grove, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Tom Breit	Utica, KS	Agriculture 2	2025	No
Brad Shogren	Lindsborg, KS	Irrigation	2025	No
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
Amelia Nill	KWO
Kelly Stewart	KDA-DWR
Stacie Minson	KSU Research & Extension
Jason Riegel	City of Hays
Herb Graves	SAKW
Katie Acree	KDHE-WRAPS

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by RAC Chair, Holly Dickman (Large Public Water Supply) at 10:07am. She then allowed each meeting attendee to provide a brief introduction, including their name, where they are from and issues/topics of concern.
2. **Review of March 2021 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes from the previous meeting were reviewed. It was mentioned that the date of the previous notes on the agenda was incorrect. It was decided that the actual meeting notes did not require any changes or updates.
3. **RAC Business:**
 - a. **Kansas Water Authority (KWA) budget update:** Amelia Nill (KWO) reviewed the recently approved Kansas Water Authority (KWA) budget with the RAC. She highlighted the line items that received enhancements for the upcoming fiscal year. Holly (Large Public Water Supply) asked what the High Plains Aquifer Partnerships line item was. Amelia explained that it is what was previously called the Water Technology farms and mentioned that this program is transitioning to the Water Innovation Systems & Education (WISE) program.

- b. **Kansas Water Plan Update:** Amelia stated that the new update of the Kansas Water Plan was officially approved by the KWA at their August meeting. This updated Plan will serve as the guide for water planning and policy decisions in the state for the next 5 years. The Kansas Water Office will now transition into the implementation phase utilizing the 5 guiding principles. Amelia mentioned that the full version of the Water Plan is now available on the KWO website.
 - c. **City of Hays Water Reuse:** Jason Riegel (City of Hays) gave the RAC an overview of what the City of Hays is currently doing in terms of water reuse. Jason stated that Big Creek in/around the Hays area was the first waterway to impose a TMDL, so it was important for Hays to get the reconstruction of the wastewater treatment plant right. One example of the water reuse in Hays is the effluent water being used by the local golf course. He stated that currently 100 million gallons is beneficially reused each year in Hays. He also mentioned that there are special permit requirements dedicated to water reuse, including public knowledge requirements. RAC members asked if this kind of water reuse is taking place in other cities within Kansas. It was mentioned that Salina completed a study in 2010 to see if this would be feasible, but no water reuse is happening there yet.
 - d. **Direct Potable Reuse Discussion:** Holly opened this discussion by reminding the RAC of their conversation on this topic at the most recent RAC meeting with Tom Stiles. Tom had encouraged the RAC not to give up on this issue and keep putting it out there and consider receiving annual updates on the topic from KDHE.
 - e. **Membership & Recruitment Discussion:** Holly led the RAC in a discussion about RAC membership. It was pointed out that many current RAC members have terms ending in 2023 and will need to reapply next year if still interested. Additionally, there are 3 open positions on the RAC. Herb Graves (SAKW) stated that he hopes to get watershed district representatives more involved in RAC activities, so he could encourage them to apply for open positions. It was also mentioned by meeting attendees that it may be beneficial to establish standing, quarterly meeting times so that RAC members have further notice of meetings.
 - f. **New Issues in Smoky Hill-Saline Region:** RAC members shared what they think are pressing issues that the RAC should prioritize. Drought was brought up as a pressing and current issue. Also, the topic of residential outdoor water usage was mentioned. RAC members stated that this issue is something that the state should consider and it needs more public education.
 - g. **Other KWO Updates:** Amelia (KWO) stated that the KWO is currently gearing up for the Governor's Water Conference as well as beginning to work on the Annual Report to the Governor, which will be available in January.
4. **Agency or Public Comments:** Kelly Stewart (KDA-DWR) stated that it had been a tough summer for the DWR field offices with the dry conditions. Stacie Minson (KSU Research & Extension) mentioned to the RAC that in order to meet RAC sediment reduction goals, more funding would be necessary to complete the work. She also said that their agency is currently winding down the grant cycle in addition to continuing KRPI work.
 5. **Upcoming Meetings:** Amelia (KWO) mentioned that the next KWA meeting will take place in December in Colby, Kansas and that the Governor's Water Conference will take place on November 16 & 17 in Manhattan, Kansas. The next Smoky Hill-Saline RAC meeting will be scheduled via Doodle Poll. This will likely take place in January 2023.

The meeting was adjourned with no further business at 11:34pm.