



Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Smoky Hill-Saline Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

July 17, 2018, 1 PM
Salina Water Treatment Plant
Salina 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
VACANT		At Large Public 2	2021	NA
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	Yes
Timothy Scheck	Russell, KS	Industry/Commerce 2	2021	Yes
Alan Scheuerman	Ellis, KS	Small Public Water Supply	2019	No
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
Carl Garten	KSU Research & Extension, Central Kansas District
Dan Baffa	
Norm Mannel	
Jean Kozubowski	Salina Journal
Tracy Streeter	KWO
Diane Knowles	KWO

Welcome and Introductions: Chair Martha Tasker welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Everyone present provided introductions of themselves.

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of Agenda: The meeting agenda as approved by the committee with the deletion of item “Streambank Hotspot Evaluation”. (Motion made by Bevin Law, seconded by Tim Sanders. Motion carried.)

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Approval of past meeting notes: The February 2018 meeting notes were approved as presented. (The motion was made by Brad Shogren, seconded by Allen Roth. Motion carried.)

Kansas Water Authority

April KWA: Diane Knowles, Martha Tasker and Tracy Streeter noted the highlights of the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) April 2018 meeting where the major activities were the budget process and the Water Vision Branding and Campaign. The Regional Advisory Committees are being asked to provide advice to KWA on the FY 2020 & 2021 budgets which is on this meeting's agenda. Meeting materials also included an overview of the Education/Branding theme is "Kansas Runs on Water". A website Kansasrunsonwater.org is underdevelopment. It was noted that two RACs are developing items for potential use by all RACs. The Kansas RAC is developing a message in support of funding for the Kansas Water Plan and water projects to be used to inform local civic groups and others in each region. The Great Bend Prairie RAC is working on a proposal for procedures to implement actions.

Budget: Tracy presented the KWA request for input on budgets for FY2020 and 2021. Recent years project expenditures and appropriations, and projected budgets were discussed briefly. A lengthy discussion occurred on the draft agency requests for over \$15 million and the \$8 million budget target based on state general fund transfer and lottery revenues requested. It was noted that after years of zero state funds into the Water Plan Fund last year it received \$3.25 million.

Discussion occurred on the need to reduce the budget by nearly half, the importance of all the projects, the cost effectiveness of preventative activities and the statewide need. The following is the *Smoky Hill RAC consensus*:

- *Need to find the entire \$15 million budget;*
- *Spend on projects not on administration; and*
- *WRAPS is important*

Regional Activities

Regional Water Issues

R9 transfer update- Toby Dougherty provided overview of the activities related to the cities of Hays and Russell request to transfer water from an Edwards County ranch to the Hays-Russell area for municipal use. The R9 irrigation water rights have been through the change process with DWR. This includes changes in use, diversion points (fewer wells), consumptive use factors and efforts to establish a sustainable yield. A public meeting was held in late June (handout summarizing activities was provided, source DWR web site). A draft Master Order will be conditionally approved, probably in August 2018 followed by the initiation of the Transfer Process. If approved there will be approximately 7,000 acres of walk in hunting.

Activities Update

FY2019 Vision Watershed BMP Implementation- the Smoky Hill region is one of four regions where applications will be accepted for sediment reduction practices in FY 2019. One Ellsworth County watershed above Kanopolis is eligible. The watershed will receive a minimum of \$50,000 to put best management practices in place. The priority is to get maximum sediment reduction per dollar. Applications will be submitted through county conservation districts. The RAC is comfortable with the process as explained.

Water Conservation Plan Evaluation- Diane explained her evaluation to prioritize water conservation plan development in the region based on conservation plan status and comparison of per capita usage to similar public water suppliers. After discussion, it was the *consensus for Diane to draft a letter to public water suppliers offering assistance to develop water conservation plans.*

Field Day-Martha opened discussion of the next water conservation field day. October 19th was set as the date. It was a *consensus that the day will include conservation efforts for water uses in addition to municipal; possibly industrial, agricultural and wastewater.*

Drought Update: Diane provided an updated map of Kansas Drought Declarations and explained general emergency assistance availability highlighting emergency water for livestock. Tracy noted the KDA, DOC has requested NRCS funding to assist with livestock water by drilling wells.

Other Business

Agency reports not already covered

Division of Water Resources-Kelly Stewart noted that overpumping penalties are being issued (calendar year 2017). Penalties vary but may include a warning, a fine and or suspension of a water right. There are tools such as multi-year flex accounts available to help manage water rights and avoid overpumping, but these must be applied for.

Kanopolis/Big Creek WRAPS- Stacie Minson noted three years funding is already allocated in the project WRAPS project including BMPs, fertilizer management, conversion to no-till and other practices. There will be a cover crop field day September 5.

Public Comments – none

Questions and Issues from RAC member – none

Messages to KWA (if any) – none

Upcoming Meetings of interest

KWA - August 22 in Manhattan

SHS RAC next meeting to be in conjunction with the October 19 field day if possible

Meeting Adjourned- motion by Toby Dougherty